Biographies of British Gardeners
A-D

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Biographies of British Gardeners

Introduction

This file has been compiled as an aid to my research on Gardeners' Lives during the long C19th (1789-1914).

The file consists of the biographical details of more than 700 gardeners in 4 volumes.

The main sources are-
Desmond- Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists. The sources given by Desmond have been reproduced, where available.
Dictionary of National Biography
Gardeners' Chronicle- principally their invaluable series published in the 1870's under the title 'British Gardeners' plus similar articles and obituaries. Because the typeface is impossibly small, these articles have been reproduced in legible type, but that has not been possible unfortunately with all the Victorian material.
Garden Life- this journal, which was published from 1902 into the 1920s, was ignored by Desmond and is little known, but is a rich resource, especially the "Famous Gardeners at Home" series of interviews conducted by A E Wilcox, and other series, such as "Incidents in the Lives of Well Known Horticulturalists".
Other gardening journals, especially The Cottage Gardener and Gardening Magazine.
Miles Hadfield- History of British gardening.

The gardeners are nearly all domestic gardeners but occasionally others, who have gone on to make their career as nurserymen or landscape gardeners, have been included. The general rule is that they began their careers as gardeners. I have sneaked in Shirley Hibberd, who was a gardening writer rather than a professional gardener, simply because he contributed so much to the subject. John Claudius Loudon qualifies as he served a gardening apprenticeship (the obituary of Archibald Gorrie contains some fascinating detail about this) and I have included Noel Humphrey's biographical sketch of him from William Robinson's The Garden, as it is so little known and is the only account written by a contemporary (apart from his wife's, which is not always reliable).

Of course, there is very little here about the ordinary gardener- or indeed any gardener who did not achieve public recognition in some way. Their lives are for the most part unrecorded, although some diaries have survived, such as those of John Donaldson and William Cresswell, which are available elsewhere.

Jonathan Denby
Somerville College, Oxford
March 2015

Thomas Abbott

THE GARDENS AT THE HOLME, INNER CIRCLE, REGENT'S PARK.

IN the heart of London there are no gardens so attractive as those at The Holme, one of the delightful houses in the Inner Circle of Regent's Park, of which the public knows little. Their seclusion is undisturbed, and until the advent of the Great Central Railway they had a unique distinction. "I believe," said Mr. Campbell Newington, when I asked him about visiting his garden, "that The Holme was the only place in the world where one could hear the lion roar and the nightingale sing." The increase of smoke which followed the running of the Great Central trains drove away the nightingales. Other songsters of the air have almost entirely disappeared since the American squirrels have been introduced in the Zoological Gardens; but the flight of the blackbird and the thrush has not diminished the charms of the place from a purely horticultural point of view. The Holme is Crown property, and as Mr. Campbell Newington has just disposed of the remainder of his lease, which has been held for more than half a century by his wife's family, I hastened to take advantage of his permission to visit and describe the gardens. He still regards them as the most beautiful spot in London in spring and summer, but he has lately decided to reside entirely on his fine estate in Sussex. His departure also marks that of his head gardener, Mr. Thomas Abbott, whose successes as an exhibitor have won him a well-deserved reputation. Mr. Abbott accompanies his employer to Oakover, where he will enjoy ample opportunities for the exercise of his capacities. He appreciates the prospect, but confesses that he deeply regrets leaving The Holme, where during upwards of thirteen years he has had charge of the gardens, and to which he has become greatly attached.

"I am glad," he said, "that you have come to look round the gardens, because, though there is not much to see in mid-September, with all plants and vegetation dried up, and even the leaves falling fast, you can judge what they were like earlier in the year. I go at the end of the month to Oakover.

"We may as well start," he continued, "where we are, noting the pleasant little pavilion facing the tennis-court, with the major variety of Virginian Creeper covering it."

"I should like to know the chief contents of the long border running round."

"Several varieties of Geum do well, and among other flowering plants which find the soil and position congenial are Iris siberica, Pentstemon Rosy Gem, numerous varieties of Aquilegias, and Lupin Moerheimi. Thalictrum purpureum grows six feet high, and Spiræa aruncus upwards of six feet, some being five feet through."

The Glen.

With a peep at the water from the pretty summer-house, covered with zinc, we next made our way to the lovely glen. Here, a picturesque archway, resembling an ancient ruin, heightens the effect of a glorious display of Bracken Ferns; and a venerable Scotch Fir is a conspicuous feature.

"In the spring," said Mr. Abbott, "before the Ferns come on, the ground is covered with white Scillas and Bluebells, while the banks are brightened with Crocuses and Narcissi. The glen was made ninety years ago. The trees include the single and double Thorns (some of the flowers being the size of a halfpenny). Limes, Planes, Chestnuts, and Sumach also flourish."

A Rose to Grow in London.

"I see that you have varieties of the rugosa Rose."

"They are all Japanese, and give masses of bloom, with the most delicious scent. The birds love the berries. A double white variety does especially well. The rugosas may be recommended for London gardens. We find, too, that Lilacs thrive."

MR. THOMAS ABBOTT.

"And Delphiniums?" I asked, observing a fine collection in a modest corner.

"Yes, particularly King of Delphiniums and Bella Donna. Azaleas likewise are very happy here. A portion of the bedding is on the lower end of the lawn, in front of the lake. As to the bedding close to the water, there are, as you see, two beds of Antirrhinum Rose Queen, with a groundwork of Geranium Olive Carr, edged by London Pride. We grow the Antirrhinums from our own cuttings, of which I take a thousand."

"Where do you keep them in the winter?"

"In a cold pit, and plant out early in April. They are in flower from May to October."

"How are the other beds made up?"

Zeas for Bedding.

"In summer two are filled with Zea variegata (green, yellow, red, and pink), a groundwork of Violas planted out very early, and an edging of Euonymus radicans variegata. The Zeas are planted out in June, and grown previously in large pots. These beds in spring are all thickly planted with May-flowering and Darwin Tulips."

"The Delphiniums at the back help to make one of your corners showy."

"Yes, with a combination of white Marguerites, dark-leaved Perillas, and an edging of Geraniums Harry Hieover. One bed is devoted entirely to Funkias, valuable not only for their dark purple flowers, but also for their handsome foliage.

"You fill up all the borders under the shrubs?"

"Lilium gigantea is used largely for this purpose, and after the Ghent Azaleas have flowered, Geraniums come into bloom. We get a show of flowers all through the summer in all parts of the lawn."

"When were the Rhododendrons planted?"

"Some of them only four or five years ago; others twenty. At the back there are several ponticums, but the named varieties in front include W. J. Waterer, Pink Perfection, and Scarlet King. We put peat and leaf-mould in the soil, and water very much."

Coleus for Edging.

"You have a fine show of Coleus as an edging round the outside of the conservatory."

"The variety is Lady Falmouth, and in the borders are Geraniums Hermione and Leopard. There are also some plants of Ricinus Gibsonii. The conservatory faces due south, which suits the Coleus."

"The conservatory impresses me as particularly handsome."

"You will notice that there is no woodwork in it. Just now one of the features are the baskets of Ferns, Nephrolepis exaltata and Asparagus Sprengeri. On the wall are Camellias which were planted twenty years ago, and from which we get a wealth of flower. In the summer one of the features is the display of Dendrobium Wardianum hanging down like tails. Everything on the floor is in pots. We begin with bulbs in spring, and these are quickly followed by huge specimens of Azaleas, some of them thirty years old, mop-headed, and four to five feet through. We have never had a failure with these Azaleas, which are every year full of bloom. Rhododendron Pink Pearl comes in next, and after these Pelargoniums in variety, with Hydrangea hortensis, paniculata, and niger (the black stem). Acer negundo variegata is also used, and the year closes with Chrysanthemums and Poinsettias."

Violas for Town Gardens.

From the conservatory we strolled to the kitchen garden, first of all inspecting the beds in which certain plants are grown for trial.

"One of our features," said Mr. Abbott, "is the Lily of the Valley, of which we had nearly twenty thousand last season. The plants occupy the ground from four to six years, and are then transplanted. Those of four years' growth bear the best flowers, and I have had seventeen bells on a single spike. We top-dress them in winter with good, decayed manure, giving it whenever they want it. In the plot next to the Lilies we grow one thousand Violas, Mrs. Chichester (pale blue), Marchioness (very pale blue), Blue Cloud, Bute Yellow, and Willie Farmer (pale mauve). Mrs. J. J. Whiteleg (yellow), is a Viola of very strong habit, but Blue Cloud is the Viola that stands the smoke and fog of London best. In another plot are the spurred varieties of Aquilegias. They are grown two years before they are allowed to bloom, and by this process we get very fine plants the third year, with five to six spikes of flower."

"Have you many varieties in your plot of Border Carnations?"

"We layer about two hundred Old Clove, and the other varieties are White Countess and Dwarf Vienna. The latter is one of the best varieties for cutting, and lasts for several years."

The Six Best Sweet Peas.

"Do you go in for a number of varieties of Sweet Peas?"

"No, we do not exceed eight, of which the six best are Red Dragon, King Edward VII. Spencer, Etta Dyke, Earl Spencer, and Miss

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Willmott. Some of the Sweet Peas this year were eight feet high, with stems seventeen inches long, but the ground was trenched three feet deep and manured right to the bottom trench."

"You have also a long herbaceous border in the kitchen garden."

"Which has the double advantage of facing

THE HOLME, REGENT'S PARK.

(Photo. by The Topical Press Agency, 10 and 11, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.)

south and being on a raised bank, a foot high."

"The Dahlias at the back have very brilliant flowers."

"They are all one variety called Duzon. The blooms early in June were ten inches across, and I think most effective. I have had them for four years, and find nothing equal to them for London use."

Nasturtiums and Musk.

"What is your preference in Nasturtiums?"

"The only variety we grow is Sutton's Salmon Queen, raised from seed in a box in March. They come into flower the first week in June, and last well into September. Near the Nasturtiums is a quantity of Musk, which comes up year after year. The only treatment we give is to top-dress it. And this, I think, exhausts the interest in the flowers out of doors. You might like, before we go into the houses, to note one or two other features of the kitchen garden. For instance, Gooseberries are grown on standards, all clear from the ground. We had a very big crop this year of Lancashire Lass, Champagne, Whitesmith, and Whinham's Industry. There being no walls, we have, of course, no walled fruit. In regard to vegetables, French Beans are rather a feature, and we have two beds of Asparagus, twenty years old, which have never failed us. All we do to the beds is to dress them with a foot of decayed manure on the top. For bedding purposes, we find pits answer the purpose admirably."

"I notice that in the next house you have a very fine display of Crotons, with Stephanotis on the roof."

"It was originally an early Vinery, but is now mainly devoted to Crotons and Caladiums."

Prize Tomatoes.

"You have lately distinguished yourself by taking prizes in important competitions for Tomatoes."

"At the show of the National Vegetable Society I took the first prize for the two largest bunches, and a special prize for three plants of new varieties in pots. The varieties were Monarch, Moneymaker, and Queen Alexandra, a seedling of my own. There were twenty-seven fruits on one branch of the latter, and eight branches on one stem, the plant being about six feet long. I also took first prize for the largest bunch at Manchester."

"How do you grow your Tomatoes?"

"I raise them from seed in January, and grow in a 10-in. pot, and plant out three feet apart on the roof of the house on wire, giving plenty of air. They ripened the first week in June, and we have had a continuous quantity until September 15th."

"You still have some very good fruits left. I observe, also, that Amaryllis is evidently a feature in your plant houses."

"The only two named varieties are Masterpiece, a very dark red, from which we get blooms eight inches across, and Scarlet Perfection. The remainder are seedlings."

"Are you taking any of these plants to Sussex?"

"A certain number, of which I have made a special study. These I propose to grow and show. In the next house, Orchids, chiefly for late spring and summer, are grown. The creepers on the roof are three varieties of Gloriosa superba, aurea, magnifica, and Plantii Rothschildiana. Amongst Palms you might note Carota, a very rare variety, resembling a Maidenhair Fern, and in this house there is also a collection of Pandanus Veitchii, which we use for the table, keeping young stock by cuttings."

Pancratiums in Bloom.

Passing into the Fernery, my attention was attracted immediately by some lovely Pancratiums in flower, whose fragrance filled the house.

"How long do they remain in flower?" I asked.

"For three weeks. The bulbs from which they are grown are fifteen years old. Outside these houses is a border with Nicotiana affinis, Eulalias, and Geranium Flower of Spring, edged with Box; further on, Sutton's purple and salmon Ten-week Stock, put out early in April, and flowering from June until September."

Resuming in the houses, I noticed a large collection of Azaleas, and a fine specimen of the Honeysuckle-scented Rhododendron, whose age I enquired.

"It is fifty years old," replied Mr. Abbott, "and a single flower measures from three to four inches across. That is one of the special plants I am taking to Oakover. The Lantanas, which you see with such pretty pink flowers, are very useful for dot plants outside. We finish with the Fernery."

"Last, but not least. Here, I observe, you go in for Orchids as well."

"Chiefly Odontoglossum Crispum, one with a

A RURAL WALK IN LONDON—THE FERNERY AT THE HOLME, REGENT'S PARK, LONDON.

(Photo. by The Topical Press Agency, 10 and 11, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.)

spike of thirteen flowers; also Oncidium concolor. Odontoglossums do well enough with Ferns, on a damp bottom. Another Orchid which also appreciates the association with Ferns is Sophronitis grandiflora, a very pretty scarlet Orchid. You can see for yourself that the rafters of the house are a suitable place for Hoya carnosa, with its delightful perfume."

"Are all the Ferns planted in rockwork?"

"Yes, there is no woodwork whatever. The Ferns were originally planted in pockets, but are now running all over in various directions. The Mango, which is rather a feature of the Fernery, has only fruited once, but the foliage

THE TEMPLE AT THE HOLME, REGENT'S PARK.

(Photo. by The Topical Press Agency, 10 and 11, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.)

is very fine, and other ornamental features of the house are Begonia Rex, the different mosses, and Lycopodiums."

A Striking Flower.

"You have forgotten to mention the remarkable plant with noble foliage, and one of the most striking flowers I have ever seen."

"You have come at a fortunate moment for the plant you mean. Hedychium jejueba does not remain in flower more than a fortnight. The root is like the ginger plant, and the flower is very spicy in odour, bearing some resemblance to ginger. We have several specimens, and we start them early in the spring at the same time as the Ferns. Of the latter you might mention Asplenium flaccidum. We get all the stock from one plant. As you see for yourself, they grow on the tips. In November I make a point of drying all the Ferns off, allowing them to rest for two months, and starting naturally in February with moist heat."

Mr. Abbott's Career.

"Before you tell me about your own showing and career, I should like to know the age of the magnificent specimen of Wistaria sinensis on your own house?"

"It is forty years old, and we get masses of bloom from it. With regard to myself, I have been awarded forty first prizes and certificates, and one gold and two silver medals, chiefly at the shows of the Royal Botanic Society in Regent's Park; also in Kent and Devon. These awards were chiefly for Azaleas, stove plants, Orchids, Daffodils, and other bulbs, table and decorative plants, and Tomatoes; also groups arranged for effect. I have done well with whatever I have exhibited. My gardening career started with five years' training at the nurseries of Messrs. Veitch and Co. Subsequently I was foreman in succession at Ewell Castle, Surrey; Eastwell Park, Kent; and Streatham Hall, Exeter. This is my second appointment as head gardener, and it has been a very happy experience."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week, the gardens of Mr. McIntosh, at Havering Park, Essex, will be described.

IN PRAISE OF OUR ASTER SEED.—Mrs. P. (Luton) sends her best thanks to the Editor of GARDEN LIFE for the sweet Asters she received from issue some time ago. They are now blooming beautifully, and are very pretty in blue, pink, and white.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Abercrombie, John (1726–1806), *horticulturist and writer*
by Francis Espinasse, *rev.* Anne Pimlott Baker
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Abercrombie, John (1726–1806), horticulturist and writer, was born in Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, the son of a market gardener. He was educated at a grammar school, and at the age of fourteen began to work under his father. He went to London about 1751, and was employed first in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and next at Leicester House; he then worked for nearly twenty years as a gardener for several noblemen and gentlemen, including the botanist William Munro. In the 1750s he married a woman employed in the household of Sir James Douglas, for whom he was working, and they had two sons and sixteen daughters. Abercrombie survived them all except for one son.

About 1770 Abercrombie established a market garden near Hackney, and also leased a public house near Mile End, which he turned into the 'Artichoke Tea Garden'. He later sold the lease and set up a nursery and market garden at Tottenham. His first work on practical gardening, *Every Man his Own Gardener*, appeared in 1767 under the title of *Mawe's Gardener's Calendar*. Abercrombie had written to Thomas Mawe, head gardener to the duke of Leeds, offering £20 in return for permission to use his name as author. The book was a great success, and eventually, in 1776, Abercrombie added his own name on the title page as joint author with Mawe. The book continued to be issued, in revised editions, until 1879. Abercrombie did not meet Mawe until after the publication of the second edition, when Mawe invited him to Yorkshire. They remained friends, and collaborated on *The Universal Gardener and Botanist* (1778).

In 1779 Abercrombie published his first book solely under his own name, *The British Fruit Gardener and Art of Pruning*. In the 1780s he published a number of books on practical gardening. One of the most popular of his works was the *Gardener's Pocket Journal and Daily Assistant* (1790), which by 1857 had reached a thirty-fifth edition. Among his more specialized works were *The Complete Forcing Gardener* (1781); *The Complete Wall Tree Pruner* (1783); *The Propagation and Botanical Arrangement of Plants and Trees, Useful and Ornamental* (1784); and *The Hot House Gardener, or, The General Culture of the Pineapple and Method of Pruning Early Grapes* (1789); a German translation of this appeared at Vienna in 1792. Abercrombie was also invited to Russia to superintend the gardens of Catherine the Great, but he panicked at the last minute and did not go, sending a copy of *Every Man his Own Gardener* instead.

In 1796 Abercrombie moved to Somers Town in central London, and worked on *The Practical Gardener* and on revising his earlier works. Despite the success of his manuals, he became impoverished at the end of his life, and was supported by his friend James Donn, curator of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, who brought out *Practical Gardening* in 1813. Abercrombie died on 15 April or on 2 May 1806 at his house in Chalton Street, Somers Town, London, after falling down some steps and breaking his hip.

FRANCIS ESPINASSE, *rev*. ANNE PIMLOTT BAKER

Sources F. M. G. Cardew, 'John Abercrombie', *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, 72 (1947), 245–8 · Desmond, *Botanists · A new catalogue of living English authors: with complete lists of their publications, and biographical and critical memoirs* (1799) · *The practical gardener*, 2nd edn (1817) [James Mean's memoir]

Likenesses line engraving, BM, NPG; repro. in J. Abercrombie, *Every man his own gardener*, 16th edn (1800)

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John Abercrombie (1726–1806): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/36

portance to found new species on; in times past, and in our own times under some prevailing theories, the variations would be looked for under some law of external influences modifying form. Without offering any opinion on these points, he would simply observe that all these plants were taken from one small spot at Berlin, New Jersey, and had all been growing in his garden under exactly the same circumstances together.

—— In accordance with long-established Whit-Tuesday custom what is known as the FLOWER SERMON was given on the evening of the 6th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Whittemore to a crowded congregation in the ancient City church of St. Katherine Cree. At this interesting service, as the *Daily News* has explained, the young persons for whom it is specially designed attend with nosegays of flowers, the hymns sung are chosen for their allusions to the flowery gifts of the summer season, and the sermon is preached upon some one of the many flowers mentioned in the Bible. It is about twenty-three years since it occurred to Dr. Whittemore to profit from the universal interest that is taken, especially among children, in flowers, by choosing this convenient day in the season of flowers for a children's service. The experiment was so successful and so acceptable to both young and old that it was continued; as a matter of course the service is now quite a City institution. Children with bouquets, and adults with smaller nosegays or button-hole flowers, fill every available space in the old church, and the preacher looks down on a veritable garden as he pleasantly discourses on his particular theme. Until the old-fashioned boxes in the church gave place to the modern pew the sight to individual members of the congregation will not be nearly so striking as it must be from the pulpit. Still, there are the ancient costumes and the happy faces of the Aldgate Ward charity children to be seen in the organ gallery, with their bouquets—the gifts of the churchwardens—and the not less beaming faces and smiling nosegays of the children in the centre aisle from St. John's School, Westbourne-park, not to speak of the display of flowers around the visitor in whatever box he may find himself inclosed. In the pulpit is a nosegay which has been placed there by a hand that recognised Dr. Whittemore's interesting services in the same way many years ago. The hand was then that of a gratified child, who now attends the services as a married woman, with children of her own, but who still claims the privilege of thus adorning the pulpit from which she has so long derived pleasure and instruction. Dr. Whittemore acknowledged this little attention almost in his earliest words. His discourse on this occasion was on the Olive flower from the text in Job xv. 33, "He shall cast off his flower as the Olive."

EARLY WRITERS ON ENGLISH GARDENING.

No. 15.

JOHN ABERCROMBIE.

It has been said with almost as much truth as wit that "Every man his own lawyer" would insure that he had a fool for his client; but it is not so in horticulture, and we have no hesitation in declaring our opinion that the little volume entitled "Every Man His Own Gardener" succeeded in diffusing a love for gardening, and enabling anyone to practise it successfully, more than any book that has been published. Yet so humbly did the author of that work estimate his own ability to instruct, and so little did he think anyone would admit him as a teacher, that Dr. Goldsmith was engaged to revise its language, and Mr. Mawe, the gardener of the Duke of Leeds, to see that its teachings were correct. They neither of them performed the duties they had undertaken, though Mr. Mawe received twenty pounds for allowing his name to be on the title page, and Goldsmith remarked that "Abercrombie's style was best suited to the subjects of which it treated."

The author—the entire and unaided author—of that volume was JOHN ABERCROMBIE, whose name is a household word among both amateur and professional gardeners, and to trace his career we now devote our attention.

He was born at Edinburgh in 1726, near which city his father conducted a considerable market garden. From his infancy he was employed to assist in this undertaking which was one particularly suited to his taste. At fourteen he became an apprentice of his father. He was thoroughly grounded in his profession, the practice of years being retained and concentrated by a habit we commend to all young gardeners of committing to paper the observations he made in its pursuit from a very early age. Soon after his apprenticeship expired, being about eighteen, upon a domestic misunderstanding he came to London, where he obtained employment in some of the Royal Gardens, at Kew, and at Leicester House. Afterwards he became gardener to Dr. Munro and other gentlemen. About 1751–2 he became gardener to Sir James Douglas, during his continuance in whose service he married. Fearing his family might become troublesome he left his situation in 1759, and returned to Scotland with the intention of becoming kitchen and market gardener, but came again to England after an absence of only ten months. He was engaged in the service of several noblemen and gentlemen until 1770, when he engaged a kitchen garden and small nursery ground between Mile End Road and Hackney, attending Spitalfields Market with the products until 1771–2. At this period he became a publican in Dog Row, Mile End. His house was afterwards converted into the Artichoke Tea Gardens. By the importunity of his wife he left this and entered into the seed and nursery business at Newington and Tottenham Court, carrying on at the same time an extensive trade as a kitchen gardener and florist. The taste he displayed in arranging and the skill in cultivating gardens induced a recommendation to publish on those subjects; but it was long before his diffidence would allow him to make an attempt. He showed his MS. to Mr. Griffin, a bookseller in Catherine Street, Strand, who with Abercrombie's consent showed it to Mr. Mawe, the Duke of Leeds's gardener. Mr. Mawe highly applauded the work. When introduced to Mawe, whom he had never before seen, poor Abercrombie (as he used facetiously to narrate) encountered a gentleman so bepowdered, and so bedaubed with gold lace, that he thought he could be in the presence of no less a personage than the duke himself. However, they soon came to a right understanding, for he continued his visit for more than a fortnight and "fared sumptuously every day." He likewise received much information from Mawe, as the groundwork of improvements which he afterwards made in his book, "Every Man his own Gardener," and in other publications. They subsequently maintained a friendly correspondence for years. "Every Man his own Gardener" was first published under the authorship of Thomas Mawe only in 1767, and has passed through many editions. Afterwards becoming more confident Abercrombie published his "Gardener's Pocket Journal, or Daily Assistant," which obtained a very extensive sale and has since passed through many editions. Besides these he compiled many other books, of which we append a list.

For the last twenty years of his life he lived in a great degree upon tea, taking it three times a-day, seldom or never eating meat. He frequently declared that tea and tobacco were the great promoters of his health. His pipe was his first companion in the morning and the last at night. He often smoked for six hours without interruption. He never remembered taking physic until after the occurrence of the accident which caused his death, nor of having but one day's illness before his last, about twenty-three years previously.

He died from an accident on the 2nd of May, 1806. He at one period after the publication of his "Every Man His Own Gardener," had actually embarked to superintend the Gardens of the Empress of Russia, but the sight of the ocean inspired him with terrors which he could not overcome.

From 1796 to the time of his decease he continued to reside in Charlton Street, Somers Town, excepting when visiting or professionally employed. He was occasionally employed to plan gardens and pleasure grounds, for which he was sometimes handsomely remunerated. When unemployed he was a constant pursuer of knowledge and information at the various nursery grounds and gardens near the metropolis.

The following is a list of his horticultural works in the order in which they were published:—

1, "Every Man His Own Gardener, being a new Gardener's Calendar with Complete Lists of Forest Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Evergreens, Annual, Biennial, and Perennial Flowers, Hothouse, Greenhouse, and Kitchen Garden Plants, with the varieties of each sort cultivated in the English Gardens." London, 1767; twenty-sixth edition in 1857. In later editions Abercrombie's own name has appeared in the title-page together with that of Thomas Mawe which it originally bore alone, though he had nothing to do with its composition. 2, "The Universal Gardener and Botanist; or a General Dictionary of Gardening and Botany, exhibiting in Botanical Arrangement, according to the Linnæan System, every Tree, Shrub, and Herbaceous Plant that merits Cul-

ture." London. 1798. 4to. Mr. Weston says the first edition appeared in 1770. 3, "The Garden Mushroom, its Nature and Cultivation, exhibiting Full and Plain Directions for producing this Desirable Plant in Perfection and Plenty." London. 1779. 8vo. 4, "The British Fruit Garden and Art of Pruning, comprising the most Approved Method of planting and raising every useful Fruit Tree and Fruit-bearing Shrub." London. 1779. 8vo. 5, "The Complete Forcing Gardener, for the thorough Practical Management of the Kitchen Garden, raising all early Crops in Hotbeds, forcing early Fruit, &c." London. 1781. 12mo. 6, "The Complete Wall Tree Pruner, &c." London. 1783. 12mo. 7, "The Propagation and Botanical Arrangement of Plants and Trees Useful and Ornamental." London. 1785. Two vols. 12mo. 8, "The Gardener's Pocket Dictionary, or a Systematical Arrangement of Trees, Herbs, Flowers, and Fruit, agreeable to the Linnæan Method, with their Latin and English Names, their Uses, Propagation, Culture, &c." London. 1786. Three vols. 12mo. 9, "The Daily Assistant in the Modern Practice of English Gardening for every Month in the Year, on an entire New Plan." London. 1786. 12mo. 10, "The Universal Gardener's Kalendar, and System of Practical Gardening." London. 1789. 12mo. 1808. 8vo. 11, "The Complete Kitchen Gardener and Hotbed Forcer, with the thorough Practical Management of Hothouses, Fire Walls, &c." London. 1789. 12mo. 12, "The Gardener's Vade-Mecum, or Companion of General Gardening. A Descriptive Display of the Plants, Flowers, Shrubs, Trees, Fruits, and General Culture." London. 1789. 8vo. 13, "The Hothouse Gardener, or the General Culture of the Pine Apple, and the Methods of Forcing Early Grapes, Peaches, Nectarines, and other Choice Fruits in Hothouses, Vineries, Fruit Houses, and Hot Walls, with Directions for Raising Melons and Early Strawberries, &c." Plates. London. 1789. 8vo. 14, "The Gar-

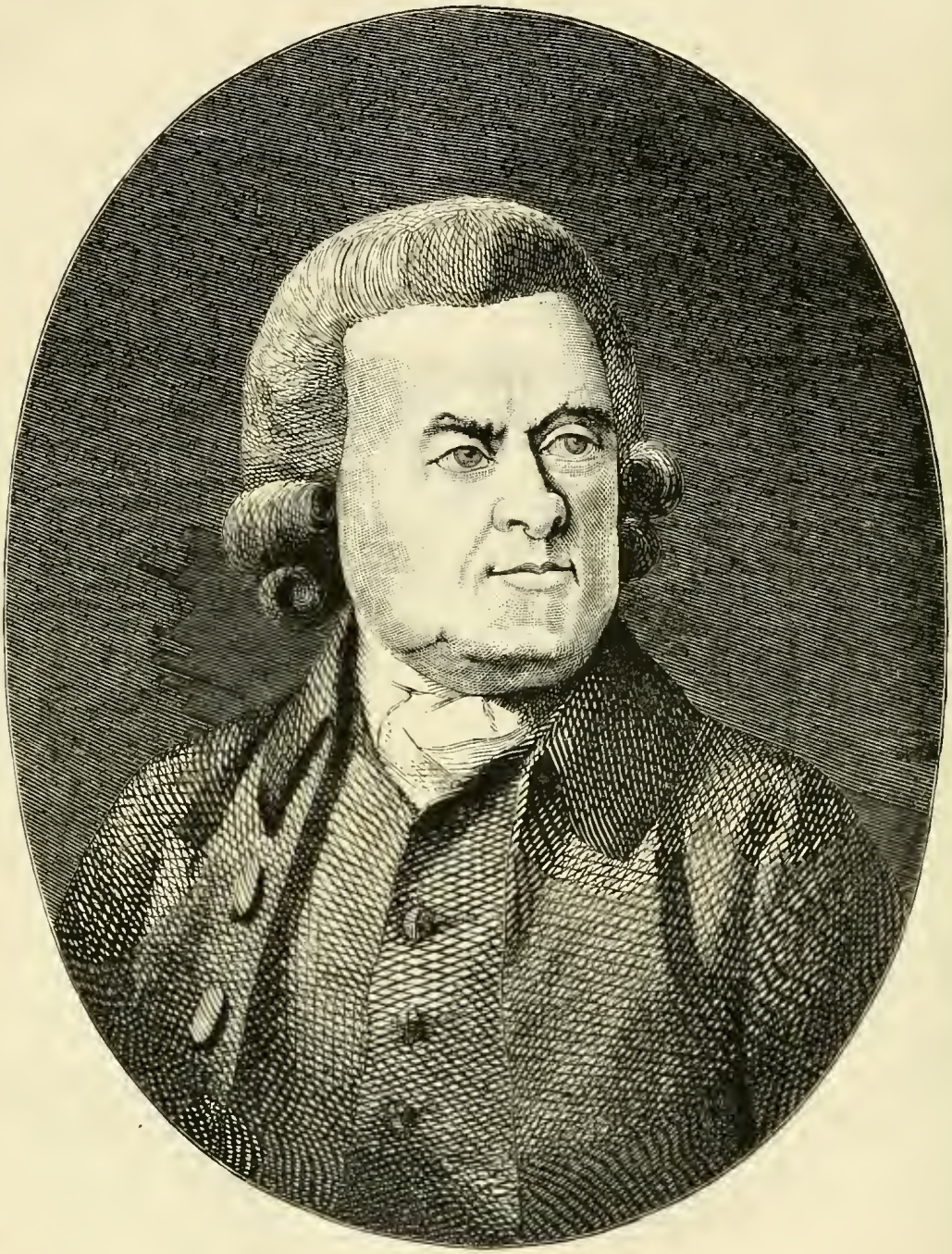


Fig. 122.—JOHN ABERCROMBIE.

dener's Pocket Journal and Annual Register, in a Concise Monthly Display of all Practical Works of General Gardening throughout the Year." London. 1789. 12mo. The thirty-fifth edition is dated 1857.

He brought up and well educated a large family, but survived them all except one son, who distinguished himself in the navy.

BIXA ORELLANA—ANNOTTA.

It is from the shrub the foliage and flowers of which is now figured that the Annotta of commerce is produced. Plants are seldom seen in this country except in botanical collections; but they are not devoid of ornament by their fine green leaves and chaste pink flowers. When grown from seed the plants attain a large size before producing flowers; but when raised from cuttings they flower freely when in a comparatively dwarf state. Cuttings of half-ripened wood strike readily in heat under a bell-glass. The plants require a summer temperature of 65° to 85°, and a winter temperature of 50° to 60°. This shrub grows spontaneously in South America and is cultivated in the East Indies. The fruit is like a Chestnut, a two-valved capsule covered with flexible bristles, and contains a certain number of seeds smaller than peas. These seeds are covered with a soft, viscous, resinous pulp of a beautiful vermilion colour and unpleasant smell like red lead mixed with oil; and it is this matter which constitutes Annotta. The mode in which it is obtained is by pouring hot water over the pulp and the seeds, and leaving them to macerate until they are separated by pounding them with a wooden pestle. The seeds are then removed by straining the mass through a sieve; and the pulp being allowed to settle, the water is gently poured off, and the pulp put into shallow vessels, in which it is gradually dried in the shade. After acquiring a proper consistency it is made into cylindrical rolls or balls, and placed in an airy place to dry, after which it is sent to market. This is most common in the English market, and is in the form of small rolls, each 2 or 3 ozs. in weight, hard, dry, and compact; brownish without and red within. The other process of manufacture is that pursued in Cayenne. The pulp and seeds together are bruised in wooden vessels, and hot water poured over them; they are then left to soak for several days, and afterwards passed through a close sieve to separate the seeds. The matter is then left to ferment for about a week, when the water is gently poured off, and the solid part left to dry in the shade. When it has acquired the consistency of a solid paste it is formed into cakes of 3 or 4 lbs. weight, which are wrapped in the leaves of Arundo or Banana. This variety is of a bright yellow colour, rather soft to the touch, and of considerable solidity. Labat informs us that the Indians prepare an Annotta greatly superior to that which is brought to us, of a bright shining red colour, almost equal to carmine. For this purpose, instead of steeping and fermenting the seeds in water, they rub them with the hands, previously dipped in oil, till the pulp comes off and is reduced to a clear paste, which is scraped off from the hands with a knife, and laid on a clean leaf in the shade to dry. Mixed with lemon juice and gum it makes the crimson paint with which Indians adorn their bodies; and they employ the leaves and roots in cookery to increase the flavour and give a saffron colour.

Fig. 123.—Bixa orellana.

Annotta is principally consumed by painters and dyers; but it is also used in Cheshire, Gloucestershire, and North Wilts to colour cheese with the pale yellow or flesh colour which distinguishes that which is made in these districts, the makers in Cheshire using 8 dwts. to 60 lbs. of cheese; while those of Gloucestershire use 1 oz. to 1 cwt.—quantities which are too small to affect the cheese in any way except in colour. The Dutch use it for heightening the colour of their butter. It is used for the same purpose in some English dairies.

SAXIFRAGA NEPALENSIS.

I am glad to observe that this charming plant was awarded a prize at the late show at South Kensington. Excellent as it is when grown in pots for conservatory and dinner-table decoration, it is of even more value as a hardy rock plant, because its elegant and prettily-marked foliage disposed in rosettes with that precision which is characteristic of this class of plants, always renders it an interesting and ornamental object throughout the year, and now when it is seen in the full glory of its slender tapering flower spikes, there is no plant more striking or attractive. It forms suckers, or what may be with greater propriety, termed lateral shoots, abundantly, so that a stock of it is easily obtained, every shoot rooting readily in an open border after it is separated from the parent plant.

It is by a judicious and tasteful admixture of plants of this type with others of bolder growth that a rockery can be rendered one of the most interesting and attractive features of a garden.—Edward Luckhurst.

[Nepalensis is a name which has been fancifully applied to the fine old plant, S. cotyledon var. pyramidalis.—Eds.]

OUR BORDER FLOWERS—GAILLARDIAS.

Gaillardias are by no means an extensive group of plants, yet they are worthy to be recorded in the Journal, for it would be difficult to find a more beautiful family of summer and autumn-flowering plants than the varieties of Gaillardia picta. When this plant made its appearance among us some thirty or more years ago we tended it carefully as a choice greenhouse plant, and it was looked on as a wonderful acquisition to our collections, and when we found it would do us good service outside as well we admired it the more. Somehow or other

The Gardens of Lord Avebury, at High Elms, Farnborough, Kent.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. A. D. ADAM.

BY the courtesy of Lord Avebury, I had the opportunity, on the 1st of August, of visiting the gardens at High Elms, which are of exceptional attractiveness, not only because of their beauty and extent, but because they contain an unusual number of rare plants, trees, and shrubs therein. Moreover, Lord and Lady Avebury themselves take the keenest interest in the gardens, and as Mr. Adam, the head gardener, said to me when he showed me round, he owes the success he has achieved to the fact that they afford him every encouragement and assistance. As we walked towards the terrace, he pointed out that the gardens have no boundary of fence or wall to divide them from the noble park of between three and four thousand acres, with a grass drive from three to four miles in length, fringed with Norwegian Maples, Lilacs, Laburnum, and other well-known shrubs. Mr. Adam has charge of the woods and plantations, as well as of the gardens, and is evidently concerned to maintain the whole of the demesne under his charge in a manner befitting its natural charms.

Creepers on the Mansion.

Skirting the Pinetum, which is on one side of the house, and reserving it for our attention later, we started with the creepers which adorn the building itself, and I commented on their variety.

"There is an unusual number," rejoined Mr. Adam, "noticeably Vitis heterophylla dissecta (beautiful foliage), V. Coignetiæ, Ampelopsis tricuspidata and A. murulis, Polygonum multiflorum, Clematis paniculata, magnifica, and coccinea; Hedera Emerald Green, contracta, and digitata aurea; Magnolia grandiflora, Cratægus pyracantha Lælandi, Inulusi variegata, and Lonicera brachypoda."

HIGH ELMS, FARNBOROUGH, KENT.

"How long is it since the very fine breadth of Roses facing the house was planted?"

"Three years ago, and it has been in full flower for nearly a month. In order to harmonise with the colour of the Roses, Geraniums Madame Crousse are used for the vases, and on the south side, under the house, there is a border of the same variety. The pergola, which runs the whole length of the house, is also planted with a view to the blending of colours. The creepers on it are Clematis in variety, Lonicera brachypoda and other varieties, Cratægus pyracantha, Cotoneaster Simonsii, Vitis in variety, Ampelopsis in variety, and Hedera in variety."

A Remarkable Herbaceous Border.

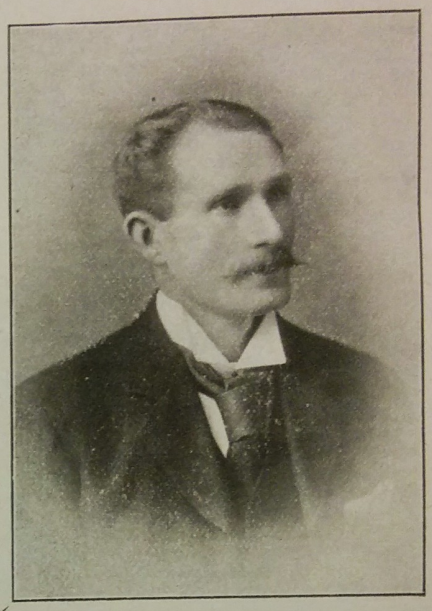
"I suppose the sloping herbaceous border facing the dining-room window is one of the principal features?"

"Yes, it is nearly a quarter of a mile long, and ten feet wide, with a grass path thirty feet wide, in the centre, intermingled with side paths. The border is not only used for herbaceous plants, but from the first day of spring, when the bulbs come into flower, until well into October, it is a continual source of interest. All the best-known herbaceous plants are, of course, represented; and, to further beautify it, we some time ago planted the huge arches of Crimson Rambler Roses behind."

"You might mention the names of a few varieties now in flower, or some specially rare."

"As to rare varieties, the Squirting Cucumber (Mordica elaterium) is worthy of notice. Just now the plants in flower embrace Dictamnus fraxinella, Salvias, Geranium Pratense, Delphiniums in great variety, Phlox in great variety, Monarda didyma, Geranium armenum, Menziesia polifolia, Spiræa aruncus (in large clumps), Chelone barbata, Potentilla nepalensis, Echinops ruthenicus, Valerian alba and rosea, Epilobium hirsutum, and Sedums, notably S. Sieboldi, which is especially pretty for edging. Other varieties include Astrantia minor, Aconitum ferox, Agrostemma coronaria, Gentiana asclepiadea, Lithospermum graminifolia, Diervilla seniliflora, Omphalodes verna, Mimulus luteus, Anchusa italica (Dropmore variety), Myosotis palustris semperflorens, Astilbe Davidii, Potentilla atrosanguinea (Gibson's variety), and Salvia Soulei."

"We now come," continued Mr. Adam, "to perhaps the greatest features of the garden, namely, the lakes, of which there are five, all of these being furnished with up-to-date aquatics. Each lake also contains a different class of fish—one has Loch Leven trout, another Japanese goldfish, a third bream, a fourth tench, and a fifth carp. Lilies are strongly represented, including Nymphæa alba, and Nitida odorata, rosea, and tuberosa. A quantity of Lythrum roseum is used on small islands on the lakes. We propagate it by just dividing, and it gives, as you see, a great mass of flowers. Amongst the aquatic and lake plants are Spiræa gigantea, palmata (one of the best, a deep pink), and rotundifolia; Epilobium angustifolium, Cypress longus, Astilbe major, Saxifrage peltata, Lysimachia vulgaris, Aponogeton angustifolia, fine plants of Orontium aquaticum (the common name of which is Golden Club), Gunnera elliptica, Typhea latifolia, Senecio clivorum, Acorus japonica variegata, Imperatrix (in large clumps), Arundo conspicua and donax, Requisetum palustra, and Campanula hederacea. There are many other beautiful plants to interest the botanist, amongst these being water Iris, water Violets, and water Ranunculus."



MR. A. D. ADAM.

Bamboos and the Rose Walk.

"I see that the banks of the lakes are decorated with fine specimens of Bamboos."

"The Bamboos are considered some of the finest in England, and include the best varieties. Of the Arundinaria species, the varieties are auricoma, Simonsii, metake, nitida, Fortuneii variegata, and Hindsii. Phyllostachys is represented by nigra, henonis, violenceus, aurea and viridi glaucesens; and there are also some remarkable specimens of Bambusa palmata."

Retracing our steps a little to the herbaceous border, we spent some time in the lovely Rose walk, with Lavender and Lilac hedges on either side.

"This walk," said Mr. Adam, "was designed by Lady Avebury, who thought that the hedges would protect the Roses in the early spring from cold winds. The varieties of Roses are Hybrid Teas—Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La France, and Gloire Lyonnaise; and Teas—Madame Falcot and Madame Lambard, which do extremely well here."

The collection of flowering shrubs, which is one of the most notable in England, then claimed attention.

"They are not arranged in any particular order?" I asked, as I noticed a fine specimen of Pyrus arbutifolia.

"No, quite promiscuously; and in every case with the idea of giving each specimen of shrub or tree plenty of room to develop. Also the ornamental aspect is always kept in view, just as in the case of the Crimson Rambler Rose now facing us, which grows in a wild state, mixed with Sweet Brier, the Roses having a background of Japanese Acers and Copper Beech. This portion of the wild garden used to be planted up with Elms and Pines, a number of which have been removed. As you have already seen, the islands in the lakes are also planted more or less with shrubs. Would you like me to give you the names of some of the principal?"

"I should be very glad if you would do so."

"Spiræas do particularly well, especially Anthony Waterer, the Japanese variety. One of the prettiest of shrubs is Euonymus alatus. Other Spiræas are Reevesiana, prunifolia, and hypericifolia. The Berberis family is represented by asiatica and buxifolia; the Escalonia by Ingrami macrantha and rosea; the Cotoneaster by myrtifolia, frigida, fanchetti, horizontalis, and pannosa; the Phyllyrea by decara and augustifolia."

"What about the Pittosporum?"

"The two varieties are P. crassifolium and P. engenioides. Then there is the Cistus, of which we have lanifolius and florentinus. Perhaps the better plan would be, for the rest, to give you the names of a single prominent variety. Thus there is Olearia Haasti, Agara microphylla, Forsythia suspensa, Periploca gracca, Garrya elliptica, Pyrus malus floribunda, Daphne mezereum, Hedysarum mullyngum, Spartium junceum, Fraxinus acubæfolia, Prunus Pissardi, Staphylea colchica, Phlomis fruticosa, Artemesia lactiflora, Elæagnus macrophylla, Ceanothus Veitchianus, Andromeda mariana, Abelia floribunda, Pernettya mucronata, Veronica la Seduisante, Skimmia japonica fragrans, Acer tomentosum, Philadelphus Manteau d'Hermine, Tamarix hispida, kashgarica, Cornus stolonifera, Amelanchier arbutifolia grandiflora, Quercus pedunculata pectinata, Abelia rupestris, Desfontainea spinosa, Lambucus canadensis, and Comtonia asplenifolia. Such shrubs as Magnolia, Hibiscus, Wegelia, and many others, are also represented in various parts of the pleasure grounds. I may say that Lord Avebury has all trees and shrubs trained to a leader, the impression being that they stand the winter better, and are not so liable to break down with the snow."

The Pinetum.

"I should like the names of some of the Conifers in the Pinetum."

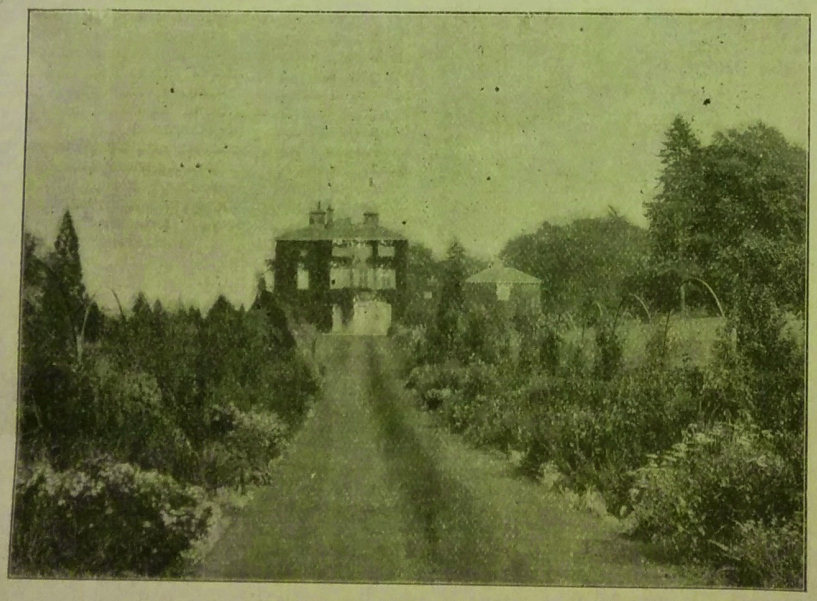
"There are fine specimens of Cedrus deodara, atlantica, and atlantica glauca. The specimens of Cupressus include borealis lutea, Lawsoniana aurea, Lawsoniana alba spica, Chinensis aurea, and nutkaensis lutea. The Picea pinsapo here are amongst the largest in Great Britain, and Abies pungens glauca is also well represented. There are fine specimens of Wellingtonia gigantea, Thuia Lobbi aurea, Thuiopsis dolobrata, and Viola aurea. Yews, both Irish and Golden, are largely represented."

"Is there anything special in the conservatory?"

"It is largely filled with Palms, Orchids, and Ferns in baskets, the roof being covered with Stephanotis floribunda, Bougainvillea glabra, and Asparagus plumosa."

Before we entered the kitchen garden—about three acres in extent, which is chiefly devoted to fruit and vegetables, containing in flowers only a few Sweet Peas and Carnations—we went into the glasshouses. In one of these, built according to modern requirements, were the Carnations, Caladiums, Cucumbers, and Tomatoes, two houses being devoted to Melons.

THE LAKE AT HIGH ELMS.



HERBACEOUS BORDERS AT HIGH ELMS.

"The Melons grown are all of one variety," replied Mr. Adam to my inquiry, "the Cucumbers Telegraph and Rochford Market, the Tomatoes Duke of York. I believe in intensive culture. Early salads are obtained from the borders, French Beans, Radishes, and Lettuces being all grown together. We pull Radishes first, cut Lettuces later, and French Beans come in subsequently. Plenty of salad is a great thing in the London season."

"What varieties do you grow in the three Peach houses?"

"In the first, Hale's Early, Crimson Galande Lord Napier, and Sea Eagle; in the second, Cardinal and Early Rivers' Nectarine; in the third, Dymond and Rivers' Orange Nectarines. In the stove and Orchid houses are Crotons, Dracænas, and Pandanus, the Orchids being Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, and Cœlogyne cristata; also a fine lot of Calanthes."

"And the three Vineries?"

"Black Hamburgh, Buckland's Sweetwater, Foster's Seedling, Muscats, Gros Colmar, Lady Downe, and Gros Maroc. The borders are all inside, and, as you can see, these give fine bunches of fruit. I do not believe in outside borders, the inside are more easily controlled. We pick Peaches and Grapes for quite six months in the year, beginning in May, and ending about Christmas."

"Your Pears in the kitchen garden, I observe, are chiefly cordon trained."

"Yes, and such varieties as Williams's Bon Chrétien, Pitmaston Duchess, Magnet, and Conference do equally well on east or west walls. On the south wall are Peaches, and on the north wall Morella Cherries. Apples, all dessert varieties, are mostly trained horizontally. I grow Strawberries in several different positions, in order to prolong the season—the earliest in the south border, the mid-season in the midst of the garden, and the latest in the north border. The bulk are Royal Sovereign, but Givon's Late Prolific, and Elton Pine are also used. It is not, in my judgment, wise

to grow many varieties of any fruit or vegetables."

Vegetable Cultivation.

"Do you care to say anything about the cultivation of vegetables?"

"We get two, three, and sometimes four, crops off the same ground in one season. I had Peas, Spinach, Potatoes, and Broccoli last year in succession off the same piece. In the long border, now filled with Beet (Dell's Crimson and Veitch's Improved Black), flowers were grown earlier. I am convinced that the principle of changing the ground every year is of great importance, and of material help in securing crops."

"During your training, did you have much to do with vegetable growing?"

"Yes, as a matter of fact, at Charleton Gardens, Montrose, where I served my apprenticeship under Mr. John Wilson, vegetables were a leading feature, and Mr. Wilson was a noted grower in his day. From Charleton Gardens, I went to Castle Huntly, in Perthshire, under the famous fruit-grower, Mr. James Beisant, and then to Rossie Priory, Lord Kinnaird's seat, under Mr. Doig. Later I crossed the Border, and became foreman at Normanhurst, Lord Brassey's seat in Sussex, going from Normanhurst to Studley Royal, the Marquis of Ripon's seat, in Yorkshire, as general foreman. My first appointment as head gardener was at Bradbourne Hall, Sevenoaks, and my second at Lord Amherst's place, Montreal. Five years ago I came to High Elms as head gardener."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 319.—AUTUMN-SOWN ANNUALS AND WINTER DECORATIONS.

DEAR KATE,—There are various seeds for spring-flowering which should now be sown. Sweet Peas, for instance, which blossom a few weeks earlier than those put in during February and March, although it is true that they run some risk in the winter from severe frost, and sometimes from snails and slugs. Some authorities advocate strewing Fern or straw around the young plants, but this we have not found to answer, because the slugs congregate under such material, and are sure to destroy the Sweet Peas. Those which came through the severe winter of last year most successfully, were sown on an open, sunny border, well drained; and I think the middle of September is the best time for this work, as the seedlings are not then too large or too small. A shelter of sticks may be arranged over them, or at a yard's distance, to break the force of the wind from the north and east, and a dusting of lime, given at intervals during the winter, will help to keep off slugs. But if these marauders should threaten seriously, it may be well to put down little heaps of bran (which is their favourite food) around the seedlings, with a convenient shelter for the slugs when gorged, close to each. A large piece of pot-shard, or of rather rotten wood, suits them well, and on visiting these shelters in the morning, they will be found to contain a number of the slimy tribe. Shirley Poppies are hardy enough to stand well, if sown in the autumn, and the resulting plants are much finer than those sown in spring. They should, however, be sown extremely thinly; in fact, this applies to all autumn-sown seeds, as seedlings weakened by crowding are not likely to do any good. Rigorous thinning must be carried out if they come up too thickly. Shirley Poppies should be about a foot apart, each plant will then produce hundreds of flowers. With these Poppies, the blue Cornflower (Emperor William) is charming, and the seeds of this annual can also be sown now; with Mignonette, too, which germinates in the early spring, flowering much earlier than spring-sown plants. But it needs good, rich soil, well dug; and is apt to disappear in a poor, exhausted border.

A Beautiful Annual.

Nemophila insignis is one of the prettiest of all annuals, with its sky-blue blossoms; it stands well through the winter in well-drained soil; in fact, all autumn-sown seeds must have good drainage, as a water-logged position is fatal to them at that time. There is one drawback to Nemophila, specially serious in cities where cats abound, for these creatures are so pleased with the scent of its flowers that they roll on them in a most exasperating way when the blossoms open, which flattens them, of course—if it does not do worse. Godetias, which have been so marvellously improved of late years, can now be sown; the double pink varieties are extremely handsome, making a grand show of colour early in the following summer. Saponaria cambrica, too, a dwarf carpeting plant, is hardy, and most effective, as it is literally covered with blossom. Eschscholtzias, too, of the beautiful new tints in salmon-red (Rose Cardinal is a lovely one), and the various Clarkias (of which I like the double salmon-pink one the best), may all be sown to stand the winter, choosing a border sloping to the south, if possible, for them.

Winter Carrots.

In the kitchen garden we may yet sow a patch of Carrot seed, over which a frame can be lifted if severe weather should set in early in the winter. In sowing Carrots for winter drawing whilst small (and large Carrots are of no use, except for stews and soups), it is necessary to take special precautions, as all the grubs in the garden seem to attack them during a wet, cold time, if they are treated as in the spring. No manure must be added to the Carrot bed before sowing, and the soil should not be too rich; lime, however, should be plentifully forked in to the upper six inches, and the position of the border should be dry, sheltered, and sunny. As soon as the seed is up, a light dusting of lime can again be given, and this should be repeated at intervals, giving but little at a time, but often. Soot, too, can be used in the same way; grubs of all kinds dislike both these materials, and if the soil be free from wireworm, you should enjoy many a dish of young Carrots in the depth of winter. It is a good plan to fix a spare frame light above them, resting on four pots, at a height of about six

ROMAN HYACINTHS.

a week, and as they are not killed by any insecticide, a single spraying is not sufficient. It should be repeated at intervals for, say, a fortnight, to be on the safe side. When the pest is not completely destroyed, the last batch of eggs remains attached to the fallen leaves during the winter, and, unless these leaves are collected and burned, the insects will reappear the following year.

Too Many Beauties!

September 16th.—The camera may seem a curious gardening implement, and yet there are many cases in which it would be most useful. A short time ago I went to see a garden which

MR. J. ADAMS.

has a reputation for its beauty, and, though there was much to admire in it, I was vaguely conscious that there was something wrong. It was not, however, until I began to select views suitable for photographs that I discovered what was the matter. I could hardly find a single one. Everything was so crowded that there was no concentration of interest, and, even where it was possible to get farther away, this fact remained to destroy the pictorial effect. In short, there were far too many beauties. In the words of the old proverb, it was impossible to see the wood because of the trees. The ideal garden consists of a series of pictures, the simpler the better, each with a central object for the eye to rest on, and each with an adequate frame to isolate it from the others. In this garden there were no central objects—all the plants had equal or almost equal pictorial value—and there was no frame. The whole was a large floral panorama. It was fairly clear how this effect, or want of effect, had been produced. The garden must have been laid out during a period of years, a little added here and a little there, without any general plan. The practice is not uncommon, and it nearly always ends in confusion. Unless the broad lines are laid down first, the result must be largely a matter of chance.

Sundials.

September 17th.—Mr. Millin, in "Pictorial Gardening," says that sundials have gone out of fashion. That may have been true some time ago, but of late years there has been a distinct revival, while from many old-world gardens they have never been absent. They are not out of place there, and when Roses and other plants are grouped around, they serve as central objects in the picture, and so concentrate the interest which, without them, might be too diffused. Their utilitarian value is gone, of course, in these days of cheap clocks and watches, but their associations will always endear them to the lover of flowers.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Hincheslea, Brockenhurst.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. J. ADAMS.

THE delightfully-situated residence known as Hincheslea, though only two miles from Brockenhurst Station, is in the heart of the New Forest, and combines all the charms of seclusion with readiness of access. It was at the end of July that I was able, by the courtesy of Miss M. Lovell, to visit the gardens, and I found them looking extremely well. At the suggestion of Mr. J. Adams, who has charge of both the estate and the gardens, we first made our way to a little rockery, which has recently been added, in a lovely dell not far from the house.

"It is made of Forest stone," said Mr. Adams, "and, as you see, there is a wealth of Ferns. The varieties now in flower are not very numerous, but they include Corydalis lutea, Iberis correæfolia, Campanula Haastii, Veronica rupestris, Dianthus deltoides, Saxifrages in variety, Alpine Phlox, Alyssum montanum, Cistus Florentinus, Gypsophila repens, Veronica decumbens, Plumbago Larpentæ, and Helianthemum vulgare. In selecting this site I was influenced by the surroundings, and by the fine trees which make a pleasing feature. It is also a convenient position, because it is in close proximity to the flower garden."

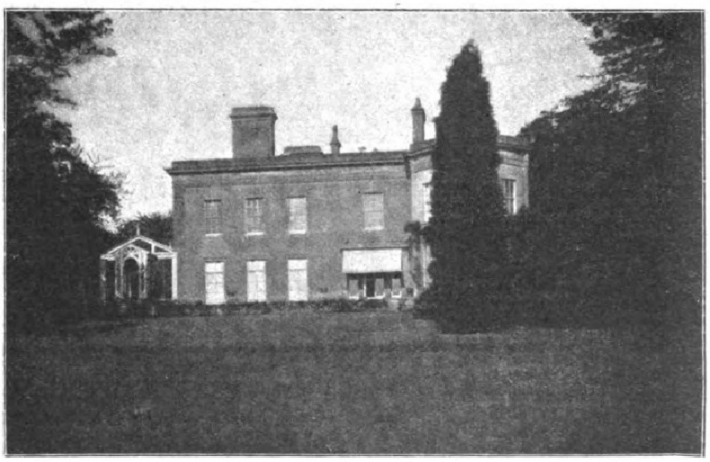
"The number of beds must be very large," I said, as we entered a charming pleasaunce, intersected with green walks, also overshadowed by trees.

"There are twenty-four on each side. As to the contents, there are four with Begonia Fairy Queen, some edged with white Lobelias, and others with Alyssum Little Dorrit. Then, there are four of Geraniums Henry Jacoby, dotted with Abutilon Thompsonii, and edged with Alyssum Little Dorrit. Two beds consist of Geraniums Mrs. Pollock, with a centre of Lobelias Queen Victoria, edged with Lobelias Katharine Mallard."

"What are the varieties of Dahlias in two of the centre beds?"

"Mrs. Carter Page in one, and Little Dolly in the other. The two beds are otherwise alike, each combination being Eucalyptus globulus and Geranium Manglesii. The two beds with Marguerites in the centre have, as groundwork, Geraniums Madame Crousse, edged with Alyssums, while two others, the shape of wings, are filled with Ageratums Mauve Queen and Pyrethrums Golden Feather."

"You have more beds of Begonias?"



HINCHESLEA, BROCKENHURST, HANTS.

"Yes, two of Semperflorens, with dot plants of Abutilon Thompsonii, edged with single blue Lobelias. There is also one bed of scarlet Begonias of another variety. The two beds of yellow Chrysanthemums are dotted with tall-growing Lobelias, and have a groundwork of

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Marigolds Legion of Honour. Near these is one bed of Coreopsis grandiflora and single blue Lobelias, also one of South African Marigolds, and the same edging."

Combinations in Pairs.

"But most of the combinations are in pairs?"

"Of Antirrhinums, in art shades of nearly all colours, there are four beds. But there are two of Verbenas, a dark blue seedling, and Gladioli in variety; two of double Dianthus and Gladioli; two of Phlox Drummondi and Alyssums Little Dorrit; two of Verbenas Princess of Wales, edged with Daisies (giant-flowering); two of Gaillardias (seedlings), edged with Phlox Drummondi; two of Violas Maggie Mott; two of Violas Kitty Bell; and two of single Petunia seedlings and Gladioli in variety. There is one bed of scarlet Geraniums, a cross between Ivy-leaf and Zonal; the cuttings of these were brought by Miss Lovell from Switzerland three years ago."

"The flowers are very fine. And the three beds at the side?"

"They are made up of Ageratums and Mimulus, with Lobelia cardinalis in the centre, edged with Geraniums Manglesi. All round the borders are trained Ivy-leaved Geraniums Charles Turner, and Alyssums and Phlox Drummondi, the idea being the prevalence of scarlet and white."

"Do you have any trouble with rabbits?"

"We scare them by the use of Renardine, which is put on a little string."

The Spring Bedding.

"Do you fill all the beds with spring flowers?"

"Yes; and chiefly with Wallflowers, not mixed, but planted according to colour. With these we use Aubrietias, Myosotis (white and blue), and double white Alyssums."

"I should like to know the names of the Wallflowers."

"Belvoir Castle, Blood-red, Salmon Queen, Ruby Gem, Primrose Dame, Golden King, Vulcan, and Doubles. They are all grown separately, and I get them all to flower the same year they are planted, except the Doubles, which flower the second year."

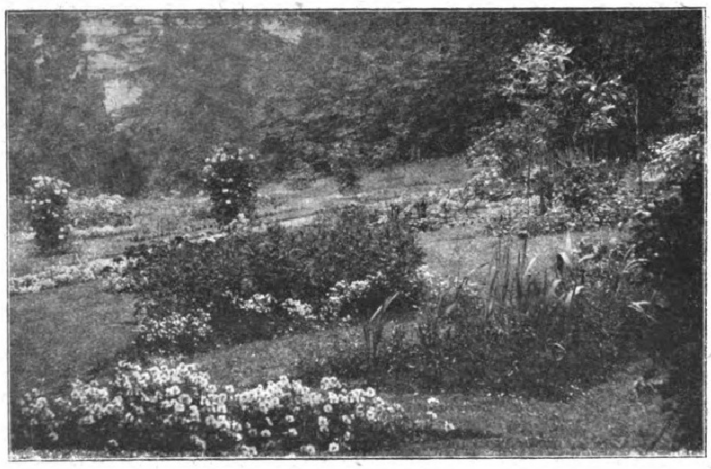
"You have a nice specimen of Crinum Moorei in the conservatory," I said, as we approached the house, which stands on rising ground.

"Yes, the South African Lily does well here. The Geraniums in flower in the conservatory are chiefly Henry Jacoby and Queen of the Belgians; the doubles are better. Near the house is a bed of the new hybrid Nicotianas."

The Rhododendron Walk.

"What about Rhododendrons?"

"They flourish in the New Forest. We have a great many varieties in the Rhododendron Walk. The soil is peaty, and therefore ready-made. The varieties include Pink Pearl, Lady Eleanor Cathcart, Doncaster, Blandyanum, Caractacus, Caucasian, Concessum, Frederick Waterer, John Waterer, Marie van Houtte, and Sir Thomas Sebright. We are going to increase the number. About a dozen are forced every year, and after forcing the plants are put out for two years. The same course is pursued with Azalea mollis. Both shrubs and Conifers seed themselves. This notably applies to Abies Douglassi and Oaks. To show how well Conifers do here, I may say that a bed of Myosotis (a seedling) flowers in the winter under a Cupressus Lawsoniana. Speaking of Oaks, the pergola with Roses was made of Oaks from the park, which had seeded themselves. We never plant any. The varieties of Roses on the pergola include Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Queen Alexandra, and Field Marshal."



THE FLOWER GARDEN AT HINCHESLEA.

The outskirts of the pleasure grounds, which include a number of double hedges, were next explored, notably the Rose quarters, which face a hedge of Rhododendrons, with varieties of the Hybrid Perpetual sections. For practical purposes, however, the features of the outskirts may be taken with those of the decorative kitchen garden, with its brilliant borders, and many patches of colour. Here I speedily discovered that Mr. Adams has a great affection for Dahlias and is a specialist of authority."

Fine New Dahlias.

"There must be many novelties in your fine line of Dahlias," I said.

"These are all new. One of the best scarlet is Dr. J. J. Gray, and one of the best salmon C. E. Wilkins. Clara is a good golden variety, and Etruria a pink with a yellow centre. Flame, Harold Pearson, and Lusitania are good scarlets; T. A. Havemeyer, a fine dark pink; Hyacinth, a yellow-buff; Dreadnought, a dark maroon. But in yellows, Mrs. J. J. Crowe, one of the old varieties, has never been beaten, and Hilda Shoebridge, also one of the old varieties, is amongst the best rich salmon colours. These, of course, are the Cactus section; but all the Pæony-flowered Dahlias are my own seedlings. I got some fine flowers with scarlet, brown, yellow, and streaked petals.

"Now," continued Mr Adams, "we come to some of the older varieties. These embrace Nelson, Crimson Maroon, Kreimhilde (pink, with a white centre), Alight (scarlet-brown), Flounce (of which I had a bloom eight inches across), Mrs. J. Grinstead (cherry-red, a glorious flower), Mrs. Macmillan (pink and white centre), Comet (a spotted variety), Good Hope (dark scarlet and white tips, with twisted petals), Antelope (also twisted petals, bronze, with gold centre), J. H. Jackson (the best of dark maroons), Lucifer (deep orange-red, crimson flowers), Thomas Parkin (light orange, with a splendid flowering habit)."

A Point in Cultivation.

"Is there anything special in your treatment?"

"No; but it should be remembered that Dahlias do not want to be heavily manured. If large flowers for exhibition are required, disbudding must be done; not otherwise."

"You go in for the Pompone Cactus also?"

"Considerably. One of the most beautiful of these for table decoration is Modesty. Other useful varieties are Coronation, Daffodil, Freedom, Glow, Little Fred, Mary, Peace, Polly, Starlight, and Titus. They are all grown with long stems, and flourish until the frost cuts them down. They all last well in water."

Treatment of Begonias.

"Begonias are evidently another of your features."

"All these plants which you see in pots were grown from a 3s. 6d. packet of seed. Out of the packet eighty per cent. were doubles. The colours include pink, scarlet, flesh, and white. Then I have the Crispa section, in different shades of colour. The edges are crisped."

"Is the treatment the same as that of the others?"

"Yes; I keep all the bulbs dry in the winter, start in the early spring in gentle heat, in well decayed leaf-mould; then they thrive without difficulty. There are also the crested Begonias, of which I have a number, the feature being, as you know, the narrow fringe running round the petal."

Zonal Geraniums and Chrysanthemums.

"Do you go in largely for Pelargoniums?"

"I have a couple of dozen seedlings, of Regal; but Zonal Geraniums are grown very largely. Half a score of the best are Dryden, Winston Churchill, Snowdrop, May Pelton, Nora, Picotee, Gertrude Pearson, Captain Holford, Blue Peter, and Paul Crampel."

"Any hints as to cultivation would be useful."

"The cultivation is very simple. A vital point is to pinch them and keep them dwarf. They should have plenty of sun and air in the summer. Mine, as you will observe, are grown out of doors, not inside."

"I observe also that you have a fine supply of Chrysanthemums in pots on the frame ground."

"We grow entirely for quantity, and have no big blooms. In the cultivation, the liberal use of weak liquid manure makes the plants thrive. As we have a herd of Guernseys, we always have plenty. Of a hundred varieties, the best are Mrs. Barclay, Madame P. Rivoire, J. E. Clayton, G. J. Warren, Algernon Davis, Soleil d'Octobre, M. Masse, Sunstone, Mrs. White Popham, Mrs. Kirk, C. H. Curtis, Mrs. Garner, Madame P. Radaelli, and F. S. Vallis."

"But you have also a large quantity of Chrysanthemums grown entirely out of doors."

"One bed entirely consists of Silver Queen, and amongst the best of other outdoor varieties are White Quintus, Flame, White Pet, Ravensbourne, Champ d'Or, A. J. Quintus, Little Dot, Gladys Grey, Miss Crissey, Rainbow, Harry Hicks, Sœur Melaine, Saint Michael,

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Goacher's Crimson, and Ryecroft Glory. In the herbaceous border, which we are now approaching, there is a tall-growing white Chrysanthemum, which comes out long before any other variety. It is called Senis Plenus."

"Phlox are very conspicuous in the border."

"This used to be a vegetable border, but I find that both Pæonies and Phlox, as well as most other varieties of flowers, do exceedingly well here. The principal varieties of Phlox are Rose Queen, Coquelicot, Graf von Landsburg, La Tendresse, Etna, and Eclair d'Aout.."

Malvas and Sweet Peas.

Noticing a very long border of Violas Maggie Mott, in front of the Dahlias, I enquired when Mr. Adams began to flower his fine show of Malvas.

"The beginning of July; and they keep on flowering until the middle of August, the varieties being M. moschata (rose-pink), and alba (white). They are tall-growing plants, five feet high, with fringed petals, most useful for cutting. They do not require any special treatment. Cupidone is another beautiful flower for cutting, scarlet-maroon and lasting for three months."

"You have Sweet Peas in various parts of the garden."

"They are grown to obtain a succession until the frost comes. I start in January with Duke of Westminster, in big pots, for early work, growing more batches in February and March, and two further quantities out of doors. The other varieties started indoors are John Ingman, Dorothy Eckford, Black Knight, Helen Pierce, Jeannie Gordon, Mrs. Walter Wright, Lady Grisel Hamilton, George Gordon, Countess Spencer, Hon. Mrs Kenyon, and Lord Rosebery. They give us great masses of bloom, and so do the batches of Aster sinensis."

"You might mention any other flowers that you specially use for cutting."

"One that is well worthy of notice is Coreopsis Drummondi, which lasts in flower for two or three months, and yields thousands of blooms. Yellow in daylight, it turns white in artificial light. Then we use large quantities of scented Geraniums, Shrubland Pet, Lady Yarmouth, and Pheasant-foot, to mix with the flowers. The Border Carnations are mixed, and include one especially good, of dark colour; and Iris Kæmpferi is grown in all varieties of colour, particularly the whites."

How to Grow Salpiglossis.

"Your remarkable border of Salpiglossis, extending the whole length of your fruit houses, deserves more than a word of praise."

"The varieties are Veitch's Large-Flowering and Toogood's Emperor. I sow in March, bring the plants on inside in spring, and plant out; or, as an alternative, I sow in a bed on the top of a leaf heap, and transplant afterwards into a frame, bedding out at the end of May. These are all single plants, and each one is staked. The large-flowering variety is self-coloured, and Emperor striped. Each of the two lines of plants is fifty yards long, and the flowers are seen at their best in August. In front of the houses are Pansies Emperor Frederick, grown from seed—by far the best method."

When to Sow Zinnias.

"I suppose you vary the borders?"

"Yes; I have had Zinnias here, which make a fine display grown in a border. They should not, however, be sown before the end of April, or they get a chill from which they may not recover. I find Diascia Barberæ, a little pink flower, very useful for massing."

"Then there are the Roses grown as climbers on the walls and arches, which help to make the kitchen garden beautiful?"

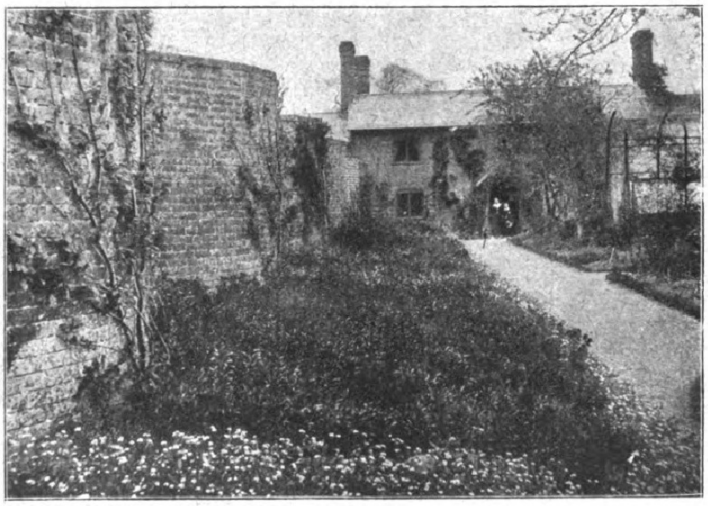
"They are chiefly Alister Stella Grey, Alfred Colomb, Marechal Niel, La France, L'Ideal, Captain Christy, Catherine Mermet, Bouquet d'Or, Gruss an Teplitz, Duchess of Edinburgh, and W. A. Richardson."

Proceeding to the fruit houses, we entered the orchard house.

"The Peaches here," said Mr. Adams, "are Noblesse, Gros Mignonne, Goshawk, and Nectarine Lord Napier. The best Peach, and most largely grown, is Noblesse; it has not much colour, but the flavour is lovely. Noblesse is also grown in the second Peach house, with Alexandra and Royal George; and in the cold Peach house two of these varieties and Goshawk are grown. The fruit ripens in the late autumn. Here, too, in the beds we grow some Tomatoes. The soil is too cold to grow any outside. There are four Vineries, with both inside and outside borders. In the early house the only variety is Black Hamburgh; in the second, Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria; in the third, Black Alicante; and in the fourth, chiefly Black Hamburgh. I am growing most of these on the extension system, and get some fine bunches of fruit on the young wood."

The Best Hardy Fruit.

"With regard to your hardy fruit, what sort of crops do you consider you have this year?"



WALLFLOWERS IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT HINCHESLEA.

"We have a great quantity of Plums on the walls and standard trees, the varieties being Rivers' Early Prolific, Golden Drop, Greengage, and Monarch. Apples are grown entirely on standards. Half a dozen of the best are Lane's Prince Albert, Wellington, Blenheim Orange (which does splendidly), Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Lord Suffield. The varieties of Pears grown on the walls, fan-trained, are Beurre Diel, Pitmaston Duchess, Fondante d'Automne, Jargonelle, Beurre d'Amanlis, Doyenne du Comice, Emile d'Heyst, and Souvenir du Congres. We have had enormous crops of Gooseberries and Black Currants, a fact which I attribute to persistent trenching."

"What about Strawberries?"

"We keep the plants two years. Three hundred Royal Sovereign are forced; but these plants are destroyed after forcing. The other varieties are Givon's Late Prolific and Latest of All. More Apples are grown in the orchard, with vegetables below. Here we are gradually substituting new for old trees."

"And you grow most of your vegetables in the orchard?"

"Yes; although before the Pæony-flowering Dahlias in the kitchen garden I grow a crop of early Potatoes, Midlothian Early and Sharpe's Victor. The Beans I find most useful are Painted Lady, Ne Plus Ultra, and Hackwood Park Success."

"How late do you pick Peas?"

"Until the end of September. I obtain the later Peas by sowing early varieties at the end of June. The varieties grown in succession are Gradus, Superlative, Carter's Daisy, and Dr. McLean. Carrots are rather a feature, and the soil suits them remarkably well. The only variety is Veitch's Model."

"How long have you been in charge of the gardens here, Mr. Adams?"

"Four years. I started in Scotland at Buchanan Castle, Glasgow, proceeding next to Lennox Castle, subsequently to Inverary, and then to Ireland, to Carton Park, Kildare. Leaving Ireland, I was for a time in Messrs. Veitch's nursery, and next I was foreman, first at Stanmore Hall, and afterwards at Normanby Park, Lincolnshire. My first post as head gardener was at Cobar Hall, Buxton. Leaving there, I went to Lynchmere House, Haslemere, where I remained for seven and a half years. Before coming here, I was in charge of the gardens at Harefield Grove, Uxbridge, for three years. While I was at Haslemere, I did a good deal of showing, and since I have been at Hincheslea I have shown Dahlias largely with success. This month, I was first at Brockenhurst for Cactus varieties. Every year I obtain the newest varieties of Dahlias, and from the cuttings I am able to strike ninety per cent."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE celebrated Vine at Hampton Court, which a few years ago was in a very poor condition, and could only produce a few bunches of half a pound each, or less, has been taken in hand by the authorities, who have built a new house over it, removed the flagstones from over the roots, and put fresh soil round the roots, under which treatment the Vine is improving rapidly, and bearing more and heavier bunches every year. Many of those on it this year are from two to two and a half pounds in weight. This world-famous Vine is a hundred and forty-one years old, and the stem just above the ground measures five feet in circumference.

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Aiton, William (1731–1793), *horticulturist*
by D. J. Mabberley
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Aiton, William (1731–1793), horticulturist, was born at Boghall, Carnwath, Lanarkshire, the son of John Aiton, farmer, and his wife, Jean Weir. With his two brothers he trained as a gardener on the Shawfield estate at Woodhall near Airdrie. In 1754 he settled in England and the next year became assistant to Philip Miller at the Physic Garden at Chelsea. In 1759 he was recruited by John Haverfield (*c*.1694–1784), gardener to Augusta, dowager princess of Wales, at Kew, to manage her small physic garden: his annual salary by 1770 was £120.

In 1764 Aiton met Joseph Banks, who was to have increasing influence over Kew through his friendship with George III. From about 1773 Banks oversaw day-to-day running of the gardens and, with Aiton, raised their scientific and horticultural stature, forming the foundation for the modern Royal Botanic Gardens. Seeds and plants were sent from expeditions to the growing network of botanical gardens projected by Banks with Kew at its centre: Banks appointed and sometimes supported collectors, though Aiton himself suggested sending Francis Masson to the Cape as early as 1772. Largely under Kew's aegis, almost 7000 plant species were introduced to British horticulture during the reign of George III.

On Haverfield's resignation Aiton took over the kitchen garden and pleasure grounds on 1 January 1783, becoming the first superintendent of the entire Kew estate. As early as 1773 a plant catalogue was begun and this list was the basis for Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* (three volumes, published August to October 1789), which effectively covered all plants in cultivation in southern England, with engravings, some from drawings by Franz Bauer and Georg Ehret. Aiton took plants for identification to Banks's curator–librarians Daniel Solander and Jonas Dryander in Soho Square. Latin manuscript species descriptions by Solander were used by Dryander, who contributed most of the third volume himself, to make up the scientific text of the book, which is a major scholarly work dealing with some 5600 species arranged according to the Linnaean system. Although it appeared under Aiton's name, as Aiton was ‘Gardener to His Majesty’, he merely added the plants' dates of introduction and other horticultural matter: he had no botanical expertise or bibliographical skills. Specimens on which the new species in the book were based are in the Natural History Museum, London.

Aiton's wife, Elizabeth (*c*.1740–1826), bore him four daughters and two sons, the elder of whom, William Townsend Aiton (1766–1849), succeeded his father at Kew and brought out, with the help of Dryander and Robert Brown, a second edition of *Hortus Kewensis* (1810–13); the younger, John Townsend Aiton (1777–1851), became royal gardener at Windsor, and later at Frogmore and Kensington Palace. Aiton died, apparently of liver failure, on 2 February 1793; his pallbearers included the artist Zoffany as well as Banks and Dryander, and his remains were buried in an elaborate family tomb at St Anne's, Kew. The funeral sermon delivered at Brentford on 17 February by the Revd W. Smith was published as *Silent Submission to the Will of God* (1793), and Aiton's widow petitioned Banks to seek a pension: £150 per annum was granted.

Aiton's achievement was the consolidation of Kew Gardens under the supervision of Banks. He was commemorated in names of a genus of bryophytes, *Aitonia* (*Aytonia*), and, later, of the South African shrub *Aitonia* (= *Nymania*) *capensis* (Meliaceae), though neither name is in current use. Aiton House at Kew, built on part of the site of George III's Castellated Palace and opened in June 1977, accommodates the office of the curator, his deputy, and the plant records.

D. J. MABBERLEY

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Likenesses G. Engleheart, oils, 1786–7, RBG Kew · G. Engleheart, engraving, repro. in Desmond, *Kew*, 36 · attrib. J. Zoffany, oils, RBG Kew

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William Aiton (1731–1793): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/260

IN MEMORIAM.

William Aiton.

Without entering into particulars of the early history of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, it may be mentioned, in connection with the history of William Aiton, that they were famous in the first half of the seventeenth century, and were then the property, through marriage, of Lord Capel, whose name survives at Kew in "Capel House" near the bridge. About the year 1730 the Prince of Wales, father of George the Third, leased the property from the Capel family and began the extensive alterations and improvements, which were finished by his widow Augusta, the Princess Dowager of Wales, during whose possession, from 1751 to 1772, they gained their scientific character. Various persons noted in botany, in horticulture, and in garden architecture were employed, or concerned, in the extensive works, among them William Kent, Lord Bute, Sir John Hill, Sir Joseph Banks, and Sir William Chambers. The last-named designed and built most of the structures in the garden, from the temples and pagoda to the glass-houses, including the great stove (which still existed when the writer entered Kew in 1860), between the years 1758 and 1762. The Physic or Exotic Garden, according to Chambers, was not begun till 1760. This brings us to the date of William Aiton. He was born in 1731 at a small village near Hamilton, in Lanarkshire, aud in due course was "trained in the science and practice of horticulture," evidently beginning at the bottom of the ladder. In 1754 he left Scotland for London, and was soon engaged under the celebrated Philip Miller in the Chelsea Physic Garden, where he did so well that in 1759 he was recommended to the Princess Dowager of Wales as a competent person to take charge of the botanical collections at Kew. It is not clear whether there was a predecessor holding exactly the same position at Kew, but it is unlikely, because the building of the various stoves and greenhouses, including the orangery, was not completed before 1761. Aiton had excellent opportunities, of which he made the most, gaining for himself and Kew a European reputation. No expense seems to have been spared, and the best methods known were adopted in all the garden structures. Seeds, bulbs, and plants were sent to Kew from all parts of the world where Englishmen travelled. A little later, 1768–80, Cook's voyages were undertaken, and Sir Joseph Banks, who was attached to the first, began his numerous contributions, two Australian species of Casuarina being among the first. In 1772 Francis Masson was sent to the Cape of Good Hope to collect living plants and seeds for Kew, and he was highly successful, sending home such "a profusion of plants unknown till that time in the Botanical Gardens of Europe that Kew thereby in a great measure attained that acknowledged superiority which it now holds over every similar establishment in Europe." Meanwhile Sir John Hill, a prolific writer of

the period on botanical subjects, published in 1768 the first *Hortus Kewensis*, an octavo volume of 458 pages containing an enumeration of between three and four thousand species of plants cultivated at Kew. Sir John Hill's position in relation to Kew is uncertain, though probably honorary; but Thornton, the author of the *Temple of Flora* and other costly illustrated books, styles him (1799) the "First Superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Kew."

Until 1783 William Aiton had charge of the botanical department only, but in that year he was "promoted to the more lucrative office of managing the pleasure and kitchen gardens at Kew, which he was allowed to retain in connection with the botanical department, which he had before occupied." He lived in the house that is now occupied by the Curator and which was for a considerable period the official residence of the Director during the time that the establishment was in Royal occupation. His son Wm. Townsend Aiton died there in 1849.

In 1789 he published his *Hortus Kewensis*, or *Catalogue of the Plants cultivated in the Royal Botanic Garden* at Kew, consisting of three octavo volumes with thirteen coloured plates. This is an admirably concise work, and, although it was preceded by eight editions of Philip Miller's classic *Gardeners' Dictionary*, it was the foundation of the history of the introduction of exotic plants for cultivation in England. About 5500 species belonging to 1116 * genera are briefly described, with references to the most important botanical publications of the period, the native country of each species, date of introduction, and by whom introduced.

Hill's *Hortus Kewensis*, already referred to, is little more than a list of names with the shortest of descriptive phrases, so that we are almost wholly indebted to William Aiton for the record of information respecting the introduction of plants during and preceding his period.

In his preface Aiton says:—"Small as the book appears, the composition of it has cost him a large portion of the leisure allowed by the daily duties of his station, during more than sixteen years. In all that time it has been thought worthy the assistance of men more learned than himself." A second edition of the *Hortus Kewensis*, consisting of five volumes, was published between 1810 and 1813 by his son and successor.

Respecting the personal character and attainments of William Aiton, there is little on record, but what there is highly favourable. *Aitonia capensis*, named in his honour by Thunberg in 1776, is figured in the *Botanical Magazine* (1791), t. 173, and William Curtis, who doubtless wrote from personal knowledge, says:—"The great length of time Mr. Aiton has been engaged in the cultivation of plants, the immense numbers which have been the constant objects of his care, through every period of their growth, joined to his superior discernment, give him

* I have not verified these figures, which are taken from Frederick Scheer's *Kew and its Gardens*, and John Smith's *Records of Kew Gardens*.

a decided superiority in the *prima facie* knowledge of living plants over most Botanists of the present day. His abilities in the other line of his profession, are displayed in the eulogies of all who have seen the royal collection at Kew, which he has the honour to superintend."

Curtis, and many other botanical writers, state that *Aitonia capensis* was named by the younger Linnæus in honour of William Aiton. This is true, in a sense, because he actually described the same plant (*Supplementum Plantarum Systematis Vegetabilium*, p. 303) under the name *Aytonia capensis*. This was in 1781, five years after C. P. Thunberg had published it.

Aitonia capensis is a native of South Africa, where it ranges from Albany, in the East, to Little Namaqualand, in the West. It is a shrub of more botanical than horticultural interest, having a somewhat anomalous floral structure, in consequence of which it has been alternatively referred to the Sapindaceæ and the Meliaceæ. Its reddish flowers are succeeded by large, red, bladdery seed-vessels, similar in texture to the enlarged calyx of the winter cherry. Probably this shrub owes its wide distribution to the fact that the seed-vessel is easily dispersed by the wind. Speaking generally, the species of South African plants are very local.

Among the dried specimens in the Kew Herbarium is one preserved by Bishop Goodenough, probably from a plant grown at Kew, and labelled in the Bishop's handwriting, "*Aitonia honesta*, S. G.," *i. e.* Samuel Goodenough.

William Aiton died on February 2nd, 1793, in his sixty-third year, was buried at Kew, and among the pall-bearers were Sir Joseph Banks, Bishop Goodenough, Dr. Dryander, and Zoffany, the artist, who lived at Strand-on-the-Green. This is sufficient testimony of the high esteem in which he was held in different circles of Society. A funeral sermon was preached at Brentford by the Rev. W. Smith, from which we learn that Aiton was known and appreciated abroad as well as at home, as is proved by the following extract from the printed sermon :—"Not only was our friend universally known and esteemed in his own country, but his name and fame have extended to distant kingdoms, and to every quarter of the globe. I myself found them passports in various places abroad, and through his recommendation alone have been introduced to men of genius and science in foreign courts."

On hearing of Aiton's death, the Marchioness of Rockingham wrote to Sir James Smith in the following terms :—"I little thought five years ago that I could have felt so much concern for the death of Mr. Aiton; but I had not seen him then, and only looked upon him as the Kew gardener; but the single quarter of an hour he was with me occasioned an instantaneous conversion. I was quite charmed with the plainness of his manners, without a grain of that pomposity one might have expected; but on the contrary, quite pleasant and communicative in his profession; in short, he took my fancy so much that I cannot help

feeling infinite regret that so great and good a man in his line should now be no more."

In Kew Church is a mural tablet bearing the inscription:—

Sacred to the Memory of WILLIAM AITON,
Gardener to His Majesty King George the Third.
He died Feb. 2, 1793, aged sixty-two.

Flowers! that assembled from each foreign spot
Here bloom by royal aid, and bless your lot!
In circling rays a radiant glory frame,
Round this memorial of your Aiton's name;
His patient care, his pure benignant mind,
Rank and distinction to your tribes assign'd;
Will you permit no venal bard to bend
In just regret of Flora's buried friend;
Tis her's his living monument to raise,
Proof of his toil and herald of his praise,
Nor end the plaudits of his virtues here,
Those who embellish earth to Heaven are dear.

The lines are not good, but the intention doubtless was, and it is pleasant to be able to repeat here so much that is laudatory of the first botanical gardener of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

W. BOTTING HEMSLEY.

JOHN ROGERS.

Born at Richmond in Surrey on February 10th, 1752, and entering what were then known as the Royal Gardens, Richmond (but which now form part of the Arboretum at Kew), before he was out of his teens, John Rogers is one of the very first Kewites of whom we have any record. In 1838 he published his "Life and Reminiscences," a very interesting little book, from which we are kindly permitted by the present head of the family—Mr. A. C. Rogers of Southampton—to make the following extracts. To Mr. Rogers are also due the thanks of the Committee for the use of the two portrait blocks of William Aiton and John Rogers.

The latter writes:—"As soon as I was old enough I went to school at Richmond and afterwards to a Classical Seminary in Soho Square, London, the identical house in which Sir Joseph Banks resided. When about eight years old my father took me from Richmond to London to see the funeral of King George II. I returned by the only coach on the road at that time, and the reader can imagine what sort of a vehicle it was when I say the coachman always carried ropes and halters to tie up such parts of the coach as were likely to break down or come apart.

"My father having left it entirely optional with myself to choose the profession I pleased, I soon afterwards, from reading a work just then published, *Every man his own gardener*, by an old friend of my father's,

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Aiton, William Townsend (1766–1849), *horticulturist*
by D. J. Mabberley
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Aiton, William Townsend (1766–1849), horticulturist, was born at 199 Kew Road, Kew, Surrey, on 2 February 1766, the elder son of the horticulturist William Aiton (1731–1793) and his wife, Elizabeth (*c*.1740–1826), whose maiden name was possibly Townsend. He was educated privately in Chiswick and at Bower House school in Camberwell. Through the influence of Sir Joseph Banks he was apprenticed at the age of sixteen to his father; he also undertook private commissions as a landscape gardener. On the death of his father he succeeded the latter in the royal gardens at Kew, and on the resignation of John Haverfield the younger in 1795 those at Richmond. In 1804 Aiton took control of the gardens of Kensington and St James's palaces in succession to William Forsyth, and by 1827 he was styled—at his own suggestion—director-general of his majesty's gardens. He was held in high esteem by George III and the royal family, and conducted a confidential correspondence with the duke of Kent until the time of his death. John Nash consulted him over the planting scheme for St James's Palace and the Brighton Pavilion. He landscaped 40 acres at Buckingham Palace, uniting two small ponds into a grand lake, and supervised many extensive and important alterations at Windsor.

Aiton succeeded in getting his brother John appointed to the charge of the Hampton Court Gardens over the gardener to the duke of Clarence, but the result was the reduction of his own authority, on the duke's accession as William IV, to the charge of the Kew and Buckingham Palace gardens. Although he supervised the construction of a £6000 greenhouse at Kew in 1839, his management of Kew was severely criticized in John Lindley's report on the royal gardens: his reign was seen as one of procrastination, characterized by his failure to deal with correspondence and his lack of any clear policy. The gardens were transferred to the state and in June 1840 W. J. Hooker was appointed director, although only in November did Aiton agree to relinquish control. He surrendered his post on 25 March 1841, but retained the management of the pleasure grounds at Kew until 1845. He received a generous pension of £1000 per annum (Hooker's salary, by comparison, was £300, with a £200 housing allowance).

Between 1796 and 1802 Aiton published an edition of Franz Bauer's *Delineations of Exotick Plants* and in 1810–13 a second edition of 1250 copies of his father's *Hortus Kewensis*, in five volumes. The scientific content in the *Hortus Kewensis* is attributable to Sir Joseph Banks's librarians, Jonas Dryander and Robert Brown, who contributed much original work to the last two volumes. Aiton checked the dates of introduction of plants, of which over 11,000 are listed, and he also supervised production of an *Epitome*, in one volume, published in 1814. His papers and the draft of a second edition of the *Epitome* were burnt by his brother John, although part of the manuscript of the *Hortus Kewensis*, in the hand of Aiton's amanuensis, Richard Cunningham, survives at Kew, while Brown's drafts are at the Natural History Museum. Aiton's herbarium relating to the work, with Robert Teesdale's herbarium, which he had bought in 1805, were auctioned at his death.

His library, with that of John, was auctioned in 1851: Kew was forbidden to bid.

Aiton was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society in 1797 and was one of the founders and an active fellow of the Horticultural Society. To its *Transactions* he contributed a paper on the cultivation of the cucumber, for which he was awarded a silver medal in 1817. He died at 199 Kew Road, unmarried, on 9 October 1849, and was buried at St Anne's, Kew Green, where there is a plaque. His heir was his illegitimate son, William Atwell Smith (*b*. 1808).

Aiton, an able landscape gardener, was too inflexible to appreciate the changing role of botanic gardens, a role which Hooker understood and which was, paradoxically, promoted by Banks, Aiton's patron. His legacy is therefore largely in the royal gardens other than Kew and in the names of a number of garden plants commemorating him, one not yet relegated to synonymy being Robert Brown's name *Serruria aitonii* (Proteaceae).

D. J. MABBERLEY

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Archives RBG Kew, notebook | BL, letters to Sir Joseph Banks, Add. MSS 33980–33982 · NHM, corresp.

Likenesses L. Poyot, lithograph, 1829, RBG Kew · portrait, Royal Horticultural Society, London; repro. in Fletcher, *The story of the Royal Horticultural Society*

Wealth at death £7000: TNA: PRO, PROB 11/2102

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D. J. Mabberley, 'Aiton, William Townsend (1766–1849)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/262, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

William Townsend Aiton (1766–1849): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/262

and would have included autumn-raised annuals which flower the following spring or summer, but even this definition would not be exact, for it includes many tender perennials when grown in this climate, and possibly excludes some annuals. The truth is, the two classes merge into one another so gradually that it is impossible to draw a hard-and-fast line between them. For example, there is perhaps no plant that would be more certainly called an annual than Mignonette, yet under certain treatment it assumes the perennial habit, and becomes almost a shrub. It is largely a question of the conditions.

Nature's Layering Method.

May 15th.—Some of the Spruces have a remarkable habit of growth, the limbs extending outwards like huge candelabra, as in the specimen shown in the photograph. When these extending limbs touch the ground, they often root, forming independent trees around the parent; and so in time large groups may come into existence. In the Tropics there are, of course, many trees which multiply in this way, but in this country instances are rare.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Babraham Hall, Cambridge.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. R. ALDERMAN.

THE gardens of Mr. Charles R. W. Adeane at Babraham Hall are a refutation of the theory that an ardent agriculturist does not take much interest in horticulture. The fine old mansion belonging to Mr. Adeane, whose herd of shorthorns and flock of Southdowns are famous in the agricultural world, is surrounded by pleasure grounds of many charms; while, as to the cultivation of fruit, it is a tradition, founded on a superstructure of fact, that Babraham Peaches and Nectarines can hold their own against any in the country; and Mr. Alderman, the present head gardener, has maintained their reputation by the success which he has achieved as an exhibitor. On my arrival at Babraham, which I visited in the middle of April, Mr. Alderman suggested that we should commence by devoting attention to the principal feature of the gardens.

"It is the outside fruit, then?" I said, as we inspected a tree of Lady Palmerston, with its pretty small flowers.

"Yes, the Peaches and Nectarines on the walls. Some of the varieties do even better outside than at Welbeck. This is a west wall. The coping is put up for protection in winter, but as soon as we are satisfied that there is no danger of frosts, it is removed. On this wall you see a fine tree of Dryden, a very useful Nectarine; Early Rivers, another Nectarine which does fairly well; and Sea Eagle, a Peach of which we grow a number. This tree is between six and seven years old."

"What is the tree with fruit so well set?"

"Humboldt Nectarine. We shall have to thin it tremendously. Here is another, Sea Eagle, and next to it is Princess of Wales Peach, of which we get fruit with a wonderful colour. But the sun is so hot that we sometimes have to shade the wall. In this very warm corner we have a tree of a Peach not generally grown —Desse Jardine."

"When does the fruit ripen?"

"It is a mid-season Peach. The fruit is very fine, and we have had some great crops off this tree, which was planted about eight years ago."

"Why do you go in so largely for Sea Eagle?"

"Because it does particularly well. It has a very strong constitution. We have gathered fruits weighing three-quarters of a pound off some of the trees."

"Is Violette Hative one of your Peaches?"

"Yes, and it is doing extremely well. Lord Napier is a good variety of Nectarine, and the adjoining tree of Barrington Peach, though very old, bears very good crops. Crimson Galande is a beautiful Peach, with fine flavour, and amongst the late varieties Walburton Admirable holds a high place in our regard."

BABRAHAM HALL, CAMBS., FROM THE GARDEN.

MR. ALDERMAN.

A Fine Late Nectarine.

"Here," continued Mr. Alderman, "is a very good late Nectarine, Victoria, which has a delicious flavour. Some people say that it is improved by being grown under glass, but we have them towards the end of August as good as could be desired, except that they have not much colour. Late Admirable is one of the best of the late varieties of Peaches."

"Which is your earliest Peach?"

"Decidedly, Waterloo, an American variety, which is ready early in July. You see we do a lot of netting. It is necessary, in order to keep the birds off. The bees fertilise all the fruit."

"Do you root-prune the trees often?"

"Every season. We also give them every season a small quantity of sweet, fibrous loam."

"You have another fine tree of the Nectarine Dryden?"

"Yes, it covers a lot of ground. Near it is a tree of Gladstone, which was only transferred to this spot in the winter. Gladstone is a Peach succeeding the Princess of Wales, large, and of good colour and flavour."

A Little-grown Peach.

"Do you shift many fruit trees?"

"We are always moving them It is very important to get at the bottom as well as at the top of the trees. Now, we come to another Peach which is not very often grown."

"What is its name?"

"Teton de Venus. It is a very free cropper, and the fruit is distinctly handsome. Other varieties on this wall include more of Princess of Wales, Barrington, and Lady Palmerston.

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Here, also, is Nectarine Byron (a late large orange variety), and Rivers' Early Orange."

Eight Hundred Dozen Fruit.

"Can you tell me how much fruit you pick in a good season off the Peach and Nectarine trees on the walls?"

"About eight hundred dozen. We begin to gather early in July, and go on to the end of October. You will see what we do under glass presently."

"To proceed with the walls, I notice that you are well supplied with Plums?"

"Yes, there is a representative collection, including a nice lot of the old English Greengage, which, I think, still surpasses every other Plum in flavour. Reine Claude de Bavay and Transparent Gage are two of the best dessert varieties. One of our most healthy trees is a Jefferson, and Washington is making a lot of wood. Other good varieties are Grand Duke, Pond's Seedling, Large Black Imperial, Monarch (a big cooking Plum), and Coe's Golden Drop, of which we have three fine trees."

Apricots and Cherries.

"What about Apricots?"

"There is a wall devoted entirely to Apricots. It was planted three years ago with Moor Park (which is the best Apricot) and Rivers' Early (a new variety). Apricots do not thrive like Peaches."

"Do the conditions suit Cherries?"

"Morellos on a north wall are doing well. Then there are the Pears on cordons on the walls, which we grow for showing, in addition to many others."

"Where are the others grown?"

"In a plantation, ten acres in extent, in addition to the kitchen garden, where a quantity of Pears and Apples on pyramids and bushes are grown. There are no standards. I suppose we have about fifty varieties of Pears."

The Best Six Pears and Apples.

"Will you give me the names of the best half dozen in their order of merit, as you find them?"

"Doyenne du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Madame Treyve, Fondante d'Automne, and Durondeau. Others on the walls only that are particularly at home are Rivers' Magnate (a beautiful Pear), Winter Nelis, Marguerite Marillat, Glou Morceau, Clapp's Favourite, Nouvelle Fulvie, Beurre Baltet Pere, Beurre d'Amanlis, and Seckle, the last being Mr. Adeane's favourite Pear."

"How many varieties of Apples do you grow?"

"Quite a hundred. The best in cultivation is Lane's Prince Albert, and next, of cooking Apples, are Newton Wonder and Bramley's Seedling. The three best dessert Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, and Blenheim Orange."

"You have a fine batch of Strawberries coming on."

"They are all Royal Sovereign. We force about fifteen hundred, and, although I try all the new varieties, I have never found one yet to come up to Royal Sovereign. No doubt it does exceptionally well on our very light land. We crop the plants three seasons. Other varieties grown are Waterloo, Exoniensis, and Givon's Late Prolific. All the latest varieties of Gooseberries and Currants, which we protect by netting, are grown."

An Informal Herbaceous Border.

"While fruit adorns your walls, you do not neglect to decorate your kitchen garden with plenty of flowers. I have seen it a blaze of colour."

"You are referring to the herbaceous border at the end, which can be seen on the other side of the Granta—the river running past the garden. The principal plants in the border are Mallows, Larkspurs, Michaelmas Daisies, Candytuft, Verbenas, Achillea ptarmica (white), Asters amellus bessarabicus, Thomsoni, Osprey, White Spray; Phloxes Agnes, General Roberts, Mrs. Anderson, Etna, Marquis, Maggie Forbes, with Rudbeckias in variety, and Hollyhocks at the back. There is nothing in the least formal about the border, but the principle is to grow big clumps of colour."

How to Treat Hollyhocks.

"Have you any trouble with Hollyhocks?"

"No, because we grow them fresh every year. This is the only way to ensure immunity from pests. Holmes' Magnificent is a soft yellow, and we match it with a good scarlet. We are going to cover the end wall with Honeysuckle and Clematis, in order to make it both fragrant and beautiful. Before we go into the little Rose garden, which adjoins the kitchen garden, I may mention that we have a good collection of Border Carnations, the best being Duchess of Rothesay, Lady Hermione, and Lord Roberts."

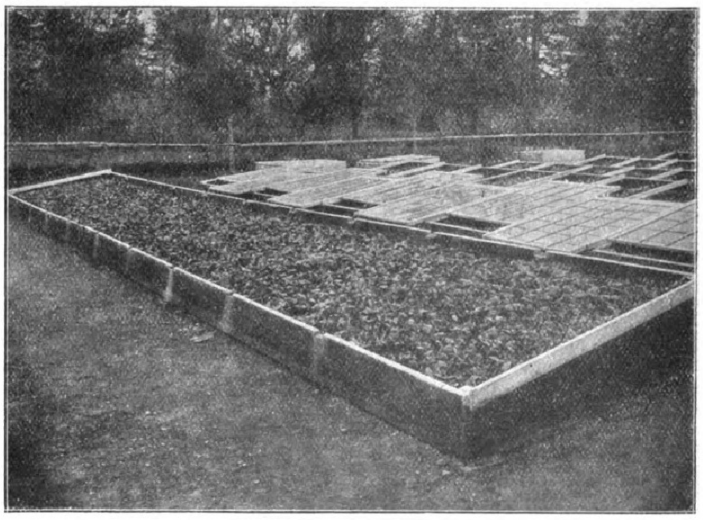
"Your Rose garden, with its stone paths and moss and rock plants intersecting, has other charms than Roses. I allude to the glorious mass of golden flower on the side wall of the summer-house."

"Yes, that is a nice specimen of Forsythia suspensa, which has been in bloom for a week, and will last a couple of weeks longer. It was planted three years ago. We are covering the front with Wistaria sinensis."

"Are the Rose beds mixed?"

"No, they are in one variety, the varieties

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT BABRAHAM HALL.



GOLDEN QUEEN LETTUCE READY FOR CUTTING, AT BABRAHAM HALL.

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being Catherine Mermet, Caroline Testout, La France, and White Maman Cochet."

Lettuce Nine Months in the Year.

Passing the frame ground, and noticing in one of the pits some nice fruits of Royal Sovereign Strawberry, which Mr. Alderman began to gather at the end of March, I asked about the Cucumbers.

"The best all-round variety is Rochford's Market, and other good varieties are Sutton's Pride of Market, Delicacy, and Carters' Best of All. We have no French garden, but we grow French Lettuce, and cut Lettuce nine months out of twelve, using Endive for the three remaining."

"When do you sow your first batch of Lettuce?"

"At the end of February, and plant out in frames about the end of March. We find that Veitch's Golden Queen and Early Paris Market force better than other varieties. Later we grow chiefly Paris White Cos and Veitch's Superb White."

"Do you go in for early Potatoes?"

"Our first-early is Duke of York, with Table Talk for the second, and Tyne Kidney for the main crop. The principal Peas are Carters' Daylight and Carters' Early Morn."

Violets and Chrysanthemums.

"Then you have a large number of Violets in the frames."

"Yes, they are rather a speciality, and do well on a north border. We grow Marie Louise, Parma, Mrs. J. J. Astor, Princess of Wales, and Californian. We are just getting our Chrysanthemums potted up."

"How many?"

"About six hundred. The best for large blooms are F. S. Vallis, F. W. Vallis, Miss E. Fulton, Beatrice May, Bessie Godfrey, Mermaid, W. R. Church, Madame R. Oberthur, General Hutton, Edith Smith, Mrs. C. Crooks, and Ethel Fitzroy."

A Combination of Blue and White.

"You have a fine show of flowers in your stove?"

"The Hibiscus which covers the walls is always in flower. There are two varieties, claret and salmon-coloured, and the great number of blooms render them very ornamental. We feed them a little with cow manure. Gardenias are very popular, but I am retarding them, so that they may flower in May. The variety is G. florida. We get a pretty contrast of blue and white colour from the Browallias and Primula stellata. The treatment of Browallias is stove rather than greenhouse, and they can be flowered better from seed than from cuttings. Practically the only Orchids grown are Calanthes Veitchii and Cœlogyne cristata."

"Schizanthus seem to be prominent in your flowering house."

"We grow a great quantity of it, because, in addition to its usefulness in the mansion, we find it valuable in decorating the church. For three or four years I have saved my own seed. I do the same with Cyclamen, of which you see we have a number of salmon-pink; also Amaryllis, of which I had several beautiful flowers this season. Zonal Pelargoniums are another feature, and we grow about two hundred Malmaison Carnations."

Standard Heliotropes.

"Then, there are your standard Heliotropes?"

"We get them a good height, and I think Lord Roberts is about the best variety. We bring them inside when the frost comes, treat them with gentle heat, and then they grow very rapidly."

"Do you get good crops of Grapes in your Vineries?"

"Extremely good. The varieties are Muscat of Alexandria, Black Alicante, and Black Hamburgh. The trees are only eight years old, and the border inside."

"What are the varieties in your Nectarine house?"

"Precoce de Croncels and Early Rivers. From the first of these trees we gathered last year fifteen dozen fruits, and from the second fourteen dozen. In the Peach house, where the trees carry about the same quantity of fruit, are Rivers' Early York, Crimson Galande, and Hale's Early. In the Fig house, Brown Turkey does well."

"You do not cover the back walls of your fruit houses?"

"No; I think it better to keep them uncovered, and certainly the crops point to the conclusion that it is good policy. There is one feature of the kitchen garden which you might like to mention—I mean a double border of Japanese Pæonies."

"Grown in clumps?"

"Yes, and comprising, amongst other colours, pink, white, and salmon. They are at their best in July. With regard to treatment, it is good policy to grow them entirely by themselves. The only feeding required is a little weak liquid manure-water occasionally."

The Italian Design.

We then proceeded to the vicinity of the mansion, noting, as we approached, a little, old-fashioned English garden, with dwarf plants between the stones of the paths. Here Daffodils were flowering, and will, later on, be succeeded by many varieties of Pansies.

"Other contents of this garden," said Mr. Alderman, "are clumps of Rosemary, Foxgloves, and Lavender, with Brier Roses surrounding a centre of Laurette Messimy, and, at the back, Crimson, Carmine and other Ramblers. Further on, in the spring border, with the Rambler Roses at the back, are Grape Hyacinths, Anemones and Scillas. As to the mansion itself, the French Roses on the verandahs, with Myosotis underneath, are a feature; and later on we add different varieties of sweet-scented Geraniums and Nicotianas."

"Your only formal bedding seems to be the Italian design on the other side of the mansion."

"Yes, and, as you notice, the whole of the beds are scarlet and white Tulips, which will be followed by scarlet Geraniums, chiefly Henry Jacoby, Paul Crampel, and Vesuvius. For these beds we grow about five thousand scarlet Geraniums, and the effect when they are all in flower is very fine."

Roses and the Rockery.

"Have you anything special in the conservatory?"

"At the present time, Schizanthus and Geraniums, with pretty foliage, occupy most of the space. On the grass at the side you notice in one bed a number of clipped Yews, and in another a dozen specimens of Box planted together, which, I believe, date back many years."

"Which do you consider the most notable trees on the lawn?"

"The Copper Beech, feathered down to the ground, further on a very fine Fern-leaved Beech, and also the Cedars. In the sunk Rose garden, the large bed is filled entirely with La France, the four round beds with a little French cluster Rose, and the four corner beds with Caroline Testout."

"Have you many varieties in the rock garden running close to the old-fashioned summer-house?"

"There are a number of seedlings, which we had from the late Sir Michael Foster's garden; but the varieties now in flower are chiefly Aubrietia Dr. Mules, Alyssums, Madwort, and double white Arabis."

"How long have you been at Babraham, Mr. Alderman?"

"Nine years in August. I started my gardening career at Burghley House, Stamford, under Mr. Gilbert. I was afterwards for a time at Lord Rosslyn's place; next I spent three years and a half at Garbrand Hall, Surrey; and then for eight years I was foreman at Welbeck."

ALFRED WILCOX.

The Ideal Garden.

IV.—THE ART OF DESIGNING.

BEFORE commencing to treat, as it is my intention to do, of the ideals on which each feature of the garden should be modelled, it would be well to state a few of the principles of designing. Here I wish it to be understood that I do not necessarily mean the formation of a garden in strict conformity to the run of the rule or the swing of the compass In the planning of gardens there are two schools—one insists on the beauty of symmetrical outline and the dignity of straightness, while the other inclines to disallow any line which possesses either of these properties. These, of course, are the extremes, and, as in most other walks of life, these extremists are wrong. The sensible, practical man endeavours to combine the good points which undoubtedly exist in both systems.

Personally, I incline more to the laying-out of a garden on natural lines, which means, almost invariably, nonconformity to rule or compass. But because I love natural scenery, and wish a garden to be an epitome of natural beauty, I cannot be blind to the beauty which is often associated with a formal garden. The whole idea of formality need not be entirely eliminated from the plan of the natural garden, for often the formality is so unobtrusive, and the furnishing of the beds so artistically performed, that the idea of symmetry of outline is lost in the admiration provoked by the undeniable beauty of the plants and flowers. It must be regretfully admitted that the rail against formality is often used as a cloak for incompetence, or, at any rate, negligence. Now, while I do not advise the formation of a heavy, symmetrical design, I do insist that, where such a design already exists, and is likely to remain, every effort should be made to so emphasise the beauty of the flowers, by appropriate furnishing and artistic blending of colours, that the monotony of regularity is well nigh forgotten. I know this is difficult, but it is a noble endeavour.

The Only Safe Method.

Now that we are at the beginning of the attempt to call into actuality an ideal garden, I must lay it down as essential that a plan of the garden be made. Contrary to the opinion and advice of many "practical" men, it is really the only safe and reasonable method. Just as every builder must have a plan of the projected building, so should every gardener have a plan, drawn to scale, of the garden he is to make. Now, in the formation of the plan, the first item, following the setting-off of the boundary, is to decide what are the main features to be included. The factors governing the choice of these will necessarily be, for the most part, individual and local. The desire to include a certain feature may be negatived by the fact that it could not be suitably arranged. Again, all the conditions necessary to form a certain feature in an ideal manner may prevail, and yet the owner's taste may not incline to that direction, and to include a feature which will not prove of interest to the one on whom its maintenance will ultimately depend, is not a policy to be recommended.

When, however, it has been decided what are the main features to be included, the ideal place for them will have to be found, and roughly marked out on the plan. A Rosery, a water garden, a pergola, a vegetable and fruit plot, a rootery, a conservatory, a rock garden, may each or all be included; but to find the place for them, such as is ideal in itself, and will admit of all the features being well associated and blended, so that they fit in with each other and with the house, is a task of no small magnitude. As we proceed, I hope to point out the special requirements of each of these, in order to approach the ideal, and every endeavour must be made to fulfil those requirements.

Presuming for the moment that these features are fixed, we have to consider the best means

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ALDUS JOHN 1 [10]

Gardener

fl. 1741-1767

A free burgess voting in 1741 for Savage and Gray and in 1747 for Nassau and Gray. Was steward at the annual Auricula Feast at the Castle Inn in 1754 (*Ips]* 4 May 1754). He died in 1767 and his wife and son advertised as follows:-

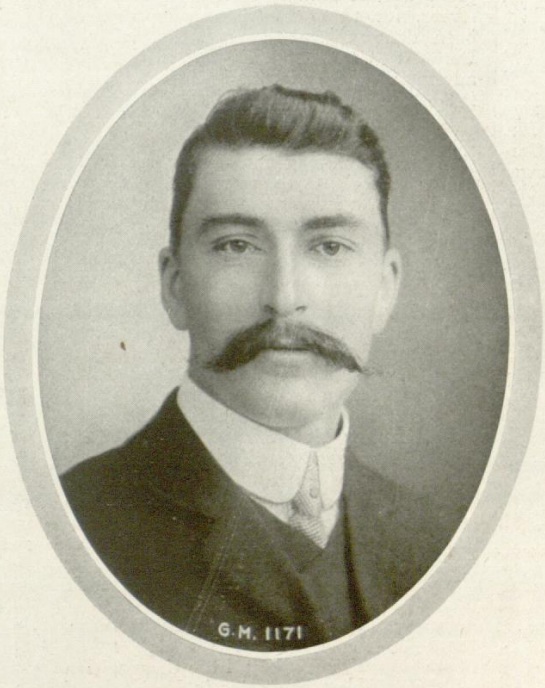
> Whereas JOHN ALDUS, gardener and Nursery Man, lately dwelling on EAST HILL in COLCHESTER, is now deceased. This is to acquaint those Gentlemen that used to favour him with their Custom, and others, that the business will be carried on by the Widow Aldus and her son John Aldus (qv); they hoping that such their friends will continue their favours to them, and may depend upon having their commands, duly expeditiously and carefully obeyed.... They have a great variety of choice Fruit Trees, as Peaches, Nectarines, and Apricots; with Apples, Pears, Cherries, and Plumbs, and all other sorts of Fruit Trees; fine young Virgin Quick, and Box for Edgings, & many Sorts of Evergreens, likewise a large Number of Mulberry-trees; all which are to be sold at a reasonable Rate (*Ips]* 31 January 1767).

THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Horticultural Lectures.

With the opening days of spring the winter session of the numerous gardeners' associations will have drawn to a close, and the committees will, if they are wise, be giving attention to the preparation of the programme of the meetings that will be commenced shortly after the cessation of the summer's activities. Hence some reference at the present time to this important matter can hardly fail to prove useful, especially to those who are desirous of avoiding a slavish adherence to traditional methods of procedure. In many instances the consideration of the programme is deferred until within a comparatively short period of the inaugural meeting of the session, but there are several objections to such delay. In the first, the members of the executive will not have six months afterwards so clearly in their mind the weak and strong features of the session as at its close, and therefore will not be in a position to so fully appreciate the desirability of making such changes in methods of procedure as are essential to the maintenance of the meetings at a high level. By commencing the preparatory work now there will be less difficulty in obtaining papers and lectures from horticulturists living at some distance beyond the sphere of the society's operations. As regards readers of papers resident in the district, the additional time will be a distinct advantage, as it will give them fuller opportunities for thinking out the details of their subjects previous to committing their thoughts to paper. There is the further advantage in commencing early, of being able to bring the programme before those who are interested in gardening well in advance of the opening meetings. Whether the programme should be wholly filled by members, or include several lectures given by prominent horticulturists, is a question that must be determined by the circumstances of each case. There are not wanting those who believe that the first of the two methods is preferable. From long experience of the work of gardeners' societies we are fully persuaded that the best course is to include in the programme of each session the names of a few prominent horticulturists who reside outside the district. They may not be more successful cultivators or better speakers than some who reside within the district, but the occasional visit of a stranger quickens the interest in the meetings, and he will, more often than not, state his views upon some particular subject in a quite different manner than that to which the members have become accustomed. If the societies are to fully accomplish the work of which they are capable, the adoption of the second of the two courses of procedure is imperative. The time has gone by when the whole of the meetings should be given up to the discussion of subjects of a severely practical character. Science, as well as practice, should have full recognition, and in each session about one-third of the papers and lectures should be on scientific matters having a direct bearing on horticulture, and these should be by recognised authorities on the respective subjects. The formation, composition, and amelioration of soils, the science of manuring, plant growth, hybridisation and cross-fertilisation, fungoid diseases and insects injurious to plant life, are subjects of much importance to those engaged in garden management, and if dealt with by those fully conversant with them will be of intense interest. The great industries that appeal to gardeners, such as the daffodil industry, the tomato industry, and the grape industry should also receive attention, and if they are dealt with by those who are well acquainted with what is in progress, both at home and abroad, the meetings will be profitable as well as interesting. At least two evenings of the session should be set apart for an account of the chief gardens in the district, or of great gardens in other parts of the United Kingdom, including, if so desired, the botanical establishments. Not so long since the Croydon Gardeners' Society devoted an evening to an illustrated lecture on the gardens of which Croydon is the centre, and it was regarded as one of the most successful of the many admirable meetings which this enterprising society has held. Before societies can carry out programmes of so comprehensive a character as here suggested it will be necessary for them to have greater financial strength than is usually considered sufficient. They should certainly follow the example of the Croydon Society, and provide themselves with a good projection lantern, as slides are a necessity for many of the subjects mentioned. They will be found useful for many others, and, if some discretion is exercised, they will add much to the interest of the meetings. The lantern should be a good one, and adapted to the place of meeting and the method of illumination available, but the cost of purchase will not be so large that the amount cannot be raised without special difficulty, provided the necessary enterprise is forthcoming. It was found at Croydon, as will be found elsewhere, that the owners of gardens readily contribute to the fund raised for the purchase of the lantern. Illustrated lectures invariably prove the most attractive, especially when the members include a considerable proportion of amateurs, but it should be distinctly understood that the slides should be used to elucidate the remarks of the lecturer rather than to hide any defect he may possess as a speaker. The financial aspect of the work is not disposed of by the purchase of a lantern. The payment of lecturers on special subjects will have to be considered, and, with reference thereto, we would point out that it is unreasonable to ask someone who has obtained a prominent position in the world of horticulture to lecture without fee, and, more often than not, to allow him to be



MR. E. J. ALLARD.

out of pocket to the extent of his travelling expenses. It is, of course, a different matter in the case of members, and of those resident in the same district, as they may be assumed to be sufficiently interested in the success of the society to be willing to render it assistance. Demonstrations of horticultural practice and of floral decorations should have a more prominent position in programmes than is usually assigned them, for they are especially useful to young gardeners, and of interest to those who are no longer young.

Mr. E. J. Allard, whose name is familiar to our readers by reason of his writings and the many reproductions from his plant portraits that have appeared in these pages has, as we have already announced, just taken up the very important post of garden superintendent at the John Innes Horticultural Institute, at Merton, of which Mr. Bateson is the director. Mr. Allard commenced his gardening career in a private establishment, where he had a good grounding in the general routine of garden practice. He then spent a few months in a nursery, and eventually entered service as an improver at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, under Mr. R. Irwin Lynch, M.A., where he added greatly to his experience and knowledge of plants. From Cambridge Mr. Allard went to Kew, where the large plant collections, library, practical work, and courses of lectures further enabled him to add to his knowledge and widen his experience. From Kew Mr. Allard returned to Cambridge Botanic Gardens, where for five and a-half years he was foreman of the indoor department, this period being followed by one of five years as foreman of the outdoor department of the same establishment. Mr. Allard has had a good deal to do with the experimental work carried on at Cambridge, and took an active part in the work of plant breeding there, and doubtless this experience will also be of great value to him in his new duties. What force the John Innes Horticultural Institute is to exert upon the horticultural world depends largely upon the lines of development Mr. Bateson lays down; he has certainly an able lieutenant in Mr. Allard, who has our heartiest wishes for a successful career.

Haarlem Jubilee Flower Show.—The first of the series of horticultural exhibitions arranged by the General Bulb Growers' Society of Haarlem for the celebration of its jubilee was opened on Wednesday, March 23, under the most favourable auspices. The exhibition is being held in Hertekamp Park, one of the public parks belonging to the city, and a more delightful place for the holding of flower shows it would be difficult to imagine. It is extensive, finely wooded, and convenient of access, and the greater part of its area has been converted into a veritable flower garden that will be rich in attractions during the next two months. Just now it is gay with crocuses, and these will be followed by daffodils and hyacinths in variety, and a wide range of tulips in which early, mid-season, and May-flowering varieties are fully represented. The contributions to the first of the temporary shows are arranged in four spacious structures that are equally remarkable for elegance of design and suitability for the purpose for which they have been erected, the lighting being particularly good. Within the several exhibition houses there is an exceptionally fine display, hyacinths, tulips, mollis azaleas, rhododendrons, and lilacs being especially noteworthy. British horticulturists are in strong force, and among those who answered to their names when the jury was called on Tuesday morning last were: Mr. J. F. McHattie, of Edinburgh; Mr. G. Cuthbert, of Southgate; Mr. Walter Ware, Bath; Mr. C. E. Pearson and Mr. Duncan Pearson, of Lowdham; and Mr. George Gordon, Kew.

The Crush at the Horticultural Hall.—In order to avoid a repetition of the crush that occurred on the occasion of the R.H.S. meeting of March 8, direction posts were set up in the hall on Tuesday last, indicating the route visitors should follow, and, in addition, every visitor was handed the following notice: For your own comfort as well as for that of others, you are entreated to turn to the right immediately on entering the hall and keep stedfastly to the right, thus making the entire circuit of the hall, along the walls, first; and then proceeding to the central tables, still keep up and down to the right.

Vandalism at Camberwell.—The fact that a fine chestnut tree has been cut down in Camberwell Grove, for no apparent reason than the provision of work for the unemployed, and that the plane trees in Grove Park have been hideously lopped, though still young, is causing a great deal of anxiety on the part of tree lovers, for these things appear to have been done under the direction of the Borough Council, and not under the advice or guidance of anyone with a knowledge of arboriculture.

Herbert Park, Dublin.—A premium having been offered for the best design for the laying out of Herbert Park, Dublin, the site of the recent International Exhibition, a large number of designs were submitted, and that of Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, landscape gardeners, Crawley and London, has been accepted, and the premium awarded accordingly.

Rothamsted Report for 1909.—The annual report for 1909, from the Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, with the Supplement to the Guide to the Experimental Plots has reached us, and shows that the staff under the direction of Mr. A. D. Hall, M.A., F.R.S., has been exceedingly active during the past year in the investigations of matters of great interest to agriculturists and also to horticulturists. Special subjects investigated and briefly referred to in the report are "The Effect of Partial Sterilisation of Soil on the Production of Plant Food," "Direct Assimilation of Ammonia Salts by Plants," "The Development of the Grain of Wheat," "The Amount of Free Lime and the Composition of the Soluble Phosphates in Basic Slag," and "Estimation of Calcium Carbonate in Soils." In connection with partial sterilisation, it is stated that the heating or treatment of soil with antiseptics kills off the protozoa and amœba which live on soil bacteria, and thus keep down their numbers, but it leaves unhurt some of the spores of the ammonia-producing bacteria which afterwards can develop to a much greater extent because freed from this normal check. Soil partially sterilised by being heated to 100 degrees for two hours is said to give a marked increase of crop.

Proposed Gardeners' Congress.—Mr. J. Weathers writes: "It has been suggested that the time has arrived when the gardeners of the United Kingdom should meet together to discuss matters affecting their interests and profession. The chief difficulty in the way of this is to select a day and a time that would be convenient to any very large number, but probably the first day of the Holland House Show at Kensington—that is, on Tuesday, July 5 next—would be as good a day as any to secure a meeting of representative gardeners from various parts of the kingdom. Gardeners generally are beginning to feel that unless they co-operate in some way, the best positions in their calling are likely to be filled by men who have had no horticultural practice or experience. If gardeners in sympathy with the idea of holding a conference will kindly send their name and address to me at Talbot Villa, Isleworth, I think I may say that the Executive Council of the British Gardeners' Association will be only too pleased to co-operate and to defray the expenses."

Royal Botanic Society.—At a meeting of this society, held on Saturday, March 19, Mr. Pembroke S. Stephens, K.C., presided. Fifty-four new Fellows were elected and sixty-one nominated for ballot at the next meeting. Since the beginning of the year 181 new Fellows have been elected and proposed, this constituting a "record" for the society.

The Elm Avenue at Battersea Park.—Mr. V. Cockram, secretary of the London Branch of the B.G.A., writes that the central elm avenue at Battersea Park is being destroyed by a disease more deadly than the woodman's axe, and one which is beyond the power of man to prevent or cure. The trees have fallen a prey to the attacks of such parasitical fungi as Polyporus Ulmadia and P. sulphureus. These parasites have found a lodgment in the bark and the fungus has eaten its way through the fibres of the branches, and so weakened them that they are apt to fall without warning, especially when the leaves are heavily laden with rain. It will thus be seen that the trees have become a source of danger to the public, and it is only necessary to recall the fatal accidents which occurred in Kensington Gardens some time ago to realise how serious the danger really is. It is on this account that the authorities have reluctantly had to condemn the beautiful elm avenue in Battersea Park and have the diseased and dangerous branches removed.

Crocuses at Uttoxeter.—From Mr. J. Marston, gardener to H. Ford, Esq., The Hall, Uttoxeter, we have received two photographs of the crocuses in flower under a fine old beech tree in The Hall gardens. The photographs are not suitable for reproduction, but they indicate what must be a delightful scene at this season of the year, and are something like that to be seen at Kew or in Regent's Park.

Rehmannia Briscoei.—At the recent meeting of the R.H.S. Scientific Committee, Mr. Harry J. Veitch showed a hybrid between Rehmannia angulata (of commerce) and R. Henryi. The hybrid had been raised by Mr. T. W. Briscoe, after whom it was named. The parents were also shown, for comparison. The hybrid was in most characters intermediate between its parents, being dwarfer than angulata and having an erect inflorescence instead of a condensed one, as in the pollen parent. The flowers were intermediate in colour and of a soft, pleasing pink. The leaves were arranged in a rosette, and were similar in shape to those of R. Henryi and had the same dark veinings, while they were much more velvety-hairy than those of R. angulata, though a little less so than those of R. Henryi. A Botanical Certificate was unanimously recommended for Rehmannia Henryi, now for the first time exhibited, and a Certificate of Appreciation was unanimously recommended to Messrs. J. Veitch and Sons for work in connection with the raising of this interesting hybrid.

...ting the Red Flag.

February 8th.—There is a superstition among ...ners that birds are afraid of a red flag. It ...s back, I fancy, to pre-railway days, when one might suppose that some inquiring ...had been studying the signal code. In ...other direction, then, must we look for ...origin? A red flag, I believe, has an irri...ing influence upon a bull, but, then, a bird ...not a bull. Moreover, the latter makes ...ought for the flag, for which reason I have ...tried the experiment myself. The choice of ...to frighten birds with is certainly curious, ...that is the colour with which plants adorn ...fruits for the very purpose of attracting

Mr. William Allen.

...em. And that it does not frighten them is ...y to show. I have seen the thrushes, black...ds, and starlings swarming in a Cherry tree ...ding with red flags, and on my lawn, where ...have made a putting green, with a flag in ...ery hole, the birds are quite as numerous as ...y used to be. It is very amusing to watch ...em when the dog's dinner-bowl is put out. ...ey stand about in dozens waiting their turn, ...d then, when their time comes, crowd round, ...e sparrows on tiptoe with their heads hanging ...er the bowl, eager to begin, but afraid, leav...g the possibly dangerous task of getting the ...ans out of the bowl to a more daring ...affinch or robin. Their methods of feeding ...ffer widely. The robin ducks at its food, and ...y again, like a lady bathing; the starling goes ...adily on; the chaffinch spends much of its ...me in trying to drive other birds away; the ...rrows are equally busy in robbing one ...other. Probably, in the struggle for exist...ce, they may have found this trait useful, for ...they prefer food which has first been tasted ...some other bird they are much less likely to ...poisoned.

February 9th.—At this season, when a fairly ...gh temperature is often necessary for propa...ting purposes in the greenhouse, any defect ...the heating apparatus makes itself un...asantly conspicuous. A boiler should al...ys be above rather than under its work. It ...ll then maintain the desired temperature with ...s attention and with inferior fuel than it ...ould otherwise do. For every thirty-five feet ...4-in. pipe there ought to be one superficial ...t of heating surface—that is, of boiler in ...tact with the fire. Coke or anthracite, ...ken quite small, is far better than ordinary ...l, but house cinder ashes may also be used ...th advantage. When the water contains ...e, there is always trouble from incrustations. ...n such cases only the simplest form of boiler, ...ithout tubes or anything of the sort, should ...be used, and it should be so constructed that it ...n easily be cleaned.

February 10th.—It is to the woods that we ...ould go if we want hints for making our ...ardens. There, where the trees stand shoulder ...shoulder, rising out of a dense growth of Ferns or spring-flowering bulbs, with their branches meeting overhead, and here and there a wild Rose flung aloft, to fall in sprays of pink, we may see the pergola as Nature made it, and upon that Art can improve but little.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 227.—Mr. William Allen, at Normanhurst Gardens, Battle.

It is not easy to realise that Mr. William Allen has been head gardener at Normanhurst for thirty years. When I saw him in mid-December, on my arrival at the gardens attached to Lord Brassey's picturesque seat in Sussex, he was looking as fit and vigorous as the average man between thirty and forty. His only regret in connection with my visit was that it was not made in summer. But I was, happily, soon able to convince him that on a misty December day, yet not too misty to see the beauty of my surroundings, I could appreciate the charms of gardens as well as in the full glory of June sunshine. Indeed, at no season would Normanhurst be otherwise than attractive, if only because of the trees and shrubs which are one of the principal features. Some of these I noticed immediately we commenced our walk past the gardener's pretty cottage, near which is a water tower with a tank which holds about eighteen thousand gallons. Here, on the high wall overshadowing a long, herbaceous border, are Pears on cordons, and others horizontally trained, while facing the stables, which are hidden by trelliswork, I observed a nice specimen of Sequoia sempervirens. A little further along the main road to the mansion we came to one of the fine examples of Pinus insignis, which, as Mr. Allen said, seem to enjoy the air of the sea, not more than six miles distant.

"There are also," he continued, "a number of white Birches in clumps, which are very pretty in the spring and autumn. They are the real natives."

"Hollies also seem to be at home here?"

"Yes, especially the golden. The soil suits them, and we have taken care that they have not been smothered. We cut the loose branches off and make the trees break back."

Bamboos in Variety.

"Does the soil suit your Bamboos?"

"Yes, remarkably well. The clumps of Bamboos and British Ferns which you see at this point are on the site of an old duck pond. The Bamboos are in variety, but are chiefly metake. The variety of Pampas Grass, Gynerium argenteum, which is above nine feet high, stands all weather well."

"And Rhododendrons?"

"They also do exceedingly well. There is peat in the soil, and no lime. We have acres of Rhododendrons, chiefly ponticums, of which a fine view is obtained from the terrace. Tree Pæonies and Azaleas also appreciate the soil."

"Another of your features appears to be Laurestinus?"

"We have them in flower eight months out of twelve all over the grounds. Both the climate and the soil suit them, and if frost cuts the flowers off for a time, there are always more to take their place."

"Of the very numerous trees and shrubs which I notice all over the gardens, you might mention some others that do particularly well."

"The varieties of Abies are conspicuous amongst these, notably A. Nordmanniana, A. lasiocarpa, A. cephalonica, A. Menziesii (the latter, grown in a moist position, is a grand tree), A. morinda, A. tsuga Albertinia (a great feature here), and Abies Douglassii, which grow and look well up to about seventy feet high, or as long as it has the advantage of a surrounding shelter. Above that point it cannot stand the west gales, but goes off at the top. Cedrus atlantica and C. a. glauca are also conspicuously good, and Libocedrus decurrens (the Tuxense Cedar), although rather formal, makes an excellent distinction in a number of trees and shrubs. Araucaria imbricata also does well, and the same may be said of Thujopsis dolabrata variegata and T. gigantea, as well as of T. borealis."

The Terrace.

As we ascended the front terrace, from which, on a clear day, Hastings, Bexhill, and Eastbourne, as well as some lovely scenery, can be seen, I noticed, beyond the lawns underneath, a pretty rustic bridge, with a quantity of water, and Mr. Allen said, "The lakes, which wind round for upwards of half a mile, with breaks, were made eighteen years ago by Lord Brassey to provide work for numbers of men in the locality who were out of employment."

"Who designed the pleasure gardens?"

"The late Mr. Thomas, a famous landscape gardener. The pleasure grounds and kitchen garden extend from twenty-five to twenty-six acres."

"What have you planted for spring in the borders right round the terrace?"

"Primroses, Pansies, Crocus, and Daffodils, which will be followed in the summer by herbaceous plants. The front border is ten feet wide and a hundred and twenty feet long, and the side borders seventy long and ten wide. We follow the spring flowers with annual plants, chiefly Phlox, and Veitch's strain of Petunias."

"You have a very large Ampelopsis Veitchii on the mansion."

"You ought to see it in September when it is at its best. It is seventy feet high, and about

The Gardener's Cottage at Normanhurst.

the same broad. There are also Ivies on the mansion, and on the new addition to the frontage are Crimson Rambler Roses."

The Grotto and the Grove.

Below the mansion there is a charming grotto containing a natural formation of stalactites, which is covered outside with Wistaria sinensis, Roses, and Clematis, Ferns flourishing inside. Leading on to the golf links is a fine flight of

steps, which are planted below with Jasminum and Ceanothus in variety, Roses, Ivies, Romneya Coulteri, and several of the coloured Vines, Buddleia Colvillei, B. variabilis Veitchiana (one of the latest introductions), Desmodium penduliflorum (a flower of claret colour), Berberis in variety, a great number of Weigelas, Skimmia fragans, and S. japonica Rogersii. Returning to the neighbourhood of the mansion, Mr. Allen remarked that Gaultheria Shallon grows wild at Normanhurst.

"We have other varieties," he continued, "but this does the best. It grows seven feet high, and beyond. Just at this point there is a plant of Azalea amœna, which has been here thirty years, and forming a continuous belt right round are about sixty plants which were put in a couple of years ago."

"I observe that you are cutting out some of the Rhododendrons."

"Yes, but only the inferior ones, so as to give more room. These are all hybrids—Broughtoniana is exceptionally fine."

"The Hydrangeas also seem very fine."

"On the west side of the mansion the flowers are always of the most lovely blue; the variety is Hortensia, and we have plants which were put in as far back as 1866 still doing well. The grove, which includes the Hydrangea bed and a large bed of Azaleas behind the tennis court, is one of our features, and beyond the Azalea bed is a grass path leading to the croquet lawn. Here, Camellias grow in the open without any protection. Andromeda japonica and A. floribunda flower luxuriantly in this part of the grounds. The late Dutch and the scarlet trumpet Honeysuckle likewise thrive, and a great feature is a striking specimen of Garrya elliptica which has been here about twenty years."

"Does it require much attention?"

"No, we do not have things outside that want much attention. For instance, we have large quantities of Kalmia latifolia, Ribes, and Berberis in variety, and other hardy shrubs. On the carriage drive of the Ashburnham entrance we have a mixture of St. John's Wort and the common Heath as a groundwork below, and Cytisus in variety, for a border. This is a change from grass edging, looks well, and does not require much attention. Facing this border are Rhododendrons, including Pink Pearl, which are doing exceedingly well, a number of Lilacs, and some excellent specimens of Arbutus, seventeen to eighteen feet high."

"How are your beds in the little Italian garden in front of the conservatory filled?"

"In the centre, with Forget-me-nots and Tulips in variety, the side beds with Pansies and Wallflowers. In the conservatory there are chiefly Palms, including the Sago Palm and Chamædorea Arenbergiana, a plant about thirty-eight years old. This is a capital variety for house decoration, because it will stand in the corner of a room and not take up much space. The window is filled up with Captain Bellamy and W. H. Lincoln Chrysanthemums (two very good yellows), and Begonia Gloire de Lorraine."

Leaving the conservatory, which is lighted by electric light, and contains some handsome statuary, we proceeded past the back entrance, which is covered by shrubs and evergreen Oaks, to the magnificent winter tennis court. This contains a stage at one end and a balcony at the other. It was built eighteen years ago.

The Glass Houses.

The range of plant and fruit houses, which is entered from the gardener's cottage, is two hundred feet long, and faces south. The plant house, which we first inspected, was, as Mr. Allen explained, formerly a stove, but is now used as a cold greenhouse for Azaleas, etc.

"Your early Vinery is at present newly planted?"

"Yes, and here we grow two crops of Tomatoes each year in 10-in. pots. For early work I find the Hastings far better than any other variety I have grown; it sets freely, and averages about six fruits to the pound. For winter I find Chemin Rouge very good. In the next Vinery there is nothing but Muscats of Alexandra, which were all planted in 1867. They still give good results, and some of the old rods remain, although we are now bringing up new rods, and hope soon to replace them. I find bunches about one and a half to two pounds far better for general use than larger ones. On the back wall, which is eighteen feet high, are grown Asparagus plumosa and Lygodium scandens Fern for cutting."

"What varieties do you grow in your span Peach house?"

"Hale's Early, Noblesse, and Royal George Peaches, and Pitmaston Orange Nectarine. Hale's Early, although very little heat is given, comes in very usefully with the last Nectarines in the early house. In the late Vinery, Mrs. Pince, though not well coloured, is a very reliable Grape, and a good flavour."

"Which do you consider the best late Grape grown?"

"Lady Downe's Seedling. We have four Vines of it, and three of Alicante, another very useful Grape. An entire house is devoted to early Nectarines, Lord Napier and Victoria filling the large trellis; the flavour of the latter is delicious, and it makes a good successor to Lord Napier. In the last house (a Vinery) Black Hamburghs are grown, and produce very good fruit."

Finishing with the range, we passed into a small and charming garden in front. It is divided in four squares. The walks are covered with an arch trellis, eight feet high by eight feet wide; there is a dome in the centre, and a large arch at each end for Roses and other creepers, the trellis being used for Pear trees horizontally trained.

The Outside Fruit.

"Which," I asked, "are your favourite Pears?"

"The sorts I find the most suitable are Beurré Superfin, Beurré Hardy, Comte de Lamy, Emile d'Heyst, Fondante d'Automme, Pitmaston Duchesse, and Doyenné du Comice. On the east wall are dessert Plums, of which Coe's Golden Drop does the best. Others include Oullin's Greengage, Bryanston, and Late Transparent. On the west wall Apricots and Peaches are grown. The Alexandra Peach ripens about the third week in July. Hale's Early, Dymond, and Violette Hative all do well, and for the latest I find Walburton Admirable the best flavoured. Morella Cherries are grown on the north wall."

"And what on the walls beyond?"

"On the east, Plums—Victoria, Belgian Purple, etc.—and on one portion dessert Cherries, of which Governor Wood, Bigarreau Napoleon, Frogmore Early, and May Duke are the best. The south wall is planted with Peaches and Nectarines, of which Humboldt, Spencer, and Dryden Nectarines are very good varieties. On the west wall are only Pears; the chief of these are Le Lectier, Glou Morceau, Josephine de Malines, Marie Louise, and Doyenné du Comice, but, of course, we have several other varieties. The soil is very light and sandy, and old fruit trees require to have their roots brought to the surface occasionally to be successful with them."

"Then you have also a fruit plantation outside the east wall?"

"One portion contains bush fruit grouped together for protection from birds, and here are also the maincrop Apples. We depend chiefly upon Cox's Orange, King Pippin, and Cockle Pippin; but we have several other varieties, James Grieve being one of the best. Warner's King, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Golden Noble, and Annie Elizabeth are the best kitchen Apples."

In the Grounds of Normanhurst.

The central objects of the picture are, on the left a Birch, and on the right a good specimen of Cedar atlantica.

"How large is your vegetable garden?"

"An acre and a half. The ground is very light, but with liberal manuring we grow very good vegetables. Fourteen hundred heads of Celery are grown, and here, for a change, we have our Raspberries, a fruit, in season, in great demand. We grow a few Superlative, but chiefly an unnamed variety which I found in a cottage garden, where it had been grown for upwards of forty years. It has a very large berry, the flavour is delicious, and we get a good second crop from new growths from the canes back with much larger berries than the first crops."

"There remain the flower pits."

"In these pits there are four rows (each with a partition) twenty feet long, a bed five feet wide, and a shelf at the back for Strawberries. One pit is full of Mignonette for winter use."

"And it looks splendid. What is your treatment?"

"We sow about the middle of August in porous but rich soil, in 5-in. and 6-in. pots. We thin out, when large enough, to about six or eight plants, and we find that this is a very useful mode of obtaining a good supply of cut blooms. Among other things, Freesias and Arum Lilies are grown here, and about seven years ago I planted one of the pits with Figs. They have done well, but the pit is rather too low for convenience, and I shall have to find a new home for them."

"How large is your Chrysanthemum house, close by?"

"It is a three-quarter span, forty-seven feet long by fifteen feet wide; the back wall is covered with a William Allen Richardson Rose,

Prunus Sinensis.
An early-flowering greenhouse shrub.

in respect to which the late Rev. P. d'Ombrain wrote an article several years ago. It is a remarkably good specimen, both in number of buds and colour, which is deep apricot. The Chrysanthemums chiefly grown are J. R. Upton, Mrs. N. Molyneux, Lieut.-Col. Ducroiset, Mrs. F. W. Vallis, Mrs. Mease, Dr. Chisholm Ross, and Lord Boston."

"Do you go in much for Orchids?"

"We do not pretend to call ourselves Orchid growers, but we have a number of varieties for winter use, such as Calanthes, Dendrobiums, Cypripediums, and a few others. The range of Melon and Cucumber pits is in four partitions. Hero of Lockinge is still one of the best Melons, and I have a good cross between Royal Sovereign and British Queen. Finally, there is the Carnation house, a lean-to, about thirty-five feet long, containing about four hundred plants. Princess of Wales and the Old Blush Malmaison are most liked. Trumpeter is a good scarlet, and Nell Gwynne an excellent white."

"There is one other question I should like to ask you. How long have the two fine specimens of Aspidistras in your drawing-room been growing?"

"They have been in the same room over twelve years, except for being placed outdoors occasionally in a shower."

"I know you have been here thirty years, so that your career elsewhere cannot have been very long."

"I started very early in life at Tregothnan, in Cornwall, under my father, who was gardener there for over fifty years. I then went to Porthgwidden, near Truro; afterwards to Syon House, Brentford, under Mr. Fairbairn; and, subsequently, before coming here as head gardener, to Mereworth Castle, Kent, making in all some fifty years of service."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 184.—WHITE FLOWERS IN FEBRUARY.

Dear Kate,—The florists who make wreaths and bouquets say they never have too many white flowers, and, certainly, there is always a demand for them, not only for sale, but in the conservatory and the room, for they are more delicately beautiful than any coloured blossoms.

We try to have plenty of them all the year round to mix with other colours in the central group of the conservatory (opposite the drawing-room windows), which is now composed of Arum Lilies, Azaleas, Poinsettias, large double Geraniums and Ferns, surmounted by a graceful plant of Eupatorium odoratum, with feathery masses of bloom in pure white, as well as with Deutzias, which are also light and elegant.

How to Grow Eupatoriums.

Eupatoriums are not at all difficult to manage, although they are not quite hardy; after the blooms are over, we prune the plant to within two eyes of the older wood, and remove it to the Vinery, where it is syringed, but not much watered at the root, daily, until the new shoots (which quickly appear) are about an inch long. Then we take out most of the old soil from the roots and repot them in a rich compost of loam and well-dried manure, with a little soot and sand; they will sometimes fit into smaller pots than before, but should have good drainage. About the middle of May you can take them out of their pots and plant them in good soil in the kitchen garden, where they will grow strongly through the summer. You should pinch out the tips of their shoots two or three times during those months, at intervals, so as to make them very bushy; and you will find that every shoot will produce a spray of blossom towards the winter. In the middle of September cut round their roots carefully with a small sharp spade about four or five inches from the stem (so as to reduce them to the size of the pot into which they are to go), and a week later you can raise the ball of roots, and place it, with a little rich soil, in a pot. Smaller plants will, of course, only need smaller pots; and after a few days in the shade of a north wall (for the plants must not be allowed to droop) you can take them in for the winter. They are very thirsty plants, and should have soot-water twice a week, as well as plenty of tepid water daily, when in full bloom.

The Chinese Plum.

Another very pretty white flower in the conservatory is the double Chinese Plum (Prunus sinensis), which blooms naturally very early, and needs very little forcing. It is quite hardy, and can be grown in the garden, but then it does not bloom till May, so that we like to have some specimens of this little shrub in the conservatory, when they blossom in February. You can grow them from cuttings or slips of the half-ripe shoots in the spring, and they make pretty little plants, flowering whilst quite small. Every spray is covered with white rosettes, just like tiny Roses, and in the autumn the leaves of this Plum turn the most beautiful colours, in shades of purple, yellow and red, before they drop. It is a plant that should be in every garden, as well as in every greenhouse, but I much prefer specimens on their own roots to those which have been grafted, for the coarse wild Plum stocks on which the scions are grafted will certainly do their best to starve the slender growths of the Chinese Plum, unless every shoot and every sucker which appears near the shrub in the garden is destroyed before it can do much damage.

The Charming Deutzia Gracilis.

Other white flowers now in bloom are the Deutzias, which are rather in the same category as the Chinese Plum, for they both like to be well hardened in the autumn sunshine out of doors, and will then produce a wealth of blossom early in the year under glass, or later in the spring if grown in the garden. Deutzia gracilis is worthy of its name, for although its shoots are rather stiff when bare of foliage, as soon as the flowers are out they bend over in the most graceful way with the weight of blossom which covers the plant. They are very easy to grow, and they do not need to be repotted every year when they are large plants, in fact we only repot them every third year, and top-dress them with rich soil at this time, for they seem to do best when their pots are full of roots. But you must give them plenty of tepid water and also liquid manure whilst their flowers are opening, for any check then—from dryness or want of nourishment—will result in shrivelled-up flowers, most melancholy to see. These plants are charming in the conservatory in spring, and you can easily have a succession of them if you bring in a few pots at a time from the garden, where they spend the winter until January (or later), their pots being sunk to the rim in an ash-border.

After flowering they should not be turned out into the bitter east wind of our springs, for their forced foliage is tender, and will turn white and die if suddenly exposed to the open air. We put them in a cold frame, with other forced shrubs, until the end of May, after which they stand in the full sunshine throughout the summer months, and are well watered.

Early Azaleas.

The earliest white Azalea (Deutsche Perle), which was in bloom at Christmas, is now over,

Eupatorium Odoratum.
A pretty decorative white flower.

but the later varieties (of which Bernard André alba is one of the best) are now in blossom, and make a grand show in the conservatory. As they go out of flower we are careful to pick off each fading bloom, for if these are allowed to form seed-vessels the plant is much weakened;

are ringed; they taper gradually up from the end in which the mouth is situated to the other; and they progress as a leech does, by alternately shortening and lengthening the body. They very soon hatch out from the eggs, and begin to devour the aphides around them, afterwards throwing their empty skins. When not feeding, they lie close to a stem or leaf, and are often killed in mistake for small caterpillars. When they are fully grown, they attach themselves by the thicker end to some portion of the plant, and in the course of a few days enter upon the winged stage, thus completing the cycle. Not less valuable allies of the gardener are the lace-wing flies, sometimes called golden-eyes, or lice-lions, the last name being given to them because of the enormous number of aphides they destroy. They are usually green, or green and yellow, in colour, and they have bright yellow eyes. The eggs attached to the stem by long stalks resemble the fruit of Moss, and this resemblance, no doubt, protects them from other insects, which might feed upon them. The larvæ have also a way of concealing themselves from their enemies, for they cover themselves with the empty skins of the aphides which they have eaten.

August 31st.—Though Imantophyllums, now called Clivias, generally flower in spring, some of mine have deferred doing so until the present time—why, I do not know. They are excellent plants for an amateur to grow, giving very little trouble, for they are never attacked by insects. The long, leathery, evergreen leaves give them a decorative value at all seasons, and when they throw up their great umbels of orange flowers, which retain their beauty for a long period, they are wonderfully handsome. Though they are ordinarily classed as greenhouse plants, I have grown them without any heat, taking care to keep them dry, though not dust-dry, in winter, and to give them some slight protection, such as a newspaper thrown over them, during severe frost. The thick, fleshy roots quickly fill the pots, and, in time, unless relief is afforded, burst them. That, however, is of no great consequence; and it is better not to be in a hurry to shift, for Clivias, like many other plants, flower best when they are rather cramped for root-room.

September 1st.—The resemblance which exists between some plant diseases and others which attack human beings is an additional reason for making a close study of them. Some time ago, a leaflet issued by the Board of Agriculture, after describing a contagious disease called epizootic lymphangitis, affecting horses, went on to say, "an organism is the cause of the malady, and it is easily transferred from the wound of a diseased horse to a wound of another horse not affected. The most common means of such transfer is by the agency of sponges, rubbers, brushes, etc." Dr. Cooke, commenting on this statement, says:—"This is precisely analogous to what takes place with the wound parasites of trees of fungoid origin, and it is interesting to observe and watch such cases, since the treatment which succeeds in one may be equally successful in the other. It may be added as suggestive that in the case of diphtheria in the human subject treatment with sulphur has proved eminently successful; in like manner is the remedy applied to the Vine oidium and the Rose mildew, both of which in habit bear a resemblance to diphtheria." In this connection, I remember that some years ago a French scientist asserted that the black spots on the skins of Apples and Oranges were identical with the sporules in the saliva of persons suffering from whooping-cough, and that by using them he had artificially produced that disease.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

A SHOEMAKER at Croydon, the owner of an allotment garden, has turned his attention to the cultivation of Shallots, with remarkable success. His crop this year works out at over £300 worth per acre, and he attributes this result to using the ashes of burnt boots freely as a fertiliser.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 205.—MR. J. ALLSOP, AT THE GARDENS, ORLEANS HOUSE, TWICKENHAM.

EXCEPTIONAL interest attaches to the gardens of Orleans House, Twickenham, the historic residence on the banks of the Thames, which for many years was occupied by the late Comte de Paris. The present possessor is Mr. W. Cunard, under whose auspices the place has maintained all its old charms, while, at the same time, a number of new features have been added. One of the most attractive of the latter is the verandah, covered with Geraniums Madame Crousse, which, on the occasion of my visit, on the 8th of July, at once engaged my attention.

"It looks its best in August," said Mr. Allsop, the head gardener, as I admired the mass of pink flower, "but it lasts until the frost comes."

The lofty conservatory is divided into two sections, with a central hall between, the roof being covered with Cobæa scandens variegata. Here, also, were Hydrangeas, Lilies, Ferns, Coleus, Humea elegans, and Campanula pyramidalis.

"How long do you keep the Hydrangeas?" I asked.

"We run them for two years, and the second year's flowers are better than the first. They are cut down and branched the second year, and then thrown away. Liliums succeed the Hydrangeas."

"What are the principal plants in the border in front of the mansion?"

"Heliotropes, Lantanas, and Fuchsias, with a groundwork of Begonias, and a quantity of Plumbago worked in at the back. The beds on each side contain mixed varieties of Begonias, with a background of single Dahlias, Cannas, and Abutilons. The ornamental vases, as you see, are filled with Dracænas."

"You have a bed on the lawn containing Nicotiana Sanderæ?"

"Yes; the latter are just in flower. The Nicotiana affinis we flower right up to the time the frost sets in. Along with the scarlet variety, it forms a striking contrast. Another bed is made up of scarlet Cannas, and a groundwork of Ageratums, while near it is a bed of yellow Cannas, with the same groundwork."

"The bed of Delphiniums and Larkspurs is effective."

"The Delphiniums, which are annuals, were grown from seed this year."

"Roses are grown in quantity in the beds on the lawn?"

"Yes; we make Roses a feature. The large bed has a groundwork of Sutton's hybrid Lobelias, with Mignonette. The Roses include La France, Baroness Rothschild, Mrs. John Laing, General Jacqueminot, Hippolyte Jamain, and are grown as standards and half-standards, with bushes round the outside. One of the beds near by consists of Sutton's Fairy Queen Begonias, edged with blue Ageratum, another of Verbena Miss Willmott, edged with Dandy Geraniums, while a third has President Garfield Heliotropes, edged with Pyrethrums."

At this point we stayed to look at a singularly pretty border, serpentine in shape, with Abutilons, Humeas, Fuchsias, Lantanas, standard Heliotropes, Salvias (Sutton's Scarlet King), intertwined with Cannas.

The standard Heliotropes," said Mr. Allsop, "were all raised from cuttings in the autumn. We never keep the old plants. Our system saves trouble in storing, and the new plants flower quite as freely."

"You have Gladiolus to follow the white Stocks in the bed, in front of more Roses."

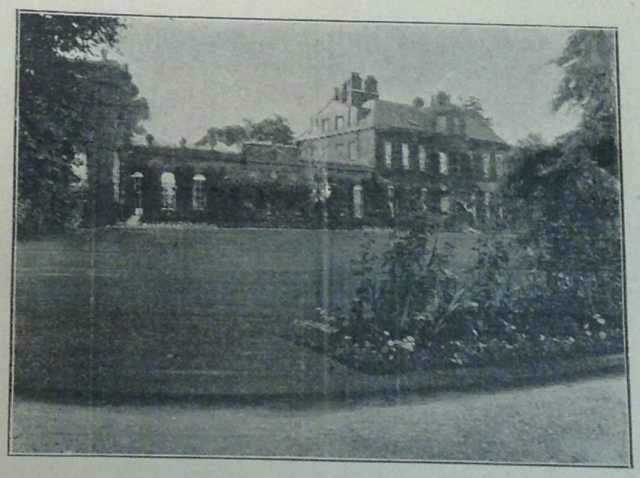
"Yes; they are mixed hybrids, and look bright and pretty. The Stocks, which are edged with blue Lobelias, are not the Ten-week varieties, but they last a couple of months in flower. In all these beds the blending of colour is aimed at. Mr. Cunard is very particular that great care should be exercised in this respect."

"There are several beds of Begonias?"

"We use them so largely because there is nothing to beat them for bedding. Take, for instance, that bed of large-flowering white Begonias, edged with blue Ageratums, or the bed of scarlet Begonias close to it."

"They certainly look exceedingly well."

"And they last so well—much better than Geraniums. We have no Geraniums in the beds. Wet seasons suit Begonias, because they like



ORLEANS HOUSE, TWICKENHAM.

This charming house was formerly the residence of the Comte de Paris, and its grounds were, and are still, regarded as one of the beauty spots of Suburban London.

moisture, but they will stand almost any kind of weather. We have gone in for them strongly for several years. One of the best varieties of the scarlets is Lafayette, of which there is a bed, with a groundwork of Alyssums. The Begonias flower early, and last well into September."

"When are your Calceolarias amplexicaula at their best?"

"They are in flower about the end of July. We go in largely for them. They are raised from cuttings in the autumn, and we can get them six feet high by April. Underneath the Calceolarias are blue Heliotropes, and the bed is edged with Pyrethrums—Sutton's double. Another large bed contains Cannas and Abutilons, which do well together. They are at their best in August, and go on flowering until the autumn. Zinnias, edged with Dandy Geraniums, fill a large bed. They are Sutton's large-flowering strain, and form a combination of white, yellow, pink, scarlet, and violet, about two feet high, making a fine show."

"Are Zinnias difficult to raise from seed?"

"Yes; they are rather difficult. It is better to sow late than early. There is a bed of Ivy-leaved Geraniums, chiefly Souvenir de Charles Turner, with a groundwork of the same varieties. Other beds contain golden Calceolarias, edged with blue Ageratums and pink Begonias, five or six inches across."

"And the two large borders of herbaceous plants?"

"One consists mainly of Phlox, Dahlias, Abutilons, and Lychnis, with Coreopsis at the edge, and Sutton's Miniature Marigold right round. In the other, Sweet Peas are intermixed, and it also includes a large number of Delphiniums, which have flowered well."

Noting two nicely clipped Yews on the lawn, we went to the Wilderness, a delightful retreat, where Nature is allowed to follow her own bent. Here, too, there are some noble specimens of Cedars of Lebanon, Planes, and Elms. From the Wilderness we entered the kitchen garden, which, however, contains many flowering plants. On each side of the centre is a herbaceous border filled up in much the same manner as the borders in the pleasure garden.

"Do you consider the Apple crop good?" I asked, as we came to a number grown on bushes.

"Very fair; but the Plum and Pear crops are poor. Most of the Apples are grown on the bush, and include Hawthornden, Cox's Orange Pippin, King's Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Wellington, and Codlin, which fruit exceedingly well, and, on this soil, grow to a large size."

"Which Pears do you prefer?"

"Clapp's Favourite, Conference, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and the Trout Pear (an old variety, and very nice), are among the best."

"Do you force many Strawberries?"

"About five thousand Royal Sovereign. We also grow Latest of All, Laxton's Monarch, James Veitch, and Sir Joseph Paxton, which latter is an old variety, but still very good."

There are a few frames in the kitchen garden, and at the back of these is another herbaceous border, including a quantity of old varieties of Michaelmas Daisy, and of Phlox.

"We make a speciality of the latter," said Mr. Allsop, "and have all the best varieties for cutting purposes. Also, in spring, we have a quantity of Spanish Iris."

"Your Peach houses must be large."

"Those are devoted to Nectarines exclusively. One of them is a hundred and thirty feet long, and the other a hundred feet long. We only grow Early Rivers, the trees having been planted about seven years ago. We picked in one house, between June 3rd and June 26th, when we finished, nearly four thousand fruits, the greatest number in one day being five hundred and seventy-four. Early Rivers is a wonderful Nectarine."

"You have Roses at the back of the Nectarine house?"

"Yes; Tea and Hybrids, grown for cutting. The old Foxglove flourishes. The seeds drop, and we let them remain on the ground."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you go in for?"

"Close upon a thousand, of which about four hundred are Japanese. The varieties include F. S. Vallis—about thirty plants—Mrs. Barkley, Probyn, Mafeking Hero, Graphic, General Buller, Chatsworth, Charles Davis, Jane Molyneux, Mrs. H. Weeks, Upton, Madame Paolo Radaelli, Mrs. J. C. Neville, and Mrs. Greenfield (one of the best yellows)."

"You have a number of fine specimens in your Palm house?"

"They were all in small 'thirty-twos' when I came here, twelve years ago, and they have grown so rapidly that I have had to drop them down to keep them in the house. Some of them are now sixteen feet, in 'eights.' The varieties include Kentias Fosteriana and Belmoreana. In the Pelargonium house the Geraniums include King of Denmark, King Edward VII., Raspail, and others."

"Are the double Petunias named?"

"No; they are seedlings. I choose the best each year, and throw the others away. There are about one hundred in pots. They start flowering from cuttings at the end of June, and, with careful treatment, keep on until the end of September."

"Which do you consider the best of your grand show of Malmaisons?"

"Grand Duchess Olga, Blush, Lady Rose, Professor Bell (a fine variety), and France (a great favourite). There are about a hundred plants. We have a hundred and fifty plants of Crassilis, a pretty pink flower, which ought to be grown more than it is."

"Is it easy to grow?"

"Quite. It wants cool treatment most of the time. The plants keep in flower for a couple of months, and the foliage is as pretty as the flower."

"Which class of Fern do you recommend?"

"I have a great liking for Aspleniums. They are easy to grow—you increase the stock by taking the young plants that form on the old fronds. The Asplenium is a very good Fern to grow for decorative work, where a lot of furnishing has to be done; it is very hardy, and wants no coddling. In the Fern house we have about three hundred Gloxinias, Sutton's strain."

"How many Caladiums?"

"About three hundred. These plants will be about three feet through in August. We expose Caladiums to the sunlight, in order to get the colour. They do not burn, though, of course, that is a danger if the plants are too near the glass."

"What Grapes do you grow in the Vineries?"

"In the Vineries here, Madresfield Court and Muscats. The Vines are twenty years old. The adjoining Nectarine house contains Lord Napier and Pineapple, and we have had heavy crops and good fruit. These trees are twelve years old. The large Peach tree is nearly twenty years old, and the variety is Alexander Noblesse. It carried about three hundred fruits this year. But you have yet to see our large fruit houses."

"Before we leave the kitchen garden, is there anything you care to say about any other flowers?"

"We keep Sweet Peas in separate colours, growing Sutton's Giant in ten varieties; we also have a large bed of Chrysanthemum maximum, a bed of the Old Clove Pinks, with a quantity of Raby Castle, a number of varieties of the single and double Helianthus, and a good collection of Dahlias. We strike the Dahlia cuttings early in spring, obtaining, in consequence, more quality in the flower."

"You have not mentioned vegetables."

The Chrysanthemums at Orleans House.

About a thousand plants are grown each year, of which four hundred are Japanese varieties. At the flowering period the Palm-houses are given up to the plants.

"There is nothing very special. All the usual vegetables are grown. The two leading Peas are Sutton's Early Giant and Sutton's Favourite Marrowfat. We do not have more than three or four varieties, which suit the soil."

"What is the extent of the ground?" I asked, as we walked towards Lebanon House, formerly occupied by Mr. Cunard, who still retains the kitchen garden and the houses which he erected.

"Between twenty and thirty acres."

When we arrived at the magnificent range of houses put up by Mr. Cunard during his residence at Lebanon House, and covering three acres, Mr. Allsop informed me that, up to the time of my visit, twenty-three thousand Peaches and Nectarines had gone to market.

In one house were Cardinal Nectarines, out of which two thousand fruits had already been taken.

"We shall go on picking from later houses," continued Mr. Allsop, "until the end of September."

"How many Cucumbers do you get in the house?" I asked, as we entered another.

"We have cut seventy dozen. The variety Sutton's Improved Telegraph, one of the best, good flavour and a heavy cropper. The Strawberries are forced in the pits, and Melons fol

the Strawberries. The varieties are Windsor Castle, Triumph, Sutton's Superlative, Hero of Lockinge, and Sutton's Scarlet. We get from four to five hundred Melons a year in three pits."

"How many Peaches and Nectarines do you average per day?"

"Some days in the season we average two thousand. In the house of Lord Napier Nectarines, which is a hundred and twenty-six feet long, and twenty-six feet wide, we get a crop of about five thousand. Lord Napier is grown on one side of another house, and Early Rivers on the other, with standard trees of Thomas Rivers Peach all along, and Tomatoes in between—Sutton's Best of All and Winter Beauty."

"This is where you grow your Pineapple Nectarine?"

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Allsop, as we entered another house; "in this house there is one Pineapple Nectarine tree twelve yards wide, with a 16-ft. stem, which carries nearly a thousand fruits. For flavour there is not another Nectarine to equal it. Here there is a big tree of Royal Ascot—a very old variety."

"And Peaches?"

"In this house there are mixed varieties, Violet Hative, Gros Mignon—we have had two hundred Peaches off this tree already—and Rivers' Orange Nectarine, with small but splendid fruit. The early Peach house contains Dymond and Lord Napier Nectarine."

"You train Vines along the roof?"

"Yes; Black Hamburgh. The cutting was put in nine years ago, and last year it carried a hundred bunches. I think that it has as many this year. Another, planted at the same time, carries seventy bunches. In another Peach house, Madresfield Court is trained along the roof on the same principle, and carries a good, heavy crop. It was put in five years ago. The other houses include a late house of Lord Napier Nectarines, which do not come in until August, and a house, eighty yards long, containing Peaches and Nectarines on one side only—Barrington, Sea Eagle, Nectarine Peach, and Lord Napier, carrying about four thousand fruits."

"How long have you been a fruit grower?"

"I commenced gardening a quarter of a century ago. My previous appointments were at Hartham Park—Sir John Dickson-Poynder's place in Wiltshire—and at Kenwick Hall, Louth."

ALFRED WILCOX.

AUTUMN ROSES AT A WINDOW.

The second blooms of the William Allen Richardson Rose are now at their best. The second blossoms may not be as finely proportioned as the first, but the colouring is invariably better.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 161.—HARDY HOUSE CLIMBERS.

DEAR KATE,—Last week I discoursed to you on the subject of half-hardy climbers, now I am going to write about hardy climbers, for I sometimes see such ugly houses which might be made quite picturesque by planting a few of these next month, that I think it is a pity that we don't all do as much as we might to beautify our own homes. When I have travelled on the Continent, I have been surprised to see the bareness and ugliness of most of the houses; in looking out of the train, one naturally expects to see cosy homes nestling amongst the trees, with bright flowers about them, and half smothered with creepers, such as we come to continually in English travelling, with the thought, "What a nice place to live in!"

But abroad I was reminded strongly of the boxes of toy houses, trees, etc., which I used to think so charming to play with on the carpet, when I was about four year old; the houses might be taken up and put down anywhere else, just as well as where they were, for they had no trees and no climbers, so that they did not look a bit homelike, and were most depressing and uninteresting. Why do Continental people never plant climbers? It is not a riddle, and, if it were, I don't know the answer, and I don't believe there is one. But we, who have a reputation for the love of home, must live up to it, and everyone should make his home look as charming as possible, outside as well as in.

Now, about Roses—how many climb over your house, and look in at your window? My window (upstairs) has been a mass of lovely apricot flowers of William Allen Richardson, which climbs to the top of my house, and wreathes the walls all the way up with hundreds of blooms. I send you a photograph of this Rose, taken August 30th, and it is still a picture, although it blossomed profusely in June. I am very fond of wearing these Roses as a buttonhole; and it really is very convenient to be able to gather them at one's window whenever a fresh bouquet is required. I advise you to plant your favourite Rose under your window, with a view to buttonholes in the future. Another Rose which grows here is the creamy-yellow Banksia Rose; but I believe this is not so hardy as the rest, and, maybe, would not throw up its long new shoots yearly in a cold district. This Rose suffers sadly in some gardens from the terrible shears of the gardener, who generally cuts off its long growths, and snips it into perfect tidiness, never thinking that he has cut off, with these shoots, all chance of bloom for next season. Climbing Captain Christy is a lovely Rose, with exquisite flowers in pale pink, extra strong in growth; climbing Caroline Testout is equally robust, with beautiful salmon-pink blooms. Niphetos is in purest white; and Bardou Job has semi-double blossoms in crimson-velvet, and golden stamens, a most decorative Rose for cutting, and perfect as a buttonhole; and there are plenty of others, if you want them, in any good Rose catalogue.

On the other side of my window the Japanese Honeysuckle (Lonicera brachypoda) grows, also reaching the top of the house. This is a most desirable climber, for it is evergreen, quite hardy, and always looks comfortable and handsome, except, perhaps, when it has to be cut back in February, as, otherwise, it gets too rampant altogether. But the masses of blossoms it produces from June until Christmas! They scent the whole house in the early morning and

CLIMBERS ON AN EAST FRONT.

It is evident from this picture that aspect alone cannot be accepted as an excuse for the absence of climbers on the side of a house. The wall on which the climbers are growing has a due east aspect, and yet they have made steady and uninterrupted growth since the first season.

if they are choked throughout the late summer by carpeting plants, and then transplanted late in the autumn, when the borders are renovated and tidied for the winter. If gardeners would realise that much trouble may be saved by shifting Irises when they have only just finished flowering, or even when actually in bloom, far fewer flowers and plants would be sacrificed." The new roots then have time to go down into the soil, and to anchor the rhizomes so firmly that they are not likely to be disturbed in winter.

THE ELEVENTH HOUR.

May 3rd.—The sooner rooted cuttings of Chrysanthemums and other plants are potted the better. If they are allowed to remain in boxes until their roots are all matted together, they are liable to be stunted, and it is impossible to lift them without breaking very many of the roots. It is not always easy to get out the first two or three without injuring the others around. The best way is to place the box on its side, and then to tap it until the whole soil is loosened, and comes forward sufficiently to enable a corner to be grasped and several of the plants there to be detached. Of course, care must be taken that it does not fall right out, but that is easily prevented.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

HYBRID HARDY PRIMULAS.

We have now a considerable variety of hybrid hardy Primulas, and the number will soon be largely increased. I hope to return to the subject shortly, especially with reference to various hybrids of Primula japonica. In this note I am confining myself to several named hybrids derived from P. pulverulenta and P. Cockburniana. The latter is, as is pretty well-known, only a biennial in some places, and in most gardens, if perennial, is short-lived. At the same time, its colour has given rise to the belief that it would prove an excellent species to use for hybridising. Some of the earlier hybrids did not prove so permanent as was hoped, but recently others have appeared which seem to be more enduring. Probably the best of these, so far as named varieties are concerned, are the following, which are better than Unique, one of the early productions.

Lissadell Hybrid is one of the most satisfactory. It has nice, soft vermilion flowers, with the habit of P. pulverulenta, but only about two feet high at the most. Another form of this, called Lissadell Hybrid No. 2, is lighter in colour, and resembles Unique, but is a better doer. Aileen Aroon has fine, bright scarlet flowers, and is an effective variety. In one named Brian Boru we have a Primula with bright red blooms; and a rather curiously coloured but attractive one, called Maeve, has a saffron eye in the centre of the raspberry-pink flowers. A very brilliant variety is called "Red Hugh," a name justified by its colour—a brilliant, flame-like red.

In Una we have a distinct thing, the colour being of a kind of russet-orange. These will do in good garden soil, but prefer a moist position.

S. ARNOTT.

A conference of fruit growers will be held on Friday, May 9th, in Room B, Central Hall, Westminster, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon. Tickets are obtainable from the Chamber of Horticulture, 11, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2; from Mr. A. J. Monro, Market Gardeners', Nurserymen, and Farmers' Association, 41—42, King Street, W.C.2; or Mr. Duncombe Gibbs, National Fruit Growers' Federation, Fairfield, Pershore.

The name Hollyhock is derived from *holi*, holy; and *hoc*, Mallow, Holy Mallow, so called because brought from the Holy Land.

UNLIKE many another Thames Valley estate, Petersham House, for many years the home of the Warde family, has to rely on itself for its attractions; for, although close to the silvery, winding Thames, none of the wanderings of the world-famous river may be seen, nor are there views of distant hills or adjoining properties. It is situate on level ground just below Richmond Royal Park, and the mansion is hard by the King's highway. No one could fail to be impressed by the elegance of the design of the Tudor gates and railings at the entrance. Generally the house is distinctly Tudor, though the top story was added during the reign of George I. Petersham House was at one time the country retreat of the ill-fated Catherine of Arragon, and inside the porch may be seen the twin embrasures where the guards stood whenever the Queen was in residence. A very old Wistaria sinensis drapes the whole front of the house, and will soon be a delightful sight.

Petersham House is very rich in valuable gates, for besides the two pairs at the entrance there are a couple more in the garden proper. The dignity and charm of these hammered Tudor gates is quite irresistible, and another desirable feature is the old, very old, brick wall which surrounds most of the garden.

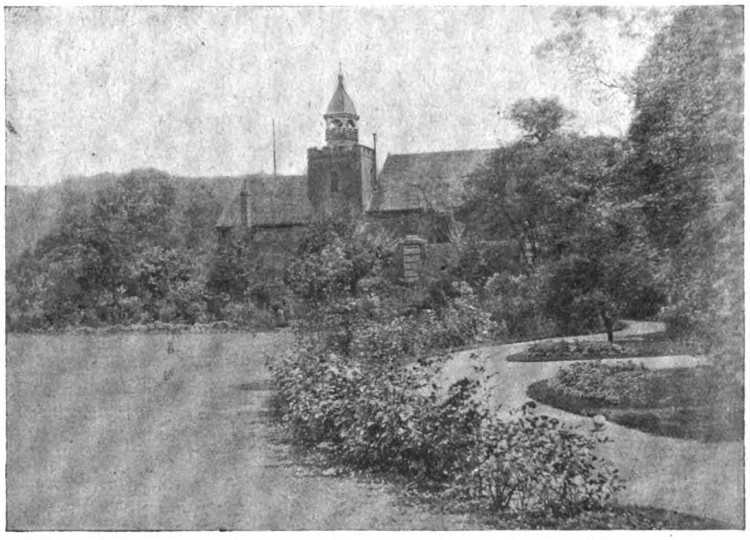
"It is reputed to be over three hundred years old," said Mr. Allum; "and, judging from its appearance, one would agree with the estimate. The face is all punctured with nail-holes where fruit trees have been secured for centuries." One wonders how many bygone generations of gardeners have driven wall-nails into the wall, and what varieties of fruits were first grown against it.

The present-day trees are, of course, of the best varieties, and produce splendid fruits in anything like a favourable season. A rather unusual feature on one wall is a trained Mulberry. Although it does not produce much fruit when grown in this fashion, its leafage is most ample, and very refreshing to the eye on a hot summer's day.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

Although not in the garden, the old parish church is so close as to form an integral part of one of the best garden views. The church is said to date from the time of William the Conqueror, and the Saxon windows, which are in a state of splendid preservation, draw numbers of admirers. In this church Prince Rupert was married, and under it lies the dust of many notabilities.

The leading feature of the pleasure grounds here are smooth green lawns, specimen trees, and flower borders. In the last-named, Chinese herbaceous Pæonies are especial favourites, and they contain strong clumps of all the best varieties. Tree Pæonies have also been planted during recent years, and, judging from their growth, one would say that in this sheltered, sun-trap of a garden, spring frosts are rarely destructive to them. Iris gigantea thrives especially well under Mr. Allum's treatment, and on adjoining borders may be seen generous breadths of the common Lily of the Valley and of Fortune's Giant variety, which generally blooms about ten days later. Sheltered by overhanging trees, and consequently cool, may be just seen the entrance to the ice-house, which in olden times was an indispensable adjunct to the country house. Now it has been converted into a supplementary Potato store, and Mr. Allum informed me that it contained, at the moment, fully two tons of ware tubers.



A ROSE BORDER AT PETERSHAM HOUSE.

KITCHEN GARDEN BEAUTIFUL.

Petersham House well illustrates how attractive a vegetable garden may be made when pergolas over broad grass walks and flower

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borders are associated with it. At all times it must be of interest, and now that the fruit trees are bursting into bloom, and the soil shows the tender green of many sprouting vegetables, it is a particularly attractive spot.

"Yes, I am a great believer in intensive cultivation, and particularly in successional cropping, so as to get the utmost out of a garden. But for this deep digging and liberal manuring are essential. As you see, I have many frames occupied with seedling vegetables, which, as soon as the weather permits, will be planted out in their permanent quarters. Hitherto I have, like so many other gardeners, been greatly handicapped by labour shortage, but I am expecting the first man back next week, and I hope he will soon be followed by others, though one, alas!" added Mr. Allum, "will not return."

Of the many crops, space does not permit mention, but I cannot resist remarking on the vigour of such early Peas as William Hurst and the regularity of the Onion seedlings.

"This," said Mr. Allum, "is where the Orangery, that indispensable feature of our ancestors' garden, stood. It was, of course, heated by flues, but the whole structure became so much the worse for wear that it was pulled down, and a small modern conservatory erected near by." Here is to be seen splendid Hippeastrums, Richardia Mrs. Roosevelt, a lemon-yellow variety, and many other decorative plants.

As we approached the glass department I inquired as to Mr. Allum's plans for future exhibiting, for he has been a most consistently successful competitor in the past at the Richmond, Kingston, and Twickenham Flower Shows, particularly in the open classes for border flowers and stove and greenhouse plants. The quantities of prize cards, mostly firsts, hung up in the potting shed, testify to Mr. Allum's successes. But—at present at any rate—he does not intend to return to the arena.

"There's so much reconstructive work to be done in the garden, and labour will be short, so I have decided not to compete again. But I shall not lose interest in the plants. Here are a number of Caladium tubers just starting into growth, which I have managed to preserve. The Coleus are pretty good, and so, I think, are the stove plants generally," and with this I am in full agreement. Tomatoes, under glass and in the open, are largely grown—Carter's Sunrise, Ham Green, and Holmes' Supreme are the varieties, and the plants are splendid.

As we made for the Bute Garden, Mr. Allum remarked that the place seemed to be honeycombed with tunnels, and occasionally a fresh one is discovered owing to the subsidence of a path.

THE BUTE GARDEN.

This portion of Mr. Allum's charge, which is on the opposite side of the Petersham Road, and was bought by the late Mrs. Warde, would alone be satisfying to most garden lovers, for it is very spacious, and includes charming walks. The mansion, which was used by successive generations of the Bute family, abutted the road, and when it was pulled down the removal of the "footings" left a very large pit, which would have required many hundreds of loads of soil to fill. But Mr. Allum has an ingenious turn of mind, and instead of filling this great depression converted it into a sunken rock garden, making a most delightful feature, and one which, besides giving great satisfaction to the owner, gives immense pleasure to hundreds of top-deck passengers on the Surbiton-Ealing 'bus which daily passes by. A large mound was made in the middle of the pit, the sides were sloped, and a quantity of boulders suitably introduced, and there quickly was prepared the framework of the sunk garden.

"Mr. Warde rightly insists on bold masses of flowers," said Mr. Allum, in response to my remark on the splendid effect before us; "so I planted suitable Alpines in dozens, fifties, and hundreds, and this, of course, is one reason why this garden appeals so much to the 'bus passengers." At the moment Aubrietias and early Saxifrages, Primroses and Polyanthuses, are glorious. The display will be continued by other genera and species for many months. A long border of the Madonna Lily (Lilium candidum) is throwing up strong, fat spikes—I have in former years seen them five feet six inches high, and they promise to equal this during the coming season. In the half-shade of the far side, where a Horse Chestnut and Ilex Oaks form a fitting background, Lilies of the Valley and Solomon's Seal are perfectly happy, and will soon be in bloom.

"Did you ever see the native Harebell seed itself so freely in a garden before?" asked Mr. Allum, indicating hundreds of seedlings at the edge of the shrubbery and in the path as we left the sunk garden to see some of the fine forest trees for which the grounds are noted, and I freely admitted that I had not, nor anywhere else.

Ilex Oaks and English Yews abound, and become almost commonplace. On the left stands a fine old Cedar of Lebanon, decidedly a contemporary of the trees on the adjoining slopes of Richmond Park, which have often inspired painters and poets alike. The "dark green layers of shade," as the poet so aptly described the branches of the Cedar, are in this instance lightened in a really wonderful manner by hundreds of last season's cones, which are now of a light chestnut colour.

The Bird Cherry is quite a common tree in the south-western suburbs, particularly in Hounslow, Lambton, and Heston, where this graceful flowering tree quickly becomes an elegant pyramid; but these are as children compared with the Petersham specimen. Its trunk is as large and as rugged as that of many an Ilex Oak, and its limbs spread widely. In a few weeks' time, when its innumerable, pendant little racemes of white flowers are open, it will be a memorable sight. Noteworthy as this tree is, it pales utterly before the dimensions of an enormous Black Walnut hard by. Its trunk runs up fully thirty feet without a break, and at five feet from the ground girths over eighteen feet.

At the far extremity stands a striking church, which Mr. Warde's mother presented to the parish. It is said to have cost her £84,000. The interior marble and tapestries are very beautiful. Retracing our steps from the church, we diverged to admire a magnificent Beech tree, a perfect specimen which "stands in its pride alone," and is in the first flush of its tender green leafage. Near to the Richmond Park boundary wall is the finest example of the "Turkey Nut" in this country, a splendid tree which bears huge nuts, but, alas for the ubiquitous small boy who gambols in the park, and eagerly seizes the fallen fruits, they have no kernels.

Reluctantly I leave this pleasant place—its splendid Oak trees, smooth green lawns, and beautiful flowers—where King James and his nobles sauntered, nominally free from the cares and troubles of State. But who knows what plots and counterplots were hatched there in those troublous and uncertain times?

But such belong to the historian, and not the horticultural scribe, so, "the day being far spent," we entered Mr. Allum's pretty and cosy house for a brief rest.

"Now, Mr. Allum," I said, when our pipes were alight, "I must be inquisitive. Where did you first learn the A.B.C. of our fascinating craft, and so forth?"

HERBACEOUS BORDERS AT PETERSHAM HOUSE.

"I was apprenticed at Thistleworth, in Twickenham, where the gardener grew all fruits, including Pineapples, particularly well. After three years I went to the Duke of Buccleuch's garden at Cambridge House, not far away, and worked successively in the then famous pleasure grounds and in the glass department. I then became foreman at Letchmere, Ham, still in this country. Letchmere was over fifty acres in extent, and general gardening was well done. From this place I was appointed gardener at Manor House, Petersham, leaving there almost twenty years ago to take charge here for the late Mrs. Warde, and on her death, twelve years ago, Mr. Lionel Warde confirmed the appointment, and here I am still."

It is the busy man who finds time for doing things, and besides first-rate gardening—no easy matter during the past four years—Mr. Allum finds time for the duties of Assistant Overseer of Petersham; to be an R.H.S. representative on advising allotment-holders; Horticultural Representative to the Richmond Food Committee, and secretary of the Petersham Institute, which building owes itself to the munificence of the late Mrs. Warde.

A. C. BARTLETT.

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instance was even the receipt acknowledged, while the number of copies of the *Bulletin* of the corresponding Paris Congress which found their way to the libraries of this country may, we believe, be summed up by a cipher.

ISAAC ANDERSON-HENRY.

Mr. Anderson-Henry, better known as Isaac Anderson (for the addition "Henry" is a comparatively recent annex, rendered necessary by the material requirements of a deed of entail), is a Scotsman, born at Caputh, in Perthshire, about the commencement of the century, and descended from the Andersons of Auchranie, a family who ought to have something horticultural in their disposition, for their lands have been held of the Crown on payment of a white Rose at midsummer yearly for several centuries.

He was educated for the law, and for a number of years practised in Edinburgh as a solicitor to the supreme courts. Although favourably known as a judicious and able man of business, Mr. Anderson never took very kindly to the dry details of the law, and as soon as circumstances permitted gladly renounced them. His fame as a horticulturist was made, however, while fully occupied with his professional pursuits, and his researches and observations were conducted in the morning and evening when he escaped from the office in town to his pleasant home in the environs of Edinburgh.

His tastes for natural science were first developed about 1836, by his having for his nearest neighbour another amateur, Mr. Pattison, who was an enthusiast in plants, especially bulbs. Once launched he made rapid progress, and from the accidental circumstance of his having had a gardener who was skilful in hybridising (an accomplishment then little thought of by ordinary gardeners) he was led to occupy himself a good deal with that branch of horticulture. Success produced its usual consequence—a still greater love for its subject, which, as its results gradually unfolded more and more of the mysteries of Nature, ere long grew into a passion, which ended by making Mr. Anderson one of the foremost hybridisers of his day. His little garden became celebrated. Every one who loved botanical or horticultural studies was sure to find there something new or interesting, and it naturally became a favourite resort with kindred spirits.

The culture of newly-introduced plants, and more especially of alpine species, was the other branch which he specially affected, and in this, too, he was somewhat the creature of circumstances, for it was undoubtedly his intimate correspondence with Professor Jameson, of Quito, that, by supplying fuel to his lamp, led to his extensive prosecution of that most delightful branch of horticulture. The skill and pains bestowed in the culture and rearing of plants from such regions cannot be adequately represented. No branch of culture affords more scope for the intelligence and resources of the horticulturist than that of plants from tropical countries of such exceptional altitude as 11,000 to 15,000 feet above the level of the sea.

From this source came many new plants, which have been figured and described in the *Botanical Magazine* and elsewhere, of which we may mention—

Calceolaria chelidonioides, figured in Lindley and Paxton's *Flower Garden*, vol. ii., p. 143, in 1852.
Calceolaria ericoides,
Pitcairnea pungens, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5356.
Micranthella Candollei, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5455, in 1864.
Calceolaria hyssopifolia, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5548, in 1865.
Pleroma sarmentosa, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5629, in 1867.
Draba violacea, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5650, in 1867.
Delostoma dentatum, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5754, in 1869.
Calceolaria Henrici, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5772, in 1869.
Tacsonia eriantha, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5750, in 1869.
Tacsonia quitensis, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5876, in 1870.
Fuchsia sessilifolia, introduced in 1866, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5907, in 1871.
Muntingia Calabura, *Bot. Mag.*, tab. 5982, in 1872.
Salvia rubescens, *Bot. Mag.*, t. 5947, in 1872.
Brachyotum confertum, *Bot. Mag.*, t. 6018, in 1873.
Besides many others from various quarters, not yet let out.

Mr. Anderson joined the Caledonian Horticultural Society in 1841, and soon was elected a member of its Council, an office which he continued to hold until the Society was revolutionised, and the Experimental Garden belonging to it merged in the Royal Botanic Garden.

ISAAC ANDERSON-HENRY.

Among the papers communicated to that Society by Mr. Anderson was a rather important one, on the necessity of free access of air to the roots of plants, a condition very little attended to. This necessity forced itself on his notice from his observation of some cuttings which he had put in a glass to strike in water. He had allowed the water to remain for a long time without being renewed, and a film of sufficient consistency to exclude air had gathered on its surface. The consequence was that roots were thrown out from the stems above, and not from the base of the cuttings beneath the water.

The importance of attending to this was illustrated by a reference to the effect which surrounding trees by pavement produces on the health—a consequence now well recognised, but at the time of Mr. Anderson's paper scarcely at all thought of. Other important papers of Mr. Anderson's, especially one on hybridisation, and another on pure hybridisation, will occur to the recollection of our readers. These were written in 1867 and 1868, and were contributions to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, made by him in fulfilment of his duties as its President. These papers are perhaps the most important which Mr. Anderson has given to science. They were upon his own speciality, and contain an epitome of his observations and experiments during many previous years. They will be found in vol. ix. of the Society's *Transactions*, and so far as they go may be regarded as a standard authority on the points treated of. Reference may also be made to a paper on these subjects embodied in another classical work, viz., a contribution to M'Intosh's *Book of the Garden*, which the late Dr. Lindley did Mr. Anderson the honour to adopt and recommend in his *Theory and Practice of Horticulture*.

Mr. Anderson-Henry has also contributed various interesting communications to the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, of which, as well as of many other learned Societies, such as the Linnean Society, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, &c., he is an honoured member.

THAW LINES.

The season has been distinguished by the number and short duration of its tiny snow storms. The snow has fallen fast, and thawed almost as rapidly, and this has happened again and again; it has therefore offered unusual facilities for observation. It is well known that the snow disappears under trees much sooner than from the open ground. Various reasons may be assigned for this—the first and most obvious being, that as the top intercepts the snow in falling, less snow reaches the ground under trees than in the open, and consequently less time would be needed to melt it. This seems clear as an axiom; but, nevertheless, it by no means covers all the observed facts; such, for instance, that the snow does not melt equally all round the tree, nor fastest where the top is thickest, and where, consequently, on this hypothesis, the snow layer is thinnest. On the contrary, the thaw lines or patches are most capricious, now shrinking in far beneath the overhanging canopy, and again running out a long way beyond the shelter of the branches. Again, were the melting of the snow a mere mechanical affair of varying thickness, then it would invariably melt soonest under evergreen trees. But this is not by any means the case. For instance, I observed last week the snow completely gone under a huge Wych Elm, while the branches of Pinus excelsa, Sabiniana, macrocarpa, and others, rested upon it all round. On the interception theory alone this seemed quite inexplicable.

Another explanation may be hazarded. The trees are centres of warmth, each bole and branch affecting the snow as a fire would, only in a lesser degree. This theory would explain the difference between the Elm and the Pine thus:—The Elm, being the largest tree, spared the more caloric for the snow, and hence it was the sooner melted. The deciduous tree may also have had another thing in its favour. Its heat had free course to the snow, its bare boughs offering little, if any, resistance to the passage of caloric from the tree to the ground, whereas the Pine branches were so many screens to intercept the warmth, the difference being as a fire in a room without anything before it, and the same fire with a full clothes-horse. But, then, on this supposition, the snow ought to have dissolved regularly all round the bole and main branches, beginning at the trunk and melt-

Alexander Anderson

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1877, n.s. 7

Mr. Anderson, the subject of the present illustration, was born in the parish of Redgorton, in Perthshire, on July 24, 1820, soon after which his parents removed to the parish of Kinnoull, in the vicinity of Perth, and in the parish school there he received the greater part of his education. When sixteen years of age he was apprenticed for three years to the Messrs. Dickson & Turnbull, nurserymen, Perth, to learn the profession of a gardener. The nurseries at that time were under the superintendence of Mr. Anderson, the present proprietor, and those who know him will bear out the statement that a more energetic man could not have been found for drilling his pupil into active habits in the acquirement of his profession. After going through the usual initiation in digging, raking, pruning, &c., for a time, he was transferred to the glass department, where the propagating of choice and ornamental plants was extensively carried on. Here he began to learn the names of plants, the remembering of which proved to be somewhat difficult at first, but he found that by writing them over once or twice they were impressed on the memory with little trouble, and this practice he has often recommended to young men since. The collections of herbaceous, bulbous, and exotic plants were extensive, and afforded an excellent opportunity of getting familiar with their names and characters, and by drying specimens, and forming a herbarium of alpine and exotic plants, he made fair progress in gaining knowledge. During the summer season he devoted his spare time to making short excursions in search of alpines, collecting, drying, or arranging specimens, as circumstances required, and by the end of his apprenticeship had thus acquired a rather bulky collection. In winter he devoted the time to improving his education, by attending evening school, from which, it is his desire to record, that he gained much advantage, his elementary training being thus kept in practice, and a better appreciation of the value of education made him now the more industrious. In this respect he was happily situated, as the "Fair City" afforded ample opportunities for young men improving themselves.

"During my last year of apprenticeship," he writes, "I was afforded the opportunity of seeing a little of the first part of forestry, by being sent out in charge of some contract planting, which the firm had undertaken, the produce of which are now large trees. My engagement having now been fulfilled, I was sent as a journeyman to Invermay Gardens, then under the care of the veteran Mr. Muirhead, a renowned Pine and Grape grower in those days. Here I found a rich locality for alpine plants, many of which were new to me; but I only remained a short time. I next went to Kinnaird Castle, in Forfarshire, under Mr. Hovell, who, after I had been some time there, promoted me to the charge of the forcing department. I remained here for two years, when I was recommended to Mr. Easson, of Camperdown, Forfarshire; at that date one of the best-managed gardens in the country. Mr. Easson (now factor on the estate) was a most exemplary man and a good gardener. The first Earl of Camperdown used to say of him that 'he did more good than the parish minister.' After being here for some time I was placed in charge of the houses, which were pretty extensive, though Pine growing was being abandoned. I spent over two years here, and profited not a little, as a better managed place I have never seen, taking the allowance for doing so into account.

"I had been engaged for three months before I left to go to Oxenford Castle, Edinburgh, as foreman under the gardener, a man of most indomitable energy and tact, fond of landscape work. His time being fully occupied with the changes and improvements in the park and grounds, the management of the garden and houses consequently devolved a good deal upon me. Sir John Dalrymple had succeeded to the Earldom of Stair shortly before this as eighth Earl, and had set about remodelling the place.

"After seeing a good deal of rough work gone through in road-making, terracing, pulling down and building up, when nearly two years here I was recommended by the late Mr. M'Nab of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, as gardener to Lord Southampton, Whittlebury Lodge, Northamptonshire, where I stayed two years. Having saved a few

pounds in money, I took the advice of the late Mr. J. C. Loudon to some extent, and spent £40 in travelling and seeing all the principal gardens in and around London. I never regretted this outlay, and though not on the Continent, as Mr. Loudon advised, I profited considerably by seeing many of the best places in England.

“I was then offered the remodelling of a fine old place in Dorsetshire (Kingston House), once the residence of the famous Mr. Pitt, by Mr. Ferguson, of Aylesbury, who had undertaken the work and the supplying of the plants. I had to come to London before it was quite finished, and did not return; and being asked at this time to become a candidate for my present situation, I did so, and being successful in my application I entered upon my duties in September, 1848.

"I have had the honour to serve three successive Earls of Stair during the time I have been here—over twenty-eight years. They have all been great patrons of horticulture, and I have received every encouragement from them, and most of all from the present Earl, who has authorised me from time to time to renew the whole of the glass structures on the place upon more modern principles than hitherto, and otherwise permitted me to effect improvements in the place when necessary. During my gardening career I have endeavoured to have as few hobbies as possible (we all have some), dividing and devoting my energies as equally to all subjects under my care as circumstances would permit. I never was a keen competitor in the general acceptation of the word, but I have entered the lists occasionally, with what results the records of the Royal Horticultural of London and Royal Caledonian Horticultural Societies will testify. Certificates of merit and money prizes from the former, and medals from the latter, for collections of fruit and vegetables, at various times have been won. My great aim through life has been to make two blades of grass to grow where one grew before, and sometimes I have succeeded."

On the occasion of the fruit show at South Kensington on Nov. 6 and 7, 1861, we find, on reference to the *Proceedings of the Royal Horticultural Society*, i. 707, that Mr. Anderson carried off the first prize for a collection (twenty-two dishes) of Pears, thereby beating all England, though, as the Scottish Farmer observes, "Oxenford is by no means a land of Goshen, either as regards soil or climate." To him, "therefore, belongs the greater meed of credit for producing under the circumstances better Pears than those with which they were brought into competition, although grown in some of the very best gardens in England"—to wit, Frogmore and Heckfield. "Mr. Anderson, operating in an ungenial climate, has, like a wise man, consulted reason and science, and hence by these means has overcome the natural disadvantages by which he is beset. Now these means are both simple and rational, consisting of protecting the blossom in spring, and *frequently lifting the trees*, so as to keep their roots near the surface, that they may enjoy the fullest amount of solar heat." Mr. Anderson prefers root-lifting to root-pruning, and considers the lifting to be check enough upon over-luxuriance and late and imperfect ripening. The sorts of Pears exhibited as above, as we learn from Mr. Anderson, were these:—Beurre d'Aremberg, Beurre Diel, Beurre de Capiaumont, Beurre Clairgeau, Buchanan's Spring Beurre, Colmar, Colmar d'Aremberg, Crassane, Doyenne Gris, Duchesse d'AngouIeme, Easter Beurre, Flemish Beauty, Glou Morceau, King Edward's, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marechal a la Cour, Marie Louise, Napoldon, Poire Neill, Rousse Lench, Susette de Bavay, Winter Nelis.

trellises, which, with the pots, were six feet in height, and two large plants of Dipladenia amabilis, and one of Cyrtoceras reflexum, greatly infested with mealy-bug. On reference to my diary, date Jan. 17, 1857, I find that the gardener took the Stephanotis off the trellis, rolled up the trailing shoots in a coil, and then plunged them in a copper of boiling water, taking them out instantly. The plants were entirely killed as far as the water touched them, but to the surprise of everyone present, the mealy-bug came out untouched. The Cyrtoceras shared the same fate; the Dipladenias came out with the mealy-bug unharmed. The trellises were afterwards washed with Gishurst Compound, and hung on trees in the shrubbery till required the following spring; the mealy-bug was then still alive. Petroleum and other insecticides now in use were unknown; it was all picking and sponging, which after all are the safest and surest methods. For mildew on Vines the best remedy is to take ½ lb. of flowers-of-sulphur, mix into thin paste as you would mustard, then add 4 gallons of clean water, well stirring it together, and standing it in the house where it is to be used for twelve hours, that is, till quite clear; in the morning ladle-out all the clear water into other vessels without disturbing the sulphur lying at the bottom, and syringe therewith the Grapes and foliage, or whatever is affected. This is a safe cure, and leaves no stain on berry or foliage. I consider hot water a dangerous remedy. I should think as bad as using a pan of burning sulphur. *Thos. Godfrey, Hillingdon.* [Mr. Mallett, who recommended heated water for destroying mildew and mealy-bug, did not say that he used it at the boiling-point—212°, Fahr., but something less than that, say, about 180°; neither did he dip his plants into a "copper of boiling water," a proceeding which the most inexperienced gardener would know to be dangerous to plant life. He stated that the water was applied by means of a syringe; and in its transit from one place to another, and passage through the air when driven out of the syringe, it would be greatly robbed of its heat. ED.]

FANCY PANSIES.—As "R. D." has told so clearly the story of the introduction of the Fancy Pansy into Britain, no doubt renewed interest will be felt in these beautiful hardy flowers, for of their size as plants we have very few that produce such grand blooms, so superbly marked, and coloured as Fancy Pansies do. I am induced because of this to ask for information, as to whence come into market at this time of the year in such immense numbers, such grand-flowered plants as are seen everywhere offered for sale. Do they come from across the Channel, or are they grown at home? and if the latter, are they raised from home-saved seed, or from imported seed? Also under what conditions is the seed sown and at what time, and how are the plants grown to produce such robustness and such giant and brilliant flowers? No strain anywhere gives finer, few give so fine; whilst I see plants of this description freely purchased and planted, yet I do not observe that they seem to have long lives. Does this arise from the changed conditions of culture to which subjected? are they grown during the winter in cold frames, and on very rich soil? If that be so, their robust character is explained, as is also the fact that after being planted in garden-soil for a few weeks, they seem to do so indifferently. Still, that the plants come from a grand strain there can be no doubt, and it may not be far wrong to assume that to induce them to thrive in gardens, it is needful to furnish them with culture somewhat similar to what they have enjoyed in the market-growing establishments. *A.*

A QUESTION.—Your correspondent "J. C.," at p. 400, laments the absence from modern gardens of certain flowers which were favourites of his, fifty years ago. He is also surprised that he does not see them offered in trade-lists. Having myself been familar with those plants half a century ago, I can sympathise with him, though we have much compensation in the possession of recent additions to our garden plants. I think, too, I can explain, if not justify, the disappearance of our old favourites. As botanists we can but remember with interest the charming little plant Yellow Violet, introduced by Mr. Veitch forty-five years ago, but we have now the more showy and more easily-cultivated yellow Violas for beds and borders. The "Double Walls" of those days were propagated only by cuttings, but now very fine Double Wallflowers are raised more easily and abundantly from seed, though I confess to a preference for the more compact and natural appearance of the plants we raised from cuttings. I do not remember the black-flowered Delphinium, but we see now a great variety of dark purple, indigo-blue, and brilliant light blue, all raised easily from seed. But "J. C." says, where are now the Hyacinths, Double Purple-Green Tips, Double Red Green Tips, and Double White Green Tips which, he says, he used to obtain of the late Mr. John Sutton, which I can quite believe, as this was my father, with whom I was then in partnership (fifty or sixty years ago), and I well remember the pretty Hyacinths he reminds me of, and which could still be procured in the trade if ordered. The disappearance of these old favourites is accounted for by the fact that the present day demand is for the most showy and the most free-growing of flowers for beds and borders, and the nurseryman or florist finds it to his interest to cultivate and advertise those things which best meet the public demand. It is now more than ten years since I retired from the business firm of Sutton & Sons, but the interesting enquiry of your correspondent, "J. C.," tempts me to offer a few notes to the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, with which I have corresponded from its foundation, fifty-eight years ago. *Martin Hope Sutton.*

PROSPECTS OF THE FRUIT CROPS IN SHROPSHIRE.—There is every prospect of an abundant crop of most kinds of fruit this year in Shropshire, with the exception of Plums and Damsons, and in some parts, Gooseberries. In some districts the crops of Gooseberries are very good, and in others almost a total failure, owing to the severe frosts experienced in spring. The Plum and Damson-trees were heavily laden with blossoms in spring, and gave promise of abundant crops of fruit; but the cold spring proved too much for them, and we may say there is generally a total failure. I have visited many parts of Shropshire, and only very locally could anything worth calling a crop be found; the fine gardens at Sundorne Castle, so ably managed by Mr. Phillips, the head gardener, being one of these exceptions. Here, Plums upon the walls are an abundant crop. The Apricots and Peaches—the latter especially being heavily laden with fruit; in fact, fruit of all descriptions will be very plentiful. This county is noted for its Damsons, and in good years the crop is a valuable one especially to cottagers, and the disappointment is great this year, as there was such an early promise of abundant crops. The trees also are terribly infested with the Plum-aphis, which curls up the leaves, causing crippled growth and otherwise injuring the trees. Apples and Pears are much above the average; Strawberries also are a very abundant crop, notwithstanding some of the first blossoms were destroyed by the early frosts of spring. The glorious rains we are now having will do much to secure fine fruit and a continuous supply. *A. Gaut, Shrewsbury.*

Obituary.

THE LATE J. CRAGG.—As gardener to the late A. Heine, Esq., the deceased was well known as a thorough good all-round man, a capital hand with bouquets, vases, and table-decorations, very successful with Orchids—at one show, if my memory serves me aright, he carried off every 1st prize in the open and amateur classes at Old Trafford, when competition was keener than is the case at the present time. He was a good Chrysanthemum grower and exhibitor, and had excellent taste in forming groups of plants for effect. I ever found him a pleasant companion, and a most unselfish and kind-hearted neighbour. My mind runs over those connected with some of the big shows at Old Trafford long ago, and of that number Messrs. T. Baines, W. Cole, W. Milford, G. Toll, T. Hubberstey, J. Jones, A. Beesley, G. Beddoes, B. Findlay have all passed away, the greater number, comparatively speaking, in middle age, some scarcely that; and to the number we may now add J. Cragg, who, after about fifteen years' service at Birchfield, has succumbed at the age of forty-six years. *W. Swan.*

PETER DRUMMOND.—Only a fortnight after attending the funeral of the late Mr. Kelway, occurred the sudden death at the age of sixty-six, of Mr. Peter Drummond, who had been foreman at the Langport Nurseries of Messrs. Kelway & Son for a period of twenty-six years. As a testimony to the character of the deceased gardener, we reproduce the following appreciative description of him by the firm itself—

"Mr. Drummond's death has been a severely-felt loss to us; we mourn a man of forceful intellect and inventive mind, a most clever cultivator, a charming personality, a devoted friend, and most faithful servant."

Mr. Drummond's father, writes Mr. Croucher, our valued correspondent at Ochtertyre, N.B., was gardener at this Scottish domain from 1842 to 1857, and was Mr. Croucher's immediate predecessor. The gardener there previous to Mr. Drummond remained over fifty years. Accordingly there have only been three gardeners at Ochtertyre since the year 1790. Ochtertyre is the residence of Sir P. K. Murray, Bart.

JAMES ANDERSON.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. James Anderson, who expired at Glasgow on June 16, at the age of sixty-seven years, after an illness extending over some eighteen months. Mr. Anderson was well known as having been gardener for many years to T. Dawson, Esq., Meadowbank, Uddingstone, N.B., where there was one of the finest collections of Orchids of the time, and in which many that are still held in high esteem made their first appearance, and notably Odontoglossum × Andersonianum and Lælia anceps Dawsoni. Mr. Anderson was a very successful cultivator, and also exhibited some very remarkable specimens, securing the very rare honour of the Lindley Medal, and many other awards. After Mr. Dawson's death, Mr. Anderson established himself near Glasgow as a landscape gardener and horticultural expert, but soon removed to the neighbourhood of Manchester, and many gentlemen availed themselves of his services as an adviser in gardening matters. He was also employed on the Epping Forest Commission, and was for many years a valued correspondent of this journal. The deceased was for the period of its short existence editor of the *Northern Gardener* at its commencement in Edinburgh, and later at Manchester. He also brought out a bulky work entitled *The Practical Gardener.*

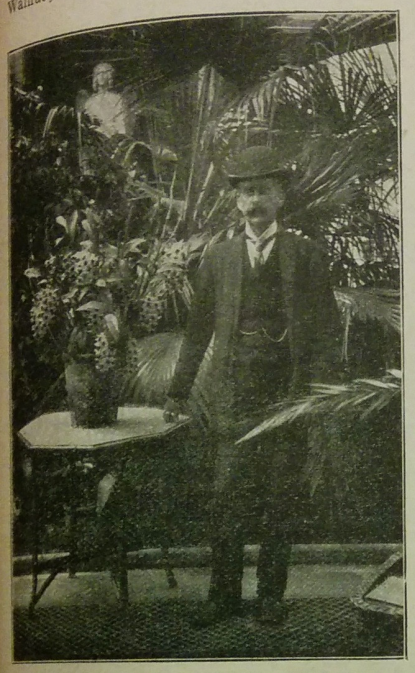
NURSERY NOTES.

KNAP HILL NURSERY IN JUNE.

To anyone interested in Rhododendrons and Azaleas, one can imagine no better day of education and pleasure combined than a visit to the Knap Hill Nursery during the early days of June. There is not, I suppose, within the three kingdoms a place where so large an area is covered with Rhododendrons, not merely stuff for selling by the hundred, but magnificent specimens, some of which in their height and spread of branches, as well as in the thickness of their stems, may rank as small trees. As the nursery is approached from Woking Station, a foretaste of the feast of colour is obtained from the high road, whence glimpses can be caught, low in the distance, of great stretches of Rhododendrons in bloom—a scene not only very beautiful, but peculiarly striking, set, as it is, amidst the meadows and hedgerows of pastoral Surrey. When the nursery is reached there is seen stretching away through it a straight avenue, close upon a mile in length, bordered for the most part by towering masses of Rhododendrons, among which the variety album elegans is prominent in huge bushes 15 feet or so high. From this avenue we make incursions on either side, traversing quarter after quarter of the nursery, still of the finest varieties of Rhododendrons in full bloom, till we are almost bewildered by the glowing masses of colour that close in on every side. Purple of various shades is still the prevailing colour among garden Rhododendrons, but here there is every range of colour, from pure white to vivid

by the gases inhaled or exhaled during growth, or whether there is some other reason—has not yet, so far as I am aware, been determined; but the fact is known to every gardener.

May 4th.—My Clivias (Imantophyllums) flowered very irregularly last year—some in spring, some in summer, some in autumn. On some of the latest I allowed the seedpods to remain, and they are still on, though the plants were in a cold house all the winter. There are about eight pods on a stalk, each as large as a Walnut; they are wax-like in texture, orange or



Mr. Anderson in the Conservatory.

scarlet in colour, decidedly handsome—almost as handsome as the flowers. It was a mistake to leave them on, kind friends assure me; but they were wanted for decoration when flowers were scarce. I had another reason. I admit that seedpods probably do weaken plants to some extent, but I want to know to what extent. If these Clivias flower this year, and flower as well as last, the injury will not be very considerable; if they do not, I shall have gained experience. It is always worth buying—at a fair price.

May 5th.—Last year, my diary tells me, I heard the first cuckoo on April 27th, and the first nightingale, and saw the first swallow—unusually late—on May 1st. I cannot give the corresponding dates for the present year, but vegetation is certainly more backward—about a week more backward, so far as I can judge. Not that this is a disadvantage; on the other hand, it may prove beneficial if it keeps back tender plants until they are safe from late frosts. It would, however, be imprudent to relax the ordinary precautions—this year especially. Two or three weeks must elapse before we can feel that we are out of danger.

May 6th.—In the course of some desultory reading, I have just discovered "a well-known fact." I am afraid many of us never discover anything else, and then rather late in the day. "It is a well-known fact," says Professor Carr, in a very interesting paper, "that Lichens are not single, independent plants, but are constituted by the union of a fungus and an alga so intimately associated as to appear to form a single individual. The alga, in virtue of its possessing chlorophyll, can supply the fungal constituent with organic food, while the fungus provides the algal constituent with water and mineral salts. At first sight, therefore, the association appears to be one of mutualism, *i.e.*, a partnership fraught with equal benefit to the parties associated; but it appears that, while the fungus cannot exist apart from the alga, the latter can, and does, live independently. Such a relation may be likened to that of master and servant rather than of partners." That is certainly very remarkable.

May 7th.—The hairy leaves of the Primula naturally suggest the question, What is their object? Possibly the same as that of the hairs and spines with which desert plants are provided—for the purpose of increasing their scanty water supply by causing the deposition of moisture.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 136.—MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, AT THE GARDENS, LALEHAM HOUSE, STAINES.

When I asked for permission to inspect the gardens at Laleham House, I received a most courteous answer informing me that Lord and Lady Lucan were pleased to comply with my request; and on the occasion of my visit Lord Lucan was kind enough to show me some of the beautiful and lofty rooms in the mansion, adorned with paintings—including one of his father, the third Lord Lucan, who commanded the cavalry in the Crimean War—and with statuary by Thorwaldsen, the famous sculptor. Both Lord and Lady Lucan take a great interest in the gardens, and I am indebted to them for the use of the photographs which illustrate the letterpress of this interview.

The head gardener at Laleham is Mr. Thomas Anderson, and under his guidance I first of all turned my attention to the splendid specimens of Cedars of Lebanon close to the house.

"They were, probably," he said, "planted about a century ago, at the time the house itself was erected. Next to the Cedars, the Limes and the three fine Copper Beeches are most admired."

"You do not go in for any carpet-bedding?"

"No. As you see, of the two beds near the house, one consists of Eucharis, Yuccas, Kalmias, and Ponticum Rhododendrons, while the other is planted with bulbs in the spring, and herbaceous plants in the summer. We started with Crocuses and Scillas, and followed with Daffodils, Polyanthus, Anemones, Fritillarias, and Tulips. The herbaceous plants are maintained up to the middle of August."

"I suppose you decorate the colonnade with flowers in the summer?"

"We place boxes in it, and the effect is very pretty. The vases along the pedestals are filled with bedding plants in their order of flowering, including Geranium and Ivy-leaf Pelargoniums, Petunias, and other creeping plants."

"You have an Orange tree just coming into flower in the conservatory?"

"Yes, and about the end of May we shall transfer it to the centre of the Dutch garden. Spiræa is just now a feature in the conservatory. We grow plumosa, japonica, astilboides, and japonica compacta. There are several Palms, some rather good Ferns, and a general collection of decorative plants and climbers here, but, of course, we are constantly changing."

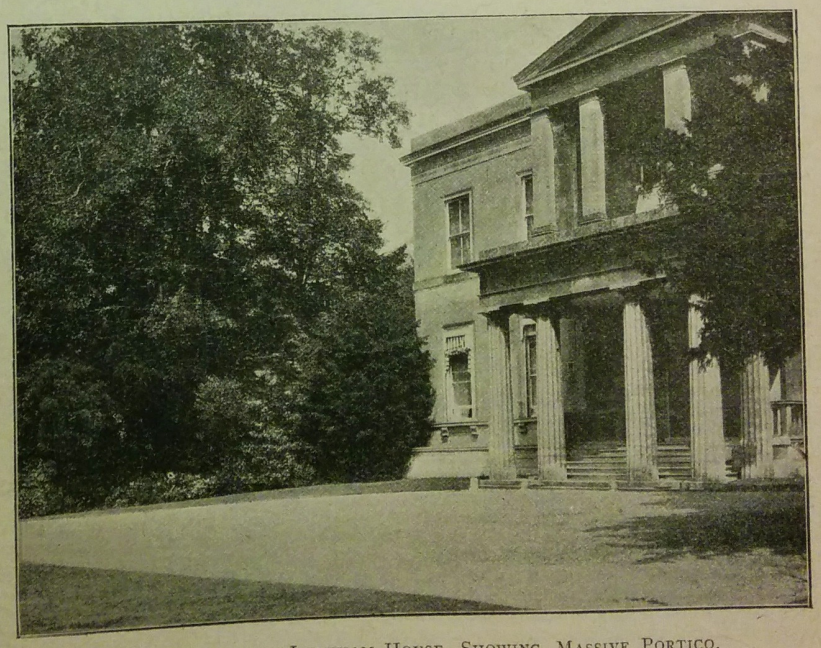
Then we went into the Dutch garden, which is very tastefully laid out, the contents being chiefly Wallflowers, Box, Golden Privet, Silver Euonymus, Portugal Laurels, and Aucubas. In summer it is bedded out with Geraniums, etc., the walls at the side being covered with Honeysuckle and Jasminum. From the Dutch garden we proceeded to the Rosery.

"When was the Rosery made?" I inquired.

"About fourteen years ago; but it was planted up, altered, and shaped about three years ago. There are mixed varieties of Roses in each bed."

"Can you give me any idea as to the number?"

"I should think that there are close upon six hundred. In the larger beds there are Hybrid Tea and Perpetuals. The principal varieties are Her Majesty, Salamander, Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford, Alfred Colomb, Marie Baumann, Cheshunt Scarlet, Margaret Dickson, Heinrich Schultheis, Alfred K. Williams, Harrison Weir, Victor Hugo (a quantity), Clio, Tom Wood (a



The Entrance to Laleham House, Showing Massive Portico.

prime favourite), Grand Mogul, Senator Belle, Brightness of Cheshunt, Ulrich Brunner, Madame Eugene Verdier, Duke of Wellington, Lord Macaulay (a fine colour), and Gustave Piganeau."

"Are there Tea varieties in the round beds?"

"Yes, including Bridesmaid, Comtesse de Nadaillac, Muriel Graham, Maman Cochet, The Bride, Lady Mary Fitzwilliam, Ernest Metz, President, Souvenir de S. A. Prince, and Madame Lambard. The best of the climbers are Blairii No. II., White and Yellow Rambler, Setina, Thalia (yellow), and Euphrosyne. We have a quantity of Crimson Rambler on trellis in other parts of the garden—it makes a fine bed pegged down. I have done this for two years. The bed is edged by Pansies, which last nearly until the Crimson Rambler comes into bloom."

Passing a singularly nice Holly hedge, planted thirteen years ago, we came to an admirably arranged little orchard, with beds on each side. Observing an old Mulberry tree, with plants of Primroses in the stems, I asked how long the latter had grown there, and Mr. Anderson replied that he thought about four years.

"What fruit do you grow in the orchard?"

"Apples, Pears, and Plums. The Apples are cooking varieties, and among the best are Beauty of Kent, Blenheim Orange, Cox's Pomona, Wellington, Dutch Codling, Gloria Mundi, Golden Noble, Golden Spire, Hambledon Deux Ans (a very good Apple), Mére de Ménage, Nelson Codling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Pott's Seedling, and Stone's (or Loddington) Seedling. The Pears include a few trees of the old Windsor variety, and Victoria Plums."

"We use a large quantity, especially Marjoram, Sage, Lemon and common Thyme, Mint, and Tarragon."

Then we entered the kitchen garden proper, which is very extensive, and excellently laid out. A Crimson Rambler pergola is very ornamental, but before looking round the outside we spent some time in the houses. Glass is not a great feature at Laleham, but there is a sufficient quantity. Entering the late Vinery, I asked the varieties grown.

"Lady Hutt is one. We get Grapes about Christmas. The other varieties are Appley Towers, Alicante, Alnwick Seedling, Gros Maroc, and Gros Colmar."

"In this Vinery, I observed, you have a number of Guelder Roses."

"We grow about forty of the Viburnum Opulas in pots. They are very useful for church purposes, and we decorate Laleham church. They are rooted from cuttings, and grown on in a house not too warm. The moisture of the Vinery suits them."

"When did they start flowering?"

"In March. They were flowered first in 'forty-eight' pots, then in 'twenty-fours,' and they are now in 'sixteens.' We have had them two years in pots. They have never been planted out. It is essential to give Guelder Roses a season's rest, by which I mean that they should not be flowered two years in succession. The Deutzias have also been in this Vinery since the second week in March."

"And bedding plants in the early stages?"

"Yes, including Lobelias, Begonias, Verbenas, and Lantanas. The Lantanas, which are of various colours, make beautiful beds in the Dutch garden, and are useful for pot work."

"Are they easy to grow?"

"They are raised from seed, and flowered the same season. The flower is like the Verbena. These are the dwarf varieties, and a great improvement upon the old-fashioned Lantanas, which grow three or four feet high. The full growth of these does not exceed seven or eight inches."

"What Grapes do you cultivate in the early Vinery?"

"Muscat Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, Black Hamburgh, and Madresfield Court. With regard to the fruit, which are setting well, I fertilise the branches with Pampas Grass to make sure of them."

"You have some Orchids here?"

"A few. Dendrobium Wardianum has flowered very well; also the D. densiflorum album, known generally as Schroderii. Last year we had seventeen trusses on one plant of the latter. Cypripediums, Cœlogynes, and Vandas do very well with us."

"Is the middle Vinery devoted entirely to Muscats?"

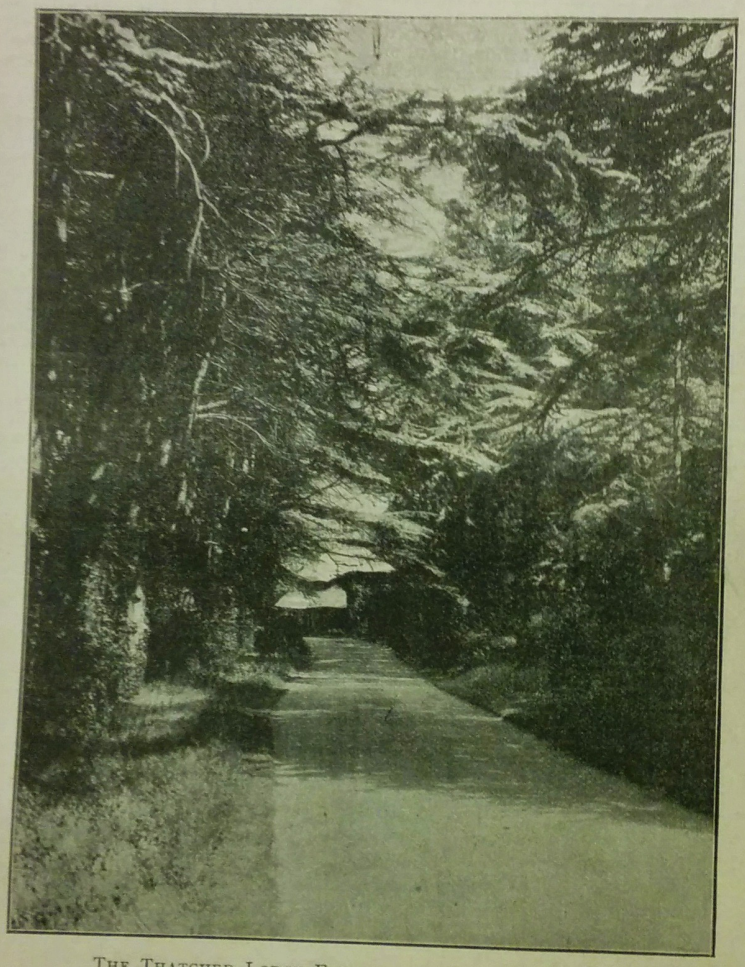
"Except one Vine of Canon Hall, they are all Muscats of Alexandria. On the back stage are about fifty pots of Royal Sovereign Strawberries which I like best for forcing."

"Then, there are the Geraniums for bedding. Which varieties do you like best?"

"I depend a great deal upon Gibbons, Jacoby, and Vesuvius. Other good varieties are Flower of Spring, Happy Thought, D. P. Ford, Crystal Palace Gem, Souvenir de Charles Turner, and the old Double Pink. In this house, too, there are about five dozen Streptocarpus hybrids, Veitch's latest strains. Some are more pink than blue, inclining to red; and others are pure white. They require a little heat after repotting, and later on they will have cold treatment. When they flower we put them in the greenhouse, or conservatory."

"I see that you have some fine flowers of the yellow Arum."

"We have about twenty plants. They require more heat than the white variety, and we start them in a temperature of from fifty to sixty degrees. When they show spikes we transfer them to the greenhouse. After they have done flowering we put them below the greenhouse stage, and leave them there until we pot them afresh. The white Arums, on the contrary, are put out of doors after they have flowered, and left there until they are potted on. Before I gave



The Thatched Lodge Entrance to Laleham House.

Crossing over the lawn, we had a peep at the river—there is a landing stage belonging to Laleham House—and on the way back I noticed a number of blue Primroses. Mr. Anderson mentioned that he introduced them nine years ago, when they first came out, but added that he prefers the yellow variety. Along the private walk to the garden from the lawn, which is called the Lynch Walk, are Lilacs, Hollies, Yews, and various shrubs, sheltered from the east wind by a plantation. The trees here were planted, but all the undergrowth is natural.

"The acreage of the gardens must be very considerable," I remarked, as we continued our inspection.

"There are some twenty acres, and the gardens being only divided from the park by a ha-ha hedge make the former look larger. The estate itself is about twelve hundred acres."

"Any Nuts?"

"Yes, there is a row of Kentish Cobs, and Filberts, planted alternately, under the Yew hedge. The reason we mix them is that there is more male bloom among Filberts than among Cobs, and that with the mixture we get a better crop of Nuts."

"How long is the wall facing the orchard?"

"Five hundred feet. It faces south, and with the exception of a few Apricot trees it is planted entirely with Peaches. Several of these have been put in lately, including Late Devonian, which has not yet fruited here. Others are Barrington, Royal George, Hale's Early, Bellegarde, Sea Eagle, Golden Eagle, Violet Hative, Dymond, Royal George, and Alexander. We have also the Victoria Nectarine."

"You seem to have a large bed devoted to herbs?"

the yellow variety warmer treatment I lost a few of them.

"We also," continued Mr. Anderson, "pot a number of herbaceous Calceolarias (Veitch's strain), Marguerites, Tea Roses, Lilium longiflorum, Gladioli, and Cytisus."

"What about Carnations?"

"There are a hundred and fifty young plants, and three dozen two years old. The old pink variety is a great favourite, and among others are Churchwarden, Robert Burns, and Lady Rose."

"How many Violets do you force in the pits?"

"About five hundred plants, Marie Louise and Neapolitan. Later on we grow Cucumbers here. The varieties are Rochford and Telegraph. We find Veitch's Early Favourite a good French Bean for forcing. Only the green-fleshed Melons are grown; Law's Favourite and Eastnor Castle are the principal varieties; and of Tomatoes I prefer Frogmore Selected, Ham Green, and, for winter, Up-to-Date."

"Broccoli appears to be a feature outside?"

"We grow Self-Protecting, Veitch's Fine Spring White, Chelsea Favourite, Main Crop, Model, and Methven's June. For five years I have begun with Spring White in July, and, if the weather has been at all favourable, I have continued cutting until the end of May or the beginning of June, and I, therefore, strongly recommend these varieties."

"I should like to know your system."

"We plant in the undug ground after the Strawberry plants have been cleared off. If the weather is very dry, and the ground hard, we plant with a crowbar, and puddle the roots in. To this, chiefly, I attribute our success. The plants make nice, steady, firm growth, and they stand either severe or damp weather. We never lose more than five per cent. of the crop."

"Which Pea do you prefer?"

"The Autocrat is particularly good for late purposes, and has a fine flavour. I have had them picked in October. The Early London and Veitch's Autumn Giant are among the best Cauliflowers, and for Cabbages we depend considerably upon Ellam's Early, London Market, and Mein's No. 1."

"There remains the fruit in the kitchen garden."

"Apples and Pears are grown on espaliers and pyramids, and at the back of the espaliers is a row of Sweet Peas, while a herbaceous border runs right along both sides. The dessert Apples include Beauty of Bath, Court of Wick, Cockle's Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Dutch Mignonne, Ivery Pippin, King of Tompkins County, Pineapple Russet, Scarlet Nonpareil, Worcester Pearmain, and Yellow Ingestrie."

"And you have also Selwood's Reinette Apple?"

"Yes, our Selwood's Reinette Apples are rather famous, and equal in appearance to the best American. The trees are old, but healthy, and bear freely. The variety received its name from a nurseryman at Queen's Elm, Little Chelsea, in the eighteenth century. Our soil is exceptionally good for Apples."

"Which are the best Pears on the espaliers and pyramids?"

"Here are a dozen: Autumn Nelis, Beurré de Bosc, Beurré Alexander Lucas, Beurré Diel, Catillac, Comte de Lamy, Doyenné du Comice, Fondante d'Automne, Glou Morceau, Josephine de Malines, and Madame Treyve. The Peaches on the walls include, in addition to those I have already named, Condor and Osprey."

"You only grow Peaches outside?"

"No fruit, except Grapes, is grown under glass. The Plums and Damsons (dessert and cooking) include Belgian Purple, Belle de Louvain, Bryanston Greengage, Coe's Golden Drop, Czar, the Cluster, or Farleigh Damson, Denniston's Superb, Diamond, Rivers' Early Favourite, Royal Duke, Pond's Seedling, and Prince Robert."

"How many years have you been head gardener at Laleham?"

"Sixteen. I started my gardening experience in Scotland, at Rossie Priory, in Perthshire. After serving my apprenticeship there for five years, I went for a year to Baldevan House, Forfarshire, then for a year to Amesfield House, Haddingtonshire, and next to Penicuik House, Midlothian. At the end of three years I came to London for a season at Veitch's nursery, and then went to Farnley, Hull, Yorkshire. I was there two years, and was next for a year at Warriston Nursery, Edinburgh. I was afterwards foreman for a year at Raith, Kirkcaldy, and then head gardener for seven years and a half at Broad Meadows, Selkirkshire, whence I came to Laleham House."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

SOME RARE GARDEN BULBS.

DEAR KATE.—The garden is now very interesting, for all sorts of uncommon bulbs, etc., are appearing in it. I cannot understand how people can have the patience to go on year after year growing just the same things in their flower-beds; I like to have a surprise now and then, when a rare and beautiful flower unfolds its blossoms for the first time in my little domain. So we grow all manner of queer things, but all are lovely.

The Camassias, for instance, with spikes of starry flowers in creamy white (C. Leichtlini alba), or blue (C. esculenta), are now throwing up strong spikes of bloom, having lived here, and multiplied themselves in our borders, for several years. They are related to the Hyacinths and Scillas, but some of them grow to the height of two feet, and are very effective in the early spring. All they need is a well-drained, gravelly soil, and a sunny position where they can ripen their bulbs; for they come from South America, and consequently enjoy warmth.

TIGRIDIA ALBA.

Then there are the Alstrœmerias, which make fine groups of colour in the garden, especially A. aurea, the hardiest of them all, which grows tall, and produces a mass of golden bloom, most effective for cutting, and also in the garden, so that one can scarcely have too much of it. Alstrœmeria Chinensis is in many tints of apricot and pink, also very beautiful, and this, too, increases in my garden, and forms great clumps of bloom; but we indulge it with a layer of ashes in winter, to keep out the worst of the frost, and when we remove these in March, we give the plants a good mulch of old hotbed stuff, mixed with soot and a little soil, instead, on which it thrives. A. Pelegrina is more delicate, and we find it best to grow this in a pot, sheltering it in a cold glass porch in the winter, from which, however, sharp frost is excluded, for we put a good lamp on the floor of it on frosty nights. The white variety (alba) of Pelegrina is the best; the other is in pink, but not quite so lovely as the white one, I think. It can be repotted when dormant, in the autumn, and given good, rich loam, leaf-mould and soot, without fresh manure.

We have been planting out a lot of young Tigridias, which we raised from seed a year or two ago; these gorgeous flowers, of the same class as the Irises, are a feast of colour in the garden from July to September. The blossoms only last one day, but they are produced in succession for many weeks, and they are extraordinarily beautiful, in rich and delicate hues, difficult to describe. The typical flower (T. pavonia) is scarlet, with tiger-spots in deep maroon-black; then there is T. rosea, in the loveliest shade of pale pink, with crimson markings; T. aurea, in tints of yellow and rich brown; T. alba, creamy white, with deep, red spots; T. immaculata, in pure white, etc., etc.; they look like a flight of splendid South American butterflies when in blossom, more than anything else. Here they grow and increase from year to year in the warm border just outside the conservatory; and we have planted the lovely Pohlia Platensis, too, in the same warm border, which is now coming up strongly. This is a flower of the same shape as a Tigridia, but in deep sky-blue (so it is said), and we are looking forward to this rare tint appearing amongst the mass of Tigridias in summer; for it ought to be most effective with all those warm colours. These bulbs are put in during March and April, but it may not be too late to get them yet, if you lose no time about it.

Then there are the lovely Star Tulips (Calochorti), of which the best varieties are the Eldorado-Venustus group; and Vesta, in creamy-white, with blotches at the base of each petal, like those on a peacock's feather, is one of the loveliest of these. The bulbs of the Calochortus have to be planted in September or October, in a well-drained position; and it is a good plan to cover them with a pane of glass, raised on four small pots, to keep them fairly dry in winter, for they, too, come from South America. They don't object to the cold nearly so much as the wet soil of our islands at that time, and unless they are protected by glass in this way they are apt to rot, instead of growing. The flowers appear in the summer, but almost without leaves, the foliage being small and insignificant; so that it is a good plan to carpet the surrounding space with Pansies, or some dwarf annual, when the lovely flowers will look their best. As soon as the blooms are over, however, the raised glass should be put on again, as they need more warmth than we usually get in the autumn to ripen their bulbs. You can take up the bulbs for a short time in the autumn, if you like, but I find they do best in the soil, if kept fairly dry, and they should be replanted not later than the first week in October, adding sand and powdered charcoal to the soil (which must be fairly good), and putting the little bulbs two inches below the surface.

I will tell you about some more of our bulbs next week; but now I must remind you of various things which need attention at this very busy time of the year.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Anderson, William (1766–1846), *horticulturist*
by James Britten, *rev.* Anne Pimlott Baker
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Anderson, William (1766–1846), horticulturist, was born in Easter Warrington, Edinburgh, the son of a forester and gardener to a Jacobite laird in the western highlands who had helped Charles Edward, the Young Pretender, to escape after the 1745 rising. He was known to be working in some nurseries near Edinburgh about 1790; he later made his way to London, and in 1793 became gardener to James Vere, of Kensington Gore, a wealthy silk merchant who had a large collection of plants.

In 1814 the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries appointed Anderson gardener—a title changed during his occupancy of the office to curator—of the Chelsea Physic Garden, a post which he filled until his death. He quickly revived the garden from the state of neglect into which it had fallen during the Napoleonic wars. He introduced new plants, sowed thousands of seeds, and made various improvements, such as using sand to convey warmth to the plants. He repaired the dilapidated buildings, and changed the former culinary garden into one for instructive horticulture. Anderson was elected an associate of the Linnean Society in 1798, and he became a fellow in 1815. He contributed various papers on horticultural subjects to the *Gardener's Magazine* and the *Transactions of the Horticultural Society*, including 'On the introduction and cultivation of a variety of *Azalea Indica*' (2, 1817, 258).

Anderson was tall and burly, and of rough appearance and manners, but kind. He lived alone and had no known relatives. He possessed a diamond ring, presented by the emperor of Russia in return for his care of some valuable orange trees. Anderson died intestate at St George's Hospital, Chelsea, London, on 6 October 1846, and was buried in the churchyard of the Old Church, Chelsea.

JAMES BRITTEN, *rev.* ANNE PIMLOTT BAKER

Sources H. Field, *Memoirs of the botanic garden at Chelsea belonging to the Society of Apothecaries of London*, rev. R. H. Semple (1878) · Desmond, *Botanists* · d. cert.
Likenesses J. Henning, paste medallion, 1810, Scot. NPG

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William Anderson (1766–1846): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/504

The Use of Bacterial Cultures.

April 23rd.—The experiments of Professor Bottomley with nitrifying bacteria (previously described in these notes) have led to various cultures being put on the market, and, as they can now be obtained very cheaply, they are sure to be used more or less indiscriminately, the inevitable result being disappointment. I will, therefore, repeat the warning which I gave some months ago. These cultures will increase certain leguminous crops, such as Peas and Beans, under certain conditions. Ordinary

MR. ALFRED ANDREWS.

garden soil contains plenty of the nitrifying bacteria; nothing, therefore, is gained by introducing more of them. It is only in poor soil that any effect will be seen. And no effect will be seen even there unless the other plant-ingredients, such as phosphates and potash, are present in sufficient quantities; if they are not, they also must be added. The largest plum-pudding which you can make depends on the amount of the ingredient of which you have proportionately least, not on the one of which you have most; it is useless having a stone of flour if you have only a pound of Raisins. And so it is with plants. It is merely waste to supply them with large quantities of nitrogen unless the other ingredients are brought up to the same level. They cannot use the excess, and it drains away into the lower strata, where it is lost, even to the crops that follow, for their roots cannot reach it. It will be seen, then, that the application of bacterial cultures to the land has no practical value except within certain narrow limits, and that within those limits certain precautions must be observed, otherwise the result is bound to be disappointing.

Mildew and its Cure.

April 24th.—Though mildew is such a common disease, it is, fortunately, one which may be easily cured. For the parasitic fungus which causes it, unlike those which cause the diseases among Hollyhocks and Potatoes, develops outside the tissues, and can therefore be destroyed by spraying. Bordeaux mixture has been used with complete success for the powdery mildew of Peas, but a solution of sulphide of potassium would be simpler and safer, and probably equally efficacious.

April 25th.—Kent is a beautiful county at all seasons, but never more beautiful than in spring, when the Cherry is in bloom. It is no wonder that the Japanese love these exquisite flowers, placing them next to Chrysanthemums. In England, however, we are generally content with admiring them on the trees. For the sake of the fruit, they are seldom gathered, but where a spray or two can be spared, they look charming in vases.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Hon. William Lowther.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ALFRED ANDREWS, AT CAMPSEA ASHE HIGH HOUSE, WICKHAM MARKET.

AMONGST gardens in the county of Suffolk none excel in interest those of Campsea Ashe High House, the seat of the Hon. William Lowther, which I visited, by the courtesy of the owner, towards the end of March. Moreover, Mr. Alfred Andrews, the head gardener, who has been in his present position just twenty-one years, and was previously foreman at Shrubland Hall, is well known in the horticultural world as a singularly successful exhibitor. Happily, the weather was favourable, and the sun, shining brightly on the handsome mansion, invested its surroundings with the brightness which always constitutes a charm.

How to Get Masses of Colour.

"There is one thing you might keep in mind," said Mr. Andrews, as we passed through the entrance gate to the sunk garden, "we go in for masses of colour and variety of flowers, but not for specialities. I am a strong believer in all-round gardening."

"What do you have in the sunk garden for summer flowering?"

"Tall-growing herbaceous plants, like Phlox, Asters, Tritomas, Pentstemons, and Antirrhinums and Hollyhocks, in the four main beds. The last do well with us, and we often get them without a spot. Campsea Ashe Pink was raised here by me; I brought the seed from Shrubland Hall. The beds are edged with Calceolarias amplexicaula. The round bed in the centre, which is changed every year, is now filled with giant Pentstemons. Clematis Jackmanii superba climbs right up to the top of the Hall, and at the foot is planted Solanum jasminioides, whose white flowers are just becoming visible. The background, as you see, consists of Acers (some of them very handsome), the Dartmouth Crab, and Cotoneaster frigida."

"Do you retard any of the plants to get them late?"

"Yes, I cut a lot of them back, especially the Phlox and Hollyhock. By this means we have a show of flower as late as October, when the shooting season begins. We used to have Geraniums and Fuchsias here, but they were not tall enough to be seen. Now, a blaze of colour attracts attention immediately anyone enters the gates. At the four points of this garden the Tritomas are always conspicuous."

"You have more Acers on the other side of the lawn?"

"Acers are quite a feature. They came from Japan. You will notice that there is no Ivy on the trees. We cut it all away."

The Treatment of Pampas Grass.

"I notice, too, that Pampas Grass flourishes."

"It is a great help to us. We have about forty clumps in different places. I have just been adding to the quantity. Pampas Grass lights up the place in October, and, in fact, flowers beautifully all through the autumn."

"Do the clumps require much attention?"

"I trim them in February, and then give them a good soaking of sewage. They need nothing more."

"What is the nature of your soil?"

"A mixture of loam and sand. It is good soil. The bed where the Laburnums stand, on a slope, with Crimson Rambler Roses on the stems, is made up of the hybrid Nicotianas, chosen entirely with a view to wealth of colour, the shades represented being crimson, scarlet, white, pink, and violet. They keep in flower up to November. With regard to Acers, we are now approaching the Japanese garden, in which you will see many more."

CAMPSEA ASHE HIGH HOUSE, WICKHAM MARKET.

The Japanese Garden.

"You have succeeded in making it very realistic."

"We have done our best, not omitting the

tea-house, which is thatched with Heather from the common. The bedding is arranged in the shape of a lantern. There are steps of stone on the grass to walk over, and a house for the Japanese pheasants. Many of the Acers and other plants in this garden were brought by Sir Gerard Lowther from Tokio. Bamboos do as well as the Acers, especially anceps, metake, and nitida. Yuccas and the variegated Golden Privet also thrive."

"Are all the beds planted with Roses?"

"Practically. There are two beds of Rosa rugosa, the other six being Hybrid Teas, Mildred Grant, Lord Roberts, Gruss an Teplitz, Marie van Houtte, Frau Karl Druschki, and Mark Twain. These six beds are edged with pink Violas. The Roses at the entrance are Wichurian, with Paul Néron in the centre, and the lofty pole in the middle of the garden is planted with white and blue Clematis. The tints of the Acers are lovely, and the vigour of the trees is wonderful."

Decorative Plants for Tubs.

Then, passing the extensive bowling green, shut in by clipped Yew hedges, which form ornamental walls, with Roses Lamarque, Ideal, and Fellenberg, we discussed the creepers on the mansion.

"These include," said Mr. Andrews, "Magnolia grandiflora, Jasminum primulinum, Pyrus japonica, Solanum jasminioides, scarlet Honeysuckle, and Roses, chiefly Devoniensis. Planted in marble tubs are Roses Dr. Grill and W. A. Richardson, also Garrya elliptica, and other tubs contain Heliotrope Countess Minto (the dwarf variety). At the entrance, and all round the house, we plant Chrysanthemums, which flower up to Christmas. Tropæolum speciosum does well in the dark corners, and in the square bed under the dining-room window are two plants of Acer negundo variegata, with Clematis climbing in amongst them. Then there is a bed with a row of Liliums, Salvia patens, a band of Verbenas (Princess of Wales), and a border of Violas. This bed is taken up every year."

"Plants in tubs seem to be very numerous."

"I suppose we have quite a hundred. The tubs are all made of old paraffin casks, painted white."

"But how do you fill so many?"

"Largely with Hydrangeas, which are from four to five feet through. Campanula pyramidalis, Agapanthus, Solanum jasminioides, Fuchsias in variety, Geranium Charles Turner, Humeas elegans (eight plants in a tub), Lithospermums, Lilium auratum, and Calceolarias Berberi are used for this purpose, and they all do well. The other bed near the mansion contains Escallonias as bushes, and is planted with Antirrhinums Scarlet Defiance, having on the wall behind more Clematis, Pyracantha, Choisya ternata, and Eucalyptus Gunnii. On the back wall, Climbing Devoniensis there grows over the library windows, and the white Jasminum and Ampelopsis Veitchii are the other creepers. Here, we face the cricket ground, and on the other side of the long moat is a fence of English Yews."

Treatment of Bamboos.

"Have you many Nymphæas in the moat?"

"Half a score of clumps of N. rosea, N. odorata, N. alba, and N. Ellisiana; also a clump of Aponogeton, which came from the Modder River. On one side of the moat are clumps of Pampas Grass, varied with clumps of Monthly Roses, which flower almost to the end of the year, the best being Fellenberg. There are also clumps of Bamboos. I find that, so long as Bamboos are given a good start, they will grow anywhere."

"Have you any particular method of treatment?"

"We take the clumps up in March, and get them into pots, keeping them in a cold house till they begin to make roots, planting them out the third week in April, with rotten rubbish and an accumulation of earth.

"You may like," continued Mr. Andrews, "to note the bed under the Cedar, forming a hill. It is entirely planted with six varieties of Antirrhinums—Sutton's Terra-cotta, Cloth of Gold, Chamois (silver), Snow Queen (white), and Sunset (pink). In the centre is an Acer, with Clematis Jackmanii superba, dotted with clumps of Tritoma uvaria, a very free-flowering variety."

"Is there anything special near the smaller moat?"

"At the end of it there is a quantity of Chrysanthemum maximum The Speaker, a variety which was raised here in 1903. The plants begin to flower in July, and continue until October. These, with Tritomas, Astilbe Davidii, clumps of Iris Kæmpferi, Polygonum amplexicaule, line the banks of the moat. To finish the pleasure gardens, you might mention that under the kitchen garden wall there is a border of Bamboos sixty yards long, and they are so thick that a thousand could be cut without being missed. At the entrance to the kitchen garden itself is a fine clump of Berberis vulgaris, which is at its best in September. The Cedars on the lawn are very handsome, and, as you can see, all the better for not being propped. Other trees include a grand Copper Beech, fine specimens of Ilex, a Mulberry tree, and a very rare tree, Celtis australis, or the Nettle tree, with a bark like metal."

THE CENTRAL WALK IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT CAMPSEA ASHE.

The Fruit and Flower Garden.

"Your kitchen garden appears to be quite unusual in character?"

"It has really ceased to be a kitchen garden in the ordinary sense, and is exclusively devoted to flowers and fruit, clumps, bands, and borders of the latter being the great feature. Through the centre on each side are Verbenas Miss Willmott. But perhaps I had better tell you how a few beds are made up. For example, there is a scroll of the Giant Larkspur, blue and scarlet, which, in order to secure prolongation of blooms, is never allowed to seed. One prominent feature is a great border of Carnation, made up of sixteen beds, each containing a single variety."

"Do you give them any protection?"

"We put a pole up, and form a square, in order to protect them from sun and rain. As to treatment, if we see a spot on any of the plants, we give them a little sulphur and lime, which soon has the desired effect. The varieties include J. H. Cutbush, Oakley, Hogarth, The Queen, Duchess of Fife, and Miss Lowther, a white variety which was raised here. I may say with regard to these borders that there is not an inch of ground uncovered at the height of the flowering season. Here is a bed of Chrysanthemum The Speaker, six square yards in extent."

"I observe that in front of your Vine borders you have a herbaceous border. I suppose the Vines do not suffer?"

"Not in the least. As to the herbaceous border itself, which has Roses at the back, it is planted in clumps, with an eye to colour, and embraces all sorts of varieties, old and new, including Anemone Queen Charlotte (white), Isatis glauca (yellow), and Catananche bicolor. We have the entire World's Fair collection of Gladioli, and Gladioli are also used for filling up the clumps of border Carnations, Raby Castle. We clump great quantities of Phlox, in almost every variety of colour; also Anthericums Kelwayii (nine in a clump), Montbretias, and Celsia cretica, using fifty in a clump."

"What is your treatment of Celsias?"

"We sow the seed in February, and they flower the same year, the flower-spikes, which are like Foxgloves, being from three to five feet high. Between the herbaceous plants and the Roses, we have a row of Hollyhocks Campsea Ashe Pink."

A Notable Pergola.

"Speaking of Roses, you have a very handsome pergola?"

"Of which Roses are but one feature. The varieties are Aglaia, Carmine Pillar, Bouquet d'Or, Olga de Wurtemburg, and Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, and Clematis in variety is also used; Ipomœa cœrulea, Vitis Coignetiæ, and the Chilian Nettle give variety. Then, at the break there are Pears, Apples, and Plums. The pergola itself is made with Larch uprights, with a piece laid across, the length being fifty yards, and the width twelve feet. Of course, there are a great number of varieties of other plants in beds or borders, but as there is still a good deal to see, we had better go on to something else."

"What about hardy fruit?"

"Gooseberries are all grown on wire fences. There is not much wall, so that our Peaches are grown on wooden fences seven feet high; they also have the advantage of making a break in the garden. The varieties that do well on fences are Royal George, Gross Mignonne, and Early Rivers Peach, and Violet Hative Nec-

tarine. To secure a good crop of Red and Black Currants, we cut the centres out every year, and there is not a bit of old wood left. You may like to know that, on the top of the north wall, on which Tropæolum speciosum grows luxuriantly, and which has been knocked down to four and a half feet high, we plant in boxes, Carnations, Antirrhinums, and Geraniums."

The Orchard Walk.

Mr. Andrews' own house is surrounded by gardens, one of which contains a number of single beds of Geraniums in variety, while at the back of the house is a bed ten feet long, with a row of Hollyhocks in the centre, other herbaceous plants in blocks, the whole being edged with golden Calceolarias. On the walls behind are Peaches Walburton Admirable under a coping, so that the fruit is gathered as late as October. There are other herbaceous borders, and on the house is the Campsea Ashe Rose, which, when it is in bloom, gives a mass of colour, with a white and yellow centre. Further on is the orchard walk.

"This," explained Mr. Andrews, "was originally an orchard, but it is now used for various purposes. The border, full of Roses growing up Larches twelve feet high, is planted first with bulbs, then with Antirrhinums, and subsequently with Mallows. In this walk we grow for showing and cutting. We never rob the garden itself for showing."

"Judging by the number of cards I have seen, you must have shown enormously."

"There are about 2,500 cards, which were won at the Royal Horticultural Shows, The Temple, Crystal Palace, Colchester, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Bury St. Edmunds, and Halesworth, for herbaceous plants, flowers, fruit, and vegetables. Woodbridge is one of the best shows. One of the greatest successes we scored, I think, was in 1906, when we were first in London with Apples."

"Do you grow many varieties of Apples?"

"All the best varieties, and they are grown as standards and bushes. We have Strawberries under the Apple trees, the varieties being Leader, Royal Sovereign, Monarch, and British Queen. Although the orchard walk is chiefly for purposes of utility, we make it as pretty as we can. Here is a Fuchsia fence, with Roses on pillars, and behind the Roses a number of herbaceous varieties. A little further on is a Lavender fence, with Fellenberg Roses behind. Then there is a pergola thirty yards long, with Roses and Clematis mixed. I cut the Clematis down within eighteen inches of the ground, and find that is the best way of making it flourish. On the other side of this pergola are dwarf Hybrid Perpetual Roses, with Ten-week Stocks between them, and, as a rule, Violas. But this year I am using Sanvitalia procumbens, which bears a resemblance to a Sunflower. We have a trial ground, facing south, where we test a good many plants, but there still remain the houses to inspect. By the way, here is a little house which is movable, and set on the top of the pipes."

The Glasshouses.

"Do you go in for many varieties of Tomatoes?"

"Only two—Sutton's A1, and Come-to-Stay, raised by me, eight years ago. Duke of York Potatoes and Carrots are grown on hotbeds. I plant them thickly, take up the first row, and leave the alternate one. In the Melon and Cucumber house we grow Golden Perfection and Hero of Lockinge, and on the stage here I am trying the new Coleus cordata."

"Where are your Vineries?"

"We shall have to cross the long moat to get to them. On the walls of the second Vinery we grow several varieties of scarlet Geraniums, and I suppose there is a large number of the best Malmaison Carnations on the stage. In the three Vineries we grow Muscat of Alexandria, Mrs. Pince, Black Alicante, Madresfield Court and Lady Downe. On the wall of one of the Vineries are Roses Niphetos and Maréchal Niel, which we cut back directly they flower, and obtain a great quantity of bloom."

"Your Peach crops look promising."

"The varieties are Stirling Castle, Barrington, Royal George, and Nectarines Pineapple and Violet Hative. We also have a cool Peach-house, in which other varieties are grown."

"We have not said anything about Pears."

"All the best varieties are grown, and if the old ones are not flourishing, I take off the heads, and graft on another. For instance, I have grafted Doyenné du Comice on Marie Louise, and Pitmaston Duchess on Glou Morceau."

Then, having looked in the Orchid house, which contains Cattleyas, Calanthes, Dendrobiums, Cypripediums, and Vandas, and the greenhouse, where Primulas, Cyclamen, and Francoas were in evidence, I asked Mr. Andrews about the vegetable garden, which I had not time to see.

Sweet Pea Cultivation.

"It covers over two and a half acres of land, which has at different periods been all double-dug. Onions, of which Ailsa Craig and A1 are the two chiefly grown, do exceedingly well. Of garden Peas, Royal Standard, Century, Royal Salute, and Harbinger are mostly grown. A good bed of Strawberries (ten rows) looks very promising. Of early Cauliflowers, the First Crop and Early London are looking well; also Lettuces. In the middle of the vegetables of different varieties are sixty-four rings of Sweet Peas. The rings are four feet across, nine inches deep, and there are fifty varieties, including all the latest kinds. By the side of the kitchen garden, on a border, are thousands of Daffodils, now coming into flower. Just beyond, the main crop of Potatoes are grown, and separating these is a young nursery of ornamental trees and Roses grown for stock purposes. Here are more Daffodils, Canterbury Bells, Wallflowers, etc. Asparagus is grown in beds three feet wide. The rest of the land at present is marked out ready for the crops for the season."

"You might tell me your treatment of Sweet Peas."

"They are sown in January in 'sixty'-size pots, eight to ten seeds in each, raised in a cool house. About the second week in March they are hardened off in a cold frame; by the first week in April they will be ready for the flowering quarters, which are prepared beforehand. The best way to grow Sweet Peas is to prepare rings, four feet across, nine inches in depth, giving a fairly good supply of well-decayed manure, well dug into the land. We planted them about nine inches apart, round the rings, watering them well. During the growing season it is necessary to give them artificial manure once a week, and in the flowering-time they are watered well—about eight to ten pails to a ring. For a late supply of flowers, another sowing is made, about the end of March, in pots placed into a frame. They are then served the same way as the first batch, and these are very useful for placing a ring or two amongst the herbaceous borders. I may say that Mr. Lowther is very fond of his gardens, as the late Mrs. Lowther was, also, and of almost every kind of flower grown in them."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 299.—IRISES.

DEAR KATE,—May is the month of Irises, though these charming flowers are with us in one variety or another for at least eight months in the year. Throughout the winter, nearly till the end of April, we were daily supplied with the long-stemmed Algerian Iris unguiculata (syn. stylosa), which is so valuable in the garden at that time. In February the delicate blossoms of Iris Sindpers appeared in indescribable tints of blue-mauve, spotted with black and gold; also Iris histrio, quickly followed by the Violet-scented blossoms of I. reticulata histrioides. Early in April the tall stems (bearing five flowers one above the other), of Iris Sindjarensis and I. bucharica (which flourish together in the border from year to year) shot up, and the creamy-yellow flowers of the latter are still as I write most conspicuously handsome. The exquisitely-fringed flowers of Iris tectorum (the plant which adorns the roofs in Japan and China) are due about the middle of May, and by that time the masses of rich colour produced by Iris germanica in variety will be in bloom, most desirable in the herbaceous border, with the rest of the barbata group, such as the Florentine Iris (I. florentina), in milky-white; albicans Princess of Wales, in pure white, a very early flower; I. flavescens, in primrose-yellow; I. sambucina, in "high-art" shades of copper, purple, and gold; and I. Cengialti Loppio, which is well worth having, notwithstanding its extraordinary title, for its deep blue flowers are both early and very fragrant.

Dwarf Irises.

The dwarf Bearded Irises from the Crimea bloom about the same time. Many of them are in various tints of yellow, one of the most remarkable of which is that of Orange Queen, whilst Peter Barr, in deep-claret purple, forms a grand contrast, and pumila Count Andrassy is a fine flower in azure-blue, whilst Margaret is in delicate mauve and white, with a large golden crest, and Fieberi is in the richest purple. These dwarf Irises are but little known, yet they should be in every garden. All the barbata group of Irises will flourish even in a city, and they increase and multiply into large clumps if not disturbed for a few years. They are absolutely hardy, and can be relied upon to blossom finely without much attention, so what flowers could be better for the garden?

The Spanish Irises, with their splendid Orchid-like blooms, are rather more often seen, but even these are often conspicuous by their absence from our borders. They should be planted early in the autumn if they are to do well. Bulbs put in during the winter have usually lost much of their vitality, and are likely to become rotten, instead of starting good roots, and if you wish for plenty of the bulbous Irises, you should order them in August, and plant the bulbs directly they reach you, in well-drained, sunny borders, of rather light soil.

Cultural Details.

The barbata Irises are not bulbous, and are not at all difficult to suit in the matter of soil or situation; but those of the reticulata group, with the rest of the Irises which blossom very early, should be planted about eight inches from a south wall, and sheltered in winter by means of a spare frame-light placed over their roots, in a slanting position from the wall behind them, or else in pots in a cool house, for the winter rains and melting snow are not at all desirable for them. They enjoy a light but good soil, with a mulch of old hotbed material in spring; but Iris stylosa needs a poor, gravelly soil, with all the sunshine it can get, for we can never supply it with the sun-

CAN SWALLOWS REASON?

July 12th.—What guides swallows, young birds as well as old, to build their nests on the north and east sides of a house, where, shaded from strong sunshine, the clay is not so liable to crack and break away? It is not easy to regard this as a case of instinct, which has been defined as inherited memory. It must surely be due to some process of reasoning. That animals do reason, though not always more correctly than human beings, is certain. To mention a well-known instance, a pike was placed in a tank of water divided in the middle by a sheet of glass, on the other side of which were minnows. For three months it kept dashing against the glass in the attempt to reach them. It then learned the lesson that the minnows were protected in some mysterious way, and even after the glass partition had been removed, and they were no longer confined to half of the tank, it did not try to molest them, though it darted after and devoured other kinds of fish. Here the possession of a limited power of reasoning is clearly established. And, I think, in choosing the positions for their nests, swallows must also reason. They are the only birds I know that seem to fly purely for the pleasure of flying. It is delightful to watch them. Being insect-feeders, they are classed as useful birds, but I doubt if they help the gardener very much. Their food consists almost entirely of midges, gnats, and other small flies, which they catch on the wing. I have seen them swoop at a butterfly or a moth, but that does not happen often. H. C. DAVIDSON.

MR. ALFRED ANDREWS.

The business of Messrs. Poad and Sons, Potato growers, etc., of York, has been registered as a private limited liability company, with a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares.

At the recent show at Chelsea in aid of St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded sailors and soldiers, the first prize for a collection of herbaceous plants, occupying a space of thirty by seven feet, was awarded to Messrs. W. Artindale and Son, Sheffield. The premier award for Roses went to Messrs. Alexander Dickson and Sons, Belfast; and the same firm also took the leading honours for Sweet Peas. The trophy for the best exhibit in the show was awarded to Messrs. James Carter and Co., Raynes Park, who made a gorgeous display with greenhouse plants and hardy annuals.

FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

CAMPSEA ASHE HIGH HOUSE.

Interview with Mr. A. Andrews.

IT is well-known that the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Right Hon. J. W. Lowther—like many a famous man before him—finds relaxation from his arduous duties to the State in the enjoyment of a garden. In town he is a frequent visitor to the principal shows; at his country seat, Campsea Ashe High House, he possesses examples of many styles, from the formal sunk garden to the rosery, rockery, broad herbaceous borders, and water garden. In his head gardener, too, he is well served, for Mr. Alfred Andrews has been in charge for over thirty-three years—ever since the property was bought by the late Hon. James Lowther, father of the present owner—and under his care many of the features of the gardens have been brought to their present excellence, while others are entirely due to him.

Campsea Ashe is a tiny village adjacent to Wickham Market, itself a small country town near Woodbridge, in Suffolk, but once a place of considerable importance. The High House is between two and three hundred years old, and many of the trees and hedges in the grounds are about the same age. These hedges, indeed, are a striking feature of the place.

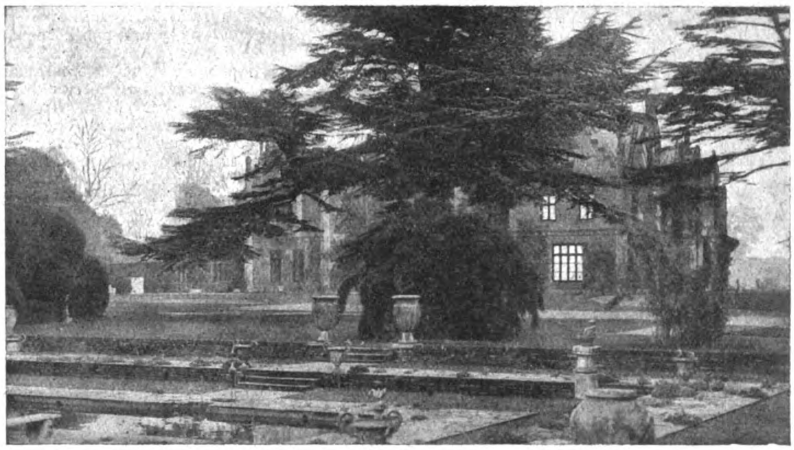
On the day, early in June, when I travelled down to see Mr. Andrews, the drought still held the land in its power, though there was a distinct promise of its speedy break-up. But in the pleasure grounds little of its effect was to be seen, thanks to the excellent supply of water on the estate. Entering by the gate near to Mr. Andrews' house, and turning sharply to the left, we came at once upon one of the sources of the water supply, a long pond about an acre in extent, with sloping banks, on which are planted Senecios, Spiræas Davidiana and palmata, and other moisture-loving subjects.

"We call these the canals," explained Mr. Andrews. "There is another and longer one parallel with this, behind the tall Yew hedge. Much of this has had to go wild, as we have had no labour to attend to it. We used to keep a staff of eight or nine men, but these, of course, were mostly taken for the army. Among them was one of my sons, who had been of great help to me in the gardens; he, I am sorry to say, was one of those who went under. In place of the men I was fortunate in getting several women gardeners, who did very well; but there were many tasks you could not ask a woman to do, so that much necessary work had to go. That is why some parts round here have not had the required attention. We have not been able to clear the weeds off the water. Two years ago I tried sulphate of copper in a bag, drawn from one end to the other, but though it killed the fish, it did little harm to the weeds."

"What is the total extent of the gardens?"

"Including the woods and water, there are nineteen acres, and we also have an orchard, and a three-acre kitchen garden a quarter of a mile away."

Passing beyond the canal, we approached the west front of the house, on which are climbing plants of many sorts. Clematis montana grows rampantly; while more uncommon is C. connata, which, however, comes into flower earlier than in most places, and at a time when the family are not there to appreciate it. Climbing Roses beautify the walls in summer. Cotoneasters give bright berries in autumn and winter; and many other fine plants help in their season.



CAMPSEA ASHE HIGH HOUSE, AND THE FORMAL GARDEN.

A FINE CEDAR.

Looking straight ahead from the front of the house, the view is broken by some majestic Cedars—one, in the foreground, is a hundred and three feet high—while across the lawn is a sunk formal garden, with a pond in the centre, to which we made our way.

"This garden," said Mr. Andrews, "I made during the first year I came here. The lead tank in the centre is dated 1577, and some of the figures are very old. The beds are planted this year with mauve and pink—Ivy-leaved Geranium Madame Crousse and dwarf Ageratums. I change the scheme every year, to avoid sameness. One year I had white Lilies and Spiræa Queen Alexandra, which made a nice combination."

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"There are some very fine Yews here," I remarked, as we walked on, and next came to the bowling green.

"The Yews are about two hundred and fifty years old; and altogether there is about six weeks' trimming every year. I have been told that when the Yews round this bowling green—which is also very old—were first planted, they represented all the letters of the Greek alphabet, but they have long since outgrown their original limits, and the shape cannot now be recognised."

"And here you have fine banks of Roses," I

A CORNER OF ONE OF THE LAWNS.

said, as we came to the next enclosure, and I noticed the sloping sides were covered with climbers, pegged down.

"Yes," was the reply; "this used to be the Rosery, but owing to the tall trees around, and the thick hedges, the plants did not get on at all well, so I grassed down the beds, and put in climbing Roses on pillars and arches, and these seem to thrive. The varieties pegged down on the bank are Fellenberg and Dorothy Perkins, and behind them is Safrano.

A SHELTERED ROCK GARDEN.

Turning to the right, beyond the bank of Roses, we passed under a little rustic arch, and over a broken path, to a charming sunk rock garden, made by Mr. Andrews five years ago. Shut in on the north and east by tall trees, and on the other two sides sheltered by Bamboos and high banks, it is as secluded and delightful a spot as one could wish for. And this seclusion does not prevent its being gay with flowers, though these were later in blooming than in more open situations. Here, in June, were Saxifrages and other plants which elsewhere were long past their best. In the centre is a small mound with a miniature pond, approached by steps. At the top are a couple of Yuccas, their bold foliage imparting a note of distinctiveness; while a nice bush of Olearia Haastii, which stands the winter unprotected, is full of bloom, whose whiteness makes an effective contrast with a clump of crimson Heuchera in the direct line of sight. Peeping out between the rockwork—it is Kentish rag—are many Sedums, Sempervivums, and Saxifrages, and nearer to the water are masses of bright-hued Primulas. The Primulas are a strong feature altogether, and on the outer slopes they are seen in broad patches of many colours. They are, mainly, hybrids raised from seed supplied by Thompson and Morgan, of Ipswich, together with a number of P. japonica. Long belts of rich violet are furnished by Viola gracilis; in another place a liberal planting of Erysimum Perofskianum gives a touch of orange-yellow; brightness is provided elsewhere by Potentilla Veitchii; and behind there will be seen a clump of Cytisus in pale yellow. This by no means exhausts the list of flowering plants, which is indeed fully comprehensive; while handsome Ferns supply greenery, and wherever the situation admits, Arundo Donax lends an additional embellishment.

A winding path through the trees brought us back to a sunk lawn just beyond the house. The five beds here were, in pre-war days, filled with Paul Crampel Geraniums; these gave way to Scarlet Runners, but this year their place is taken by Antirrhinums in blocks of colour.

TREES ON THE LAWN.

Crossing this lawn we get to the north side of the house—the principal entrance—and look along an avenue of stately Limes leading up to a paved court, with tubs of Hydrangeas on each side. We did not linger here, however, but passing again along the west side, note as we go some of the grand old trees. A wonderful Copper Beech, seventy feet high, has a girth of sixteen feet; a giant Cedar, at six feet, measures twenty-one and a half feet round; and many others are but little less.

"These trees," said Mr. Andrews, "were treated wrongly many years ago. Instead of being allowed to grow naturally, with the branches hanging down to the ground, the idea was to make them stand out horizontally, and leave a clear space under them. To do this they were hooped up with iron. This had the desired effect, but provision was not made for their normal increase in girth, and in consequence the iron has constricted many of the branches, which are weakened, and are gradually cut through, so that they eventually break away."

At the back of this lawn, for a distance of seventy yards, is a hedge of Bamboos, at least two yards through, concerning which I was told:

"These have all developed from six little pieces I brought with me thirty-three years ago. Now they run into thousands. We never have to buy canes for staking; in fact, when they are cut down each year there are more than we know what to do with."

GORGEOUS GERANIUMS.

Through a gap in this hedge we came into what is known as the old kitchen garden, now devoted entirely to herbaceous and other plants, and fruit trees. Before looking at these, however, we turned into the houses, entering first into a Vinery, seventy years old. The Vines looked promising; but what most attracted my attention was a glorious display of Geraniums, trained on the back wall. There are eleven plants. Each is twelve feet high, and a mass of glowing rose, crimson, and scarlet from top to bottom. The varieties are Lord Kitchener, Captivation, and Lemoine, all carrying immense trusses on stout stems, in some cases a foot long.

"How long have they been in bloom?" I asked.

"Over two months; and they will keep on for some time yet. They give us plenty of flowers for cutting."

"They are apparently each in a small bed?"

"Yes; the beds are only two feet by one foot for each plant. If they were not restricted they would spread too much. Of course, I feed them well, and when they have done blooming I cut them in. There are flues running under the border, and that helps them considerably."

The Vines in this house are Alicante, Mrs. Pince, and Muscat of Alexandria; in the early house, Black Hamburgh and more Muscats, all with the roots on an outside border. On the back of the early Vinery are Brown Turkey and Brunswick Figs.

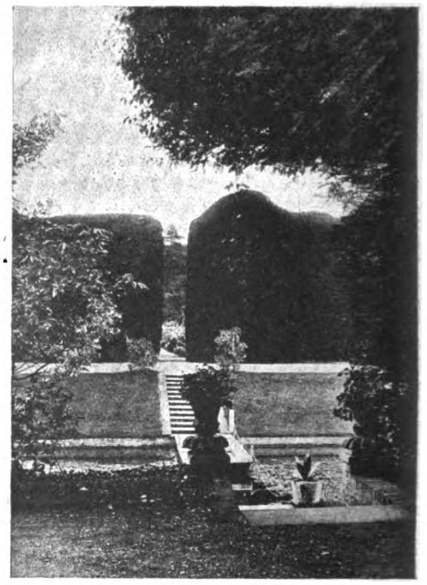
From the Vinery we went into the Peach range. The early house has Peaches Peregrine, Dymond, and Royal George, and Nectarines Pitmaston Orange and Pineapple—all young trees; in the late house the varieties are Royal George and Dymond.

POINTS IN PEACH CULTURE.

Asked as to his methods of culture, Mr. Andrews said: "I do not trouble to use a rabbit's tail for fertilising, but just shake the wires. This, I find, disperses the pollen sufficiently to ensure a good set. After the fruit is set I give a good mulch; and during the autumn and winter I give the trees a frequent soaking. Many growers fail with Peaches because they neglect them after the fruit is gathered, and in consequence the trees do not carry a full crop the next season."

"Were you able to keep all your plants during the war?" I asked, as, leaving these houses, we made our way towards the stove.

"No," was the answer; "both labour and fuel were too scarce, but I managed to save a little of each for stock, so that nothing was really lost, and I shall be able to work them up again. Last winter, when fuel was practically unobtainable, we had to fall back on wood, of which there was plenty, as we have so many trees on the estate."



THE FERRY ACROSS THE UPPER CANAL.

"Have you a good collection of Orchids?"

"We had; but they have been reduced in number. Calanthes Veitchii and oculata in this house have been very good. The Crinums have flowered well, and are now going to be moved to a cooler house to ripen off. Other plants in this house are Clerodendrons, Acalthas, and Pandanus. In the next house we have had a nice show of Amaryllis, which is a favourite flower with the Speaker. They are in all colours, some being very rich and fine. Ferns and Coleus are other plants that do well."

In the third house I noticed a batch of Celosias in bright colours; together with a nice collection of Regal Pelargoniums—a flower of which Mrs. Lowther is very fond. Among the best varieties are Duke of Fife, Mrs. Roberts, Robin, and J. Davis. Very striking, too, was a luxuriant Bougainvillea Sanderiana, covering

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one side of the house, and carrying an immense number of flowers.

Thence we proceeded to another house, devoted chiefly to Orchids. Here are some nice Miltonias—another of the Speaker's favourites; a good lot of Cypripediums, grown largely for cutting; Cattleyas flowering well, and Harrisonianum, densiflorum, and Dalhousieanum especially noticeable; Dendrobiums; and Cœlogynes, just pulled to pieces and repotted.

There were other houses to be seen, but as they were some distance away we started to explore the old kitchen garden, where, as I have mentioned, no vegetables are now grown.

"Are the fruit prospects favourable this season?" I enquired.

"We have a good set of Pears, and an even better one of Apples," was the answer. "Among the best of the Apples are Lane's Prince Albert, Norfolk Beaufin, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Stradbroke, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Newton Wonder, Jubilee, Charles Ross, Cox's Pomona, Warner's King, Cox's Orange Pippin, American Mother (a very fine fruit), and Worcester Pearmain. On the east wall there are Pears, such as Doyenne du Comice, Beurré Bosc, Marie Louise, Williams' Bon Chrêtien, Beurré Hardy, Pitmaston Duchess, and Conference. On the south and west walls there are Plums, Peaches, and Apricots.

A REMEDY FOR AMERICAN GOOSEBERRY MILDEW.

A long bed of Strawberries, promising well, is made up of several varieties, including Royal Sovereign, Leader, Monarch, British Queen, Waterloo, and Laxton's Latest. Large plantations of Gooseberries in bush and trained form were looking healthy, and led to our talking of American Gooseberry mildew.

"One of the causes of this," said Mr. Andrews, "I believe to be poverty of soil. I had a touch of it two years ago, but I fed the plants well, giving them plenty of good 'muck,' and dressed them with Cooper's V2 Fluid. They soon got well, and I have not seen a trace of the disease since. In other gardens in this district there is a lot of trouble, and I have noticed that it is worst where the soil is poorest."

Turning our attention next to the beds and borders, I asked on what principle they were planted.

A BLUE BORDER.

"The aim is to get broad blocks of colour. For example, the back of the border facing us is to be all blue, to continue the various shades of mauve in the border leading up to it. At the back I am using Salvia farinacea, a lovely blue, and in front a double edging of Heliotrope Madame de Bussey and Mrs. J. W. Lowther. Then, in another long border, we have clumps of blue flowers, the plants I am using being Salvia patens, the Cape Forget-me-not, Lobelia syphilitica, Phlox Mikado, Delphinium Mrs. Thompson (a gentian blue, and one of the richest and best), Sweet Pea Lord Nelson, and Nemophila insignis. These give flowers over a long period, and being of diverse heights, and differing so much in habit, there is no danger of monotony of line."

"You mentioned Heliotrope Mrs. J. W. Lowther. Is that one that was raised here?"

"Yes; it is one of my own raising, and I obtained an Award of Merit for it some years ago. Some of the plants carry trusses twelve inches long and nine inches through. Another plant I raised was Chrysanthemum maximum The Speaker, of which I will show you a large bed. There is a Pentstemon, raised here, Campsea Ashe Seedling, which I am using in front of this bed of Salvia splendens; and there are rows of Michaelmas Daisies selected from our own seedlings."

The other borders are planted with all the best perennials and annuals, always with a definite colour scheme. One strong clump Mr. Andrews pointed out, saying:

"That is a little Chrysanthemum that I think is hardly found elsewhere, though it deserves to be well-known. It makes a neat bush, which in autumn is covered with a dense mass of lilac-pink flowers. The name is Walpole."

Another feature in this part of the gardens is a handsome rustic pergola, covered with Clematis of sorts, Vitis Henryi, Polygonum Baldschuanicum, and climbing Roses like American Pillar, Mrs. F. W. Flight, Trier, and Carmine Pillar. Mention must also be made of a fine specimen of Akebia quinata, which, trained against a warm chimney, has stood unprotected for several years.

A WONDERFUL YEW HEDGE.

Leaving this part of the gardens, we next made our way towards the "big canal," as the larger of the two ponds is called. This is a splendid piece of water, on which floated numerous Water Lilies, with Irises and other aquatics on the sides.

"The Nymphæas are some of the best in cultivation, such as Exquisite, Robinson, Eclipse, purpurata, rosea, and odoratissimum, and no finer sight can be seen than these when they are in bloom. We have as many as three hundred out at once. Some years ago we planted a little Aponogeton, but it soon became a rampant weed, and we had a lot of trouble in getting rid of it."

"The Yew fence that runs the full length of the canal is magnificent!"

"Yes; it is really a wonderful hedge. It is three hundred and fifty yards long, and twenty feet high. There is no suggestion of flatness about it except on the top, as the prominences and bays serve to break up the straight lines. Along the banks we stand tubs, filled with Geraniums, Hydrangeas, and Heliotropes."

Halfway along the bank is a ferry, and near by a break in the hedge gives entrance to the new herbaceous borders cut out of the old orchard. In this is a long pergola covered with Clematis, under which is a border containing two thousand plants of the purple Verbena venosa. Here, as in the other parts of the garden, all plants are grouped for colour.

"Do you grow many Chrysanthemums?" I asked, noticing a number standing near the Tomato house we were about to enter.

"There are now about four hundred of different classes. We used to have many more."

"The Tomatoes are ripening nicely What is this variety?"

TOMATO COME-TO-STAY.

"That is Earliest of All. In another house there are Sunrise and Holmes' Supreme, also a seedling of my own raising called Come-to-Stay. This is a good, even a heavy cropper, and the fruits, which are a bright red colour, often weigh three-quarters of a pound each."

The next house was occupied with Cucumbers and Melon Hero of Lockinge, with a small stock of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine. Outside, between this house and the next, on a north border, I came upon a number of plants of the yellow Carnation Cecilia, placed in this position to keep them back; then, after looking through another house filled with Tomatoes, with Solanum Wendlandi and Bignonia grandiflora on the back wall, we passed to a house of Carnations. Malmaison Prince of Wales was in full bloom; and among the Perpetual-flowering varieties were Mary Allwood, Countess of Wilton, May Day, Matchless, Britannia, Mikado, and Snowstorm.

It was in the next house, formerly used for Cucumbers, that I was introduced to Tomato Come-to-Stay, and the appearance of the plants and the size of the trusses justified Mr. Andrews in his praises. Here, too, was a box of Heliotrope cuttings, concerning which he remarked:

"These have just been put in; and it is a curious fact that they take longer to strike in June than in May. If they had been put in last month they would have rooted in fortnight; now it will take at least ten days longer."

Time did not permit of my visiting the kitchen gardens; but before leaving I asked Mr. Andrews to tell me the number of prizes he has won—for in pre-war days he exhibited largely.

"All told, they come to three thousand two hundred, and include about forty pieces of plate and medals," was the astonishing reply.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

A FLORIFEROUS RAMBLER ROSE.

CLIMBING ROSES.

These Roses, which are now so great a feature in every garden, will soon be in their full beauty, and everything possible should be done to enhance their charm and usefulness for another year. The new growths rising from the base of the trees should be carefully preserved by being tied up, for on them next year's display largely depends. If more shoots are rising than there is room for, it is a good plan

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THE GARDENS AT OVER ROSS HOUSE, ROSS-ON-WYE.

Interview with Mr. G. Andrews.

BY the courtesy of Colonel Thomas, I had the opportunity a few weeks ago of inspecting his charming gardens. Ross-on-Wye is in the centre of the most characteristic of Herefordshire scenery, and Over Ross House, as its name denotes, commands a splendid view over the picturesque town and neighbourhood. It is a climb up the hill on the other side of Ross on which the house and grounds are situated, but the distance was easily accomplished by means of a carriage from the station. Approached by a short drive from the main road, adorned with several fine specimens of Beech, Chestnuts, and Limes, the impression immediately created by the pleasure grounds is that they are in perfect harmony with the house. There is a quiet beauty, a sense of restfulness, about the whole place, which renders it singularly attractive. At the outset, Mr. Andrews, the head gardener, told me that both Colonel and Mrs. Thomas take the keenest interest in the gardens, and throughout there is evidence of personal care and attention down to the smallest details. The object-lesson to be learnt from a visit to them is that, under quite ordinary conditions, a country garden of modest size and unpretending character may be so arranged and cultivated as to bear comparison with one of large dimensions and special features.

The spring bedding was still flourishing at the end of May, and very pretty were the effects as seen from the terrace, the combinations of colour being excellent, while the undulations of the lawn add to the attractiveness of its appearance.

Flower Bed Combinations.

"The four little beds which form a square," said Mr. Andrews, "are made up of double Daisies and yellow Crocuses. They will be filled in summer, two with fibrous Begonias, and two with a strip of Geranium Mrs Pollock running through the centre, and blue Lobelias at the sides, and Dracænas in the middle."

"Then there is a bed shaped like three legs, with Myosotis and scarlet Tulips?"

"The shape is supposed to resemble the emblem of the Isle of Man. In summer there will be tuberous Begonias as a carpet, with a centre of Castor-oil plants, each leg having a centre of Marguerites, and an edging of little silver-leaved Geraniums."

"You have a nice show of Polyanthus in the bed which resembles a crown, with Tulips at the back."

"The Polyanthus are seedlings. I grow them one year, and throw them away the next. They will be followed by Geraniums, with blue Lobelias in front, and an edging of Echeverias."

"And the Maltese cross, now made up of Wallflowers, Blood-red and Cloth of Gold, with Clematis in the centre?"

"Those beds I shall fill with dwarf Antirrhinums, two white and two scarlet. The raised bed with the Periwinkle round it will consist of Salpiglossis, with Grevilleas in the centre. Salpiglossis does well here if we get plenty of rain."

"How will you make up the beds of Hyacinths, Arabis, and Myosotis?"

"In the centre bed there will be Cannas, with Dracænas, and an edging of dwarf Nasturtiums. The other beds will be filled in with Calceolarias at the back, and blue Lobelias in front. The round bed, now devoted to Pansies, will contain Zinnias, with an edging of Pyrethrum Golden Feather."

"There remains the border round the sides of the lawn, with patches of Wallflowers, and an edging of Crocus?"

"These will be succeeded by Geraniums, with an edging of Tagetes. I may add that in the basket bed, with Everlasting Peas and Vincas round it—blue and white—there will be red flowers."

Boxes on the Steps.

Having noticed three splendid Cedars on the lawn, a fine old Acacia, and several Golden

MR. ANDREWS.

Yews, we returned to the house, on which the principal creeper is Magnolia grandiflora. On the steps was a large box of Violas, and I asked how long they remain in flower.

"About two months. The flowers get smaller after that," replied Mr. Andrews. "They are all grown from seed. When they are over, I shall fill the box with Gazania uniflora, and a row of Geraniums at the back."

"I see that you decorate the rooms with Schizanthus and Ferns?"

"We are just coming to the end of the Schizanthus. They are very useful, and do not require much heat in the winter. In the conservatory adjoining the house are more Schizanthus, and a number of Cineraria stellata."

"The Cinerarias look flourishing, and you have a fine Crinum in flower. But how do you get such a display of Nasturtiums now?"

"We go in for flowering them in winter. They are propagated by cuttings taken in the spring, and put in pots. The blooming season lasts for quite three months, and the only attention they require is a little feeding."

"How many varieties of Zonal Pelargoniums are represented in the conservatory?"

"About half a dozen: Princess of Wales, Dryden, Charles Dickens, Pelton, Mrs. Brown Potter, and Princess Alice. Spiræas are grown in pots, and also Mignonette. The Niphetos Rose on the roof has been in flower since Christmas. The big Geranium in a tub is Double Pink. It yields a mass of flower towards the autumn, and we keep it out of doors until the frost comes."

A Striking Herbaceous Border.

Beyond the conservatory is a long herbaceous border on one side of the gravel path, which is intersected with arches; while on the other side, forming practically a continuation of the lawn, is a Rosery.

"How many arches are there?" I enquired.

"Seven. The Crimson Rambler Roses are mixed with Clematis and Lonicera. The herbaceous border, which is edged with Stachys lanata (or Lamb's Ear), contains in particular Pæonies, Iris, Alyssum, Geums, Larkspurs, red Valerianas, Astilbes, Doronicums, double Aquilegias, Calendulas, Veronicas, and Sweet Rockets, with a few Crown Imperials in the spring. Earlier we had a great show of Daffodils and Crocuses, which lasted in flower for nearly a month. The background for flowering shrubs includes Weigelas, Lilacs, Berberis, Laurustinus, Golden and Silver Hollies."

"Do you mix your varieties in the centre circular bed of the Rosery?"

"Yes; but the principal are Captain Hayward, Mrs. John Laing, La France, Marquis of Devonshire, and Margaret Dickson. Moss Roses are grown in the side beds. One of the pergolas is decorated with Golden Hops and Loniceras, and the other frame with Lonicera and Clematis. Then, there are mixed beds of standard Roses, including Duke of Edinburgh, Bessie Brown, and Mrs. W. J. Grant. The raised bed just outside the Rosery, now filled with Myosotis and Daffodils, with Aubrietias at the sides, will contain in summer mixed Stocks, with Dracænas in the centre."

Flowers All the Year Round.

Having noted a pretty summer-house under a lofty Fir tree, with Yuccas growing close by, we proceeded to the back of the house, where there is another flower garden. Here my attention was at once attracted by a large bed of Lilies, with golden Poppies on the bank beyond. I asked the aspect.

"North," rejoined Mr. Andrews. "We have an earlier bed of Lilies further on, but these have been in flower for a week."

"You appear to grow the ordinary garden Fern as specimen plants?"

"We do; and they thrive remarkably. They die down in winter, and we do nothing more to them except cut off the dead leaves."

"I assume, from what I have already seen, that this is an all-the-year-round garden?"

"We certainly try to make it so, and so long

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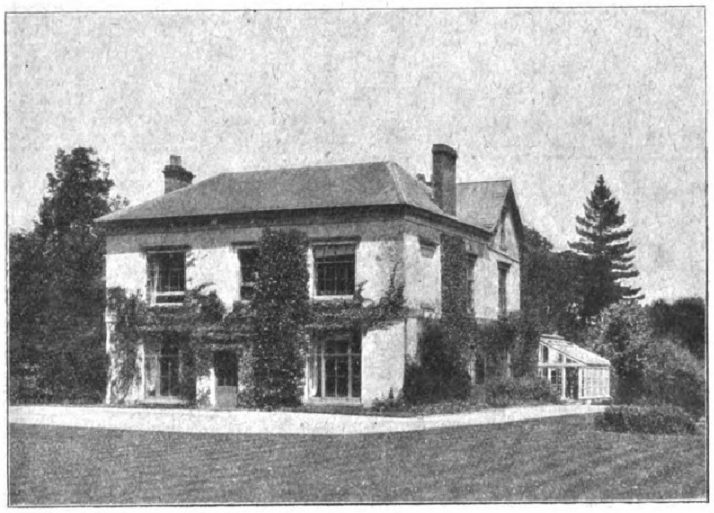
as there are flowers about outside, we use some of them for decorating the house. On the wall here are Forsythia suspensa, Roses, and white Jasminum, and we use a good number of annuals in the herbaceous border. The Lilies are earlier when they get plenty of sun, but they require no treatment. The Poppies seed themselves."



OVER ROSS HOUSE, ROSS-ON-WYE.

The Best Rockery Plants.

"The Geraniums in pots," continued Mr. Andrews, "are subsequently used for bedding, and the two chief varieties are Harry Hieover and Lady Grosvenor. We also use a quantity of silver-leaved Geraniums."

"What plants are principally represented in your rockery, with the Roses at the back?"

"Sedums, Cistus, Arenarias, and Hemerocallis. The rockery is only on a small scale, but the soil suits the plants we grow in it. As the houses are adjacent, we might take them next."

"You have some Malmaisons and Carnations in the greenhouse?"

"Just a few, including Lord Rosebery, Maggie Hodgson, Nell Gwynne, and Astarte. We use the greenhouse for various purposes, most of the flowers here being grown to use in the conservatory. The Agapanthus are put out in pots, and the Lilium speciosum is a favourite flower. We retard a few Schizanthus to keep up the season as long as possible."

Tomatoes and Grapes.

"Do you fruit the Tomatoes here?"

"Yes, and grow them throughout in pots. The variety is Winter Beauty. We have another variety outside, Princess of Wales, which fruits at the end of September. In the Vinery we have Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria Grapes. The foliage is remarkably strong, and we usually get good crops. The third house is a Fernery, with Roses (Marechal Niel) and Tasconia on the roof. The latter is in flower for months, but we do not cut it."

"Some of your Ferns look remarkably healthy."

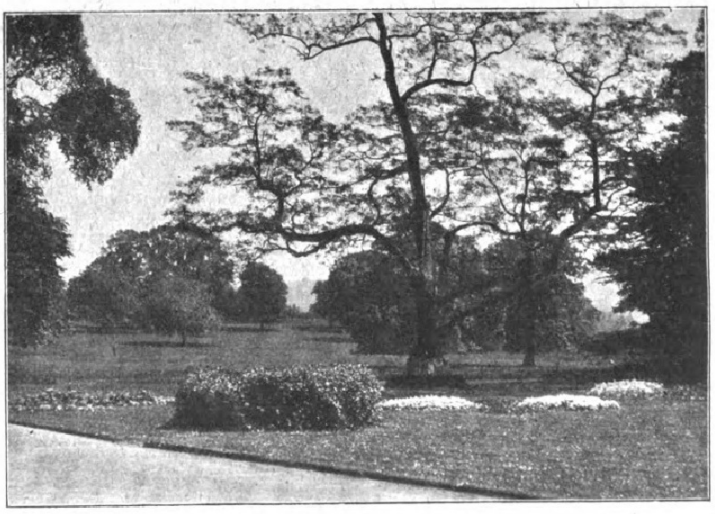
"Pteris Ferns do exceedingly well here. We feed them heavily, but the house is specially adapted for them. Maidenhair Ferns are grown largely for table use, and we have a few Azaleas. The one in flower is Empress of India."

At the entrance to the considerable kitchen garden are more flowers in borders, conspicuous amongst these being Silenes.

"I sow the seed in spring for autumn flowering, and in autumn for spring flowering," said Mr. Andrews, "putting the plants out in the autumn. They stay out in the winter, and flower in the spring. One of the features here is a row of Everlasting Peas, which begin to flower in August, and keep on till the frost comes; and another, the Pæonies."

"Pæonies seem to find the soil congenial?"

"Yes, it is sandy, with red clay subsoil. We simply let them stay in the borders, and they flower profusely. The worst of the soil is that we want rain every week in summer, but the Pæonies are over before the dry season sets in. Behind this border we have our ordinary Sweet Peas. They are all grown from packets of mixed seed, and we get a quantity of blooms."



THE BEDDING ON THE LAWN, OVER ROSS HOUSE.

"How long have the Shirley Poppies, which are just flowering, been in the ground?"

"Two years. They are now self-seeded, but in the first place we sow the seed. The remainder of the space outside the kitchen garden, you observe, is devoted to fruit trees, chiefly Apples, all grown on bushes."

"When were they planted?"

"About six years ago, though they are of different ages and sizes. The varieties are Bramley's Seedling, Ecklinville Seedling, Bismarck, Annie Elizabeth, Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Lane's Prince Albert, Blenheim Orange, Sturmer Pippin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Warner's King. Sweet Cherries are grown on the wall, May Duke, Bigarreau, and Governor Wood. I attribute the good crops to the fact that we mulch them well and keep them moist."

"How large is the kitchen garden within the walls?"

"An acre. Here, too, we have a good show of flowers, both in the centre and on either side. Pyrethrums are quite a speciality. They are the singles, and we use them freely for table decoration. In the borders are also single and double Aquilegias, Cerastiums, Arabis, and Silenes being used in front, and making a good contrast of red and white."

A Cheap Flower to Grow.

"Mention ought to be made of your very prominent display of Polyanthus all round the garden."

"They have done particularly well this year, but they always flower profusely, and, moreover, they last for years. Anyone who wants cheap flowers and plenty of them, should buy Polyanthus seed, and they will get a good show the spring after they are sown."

"What are the varieties of Violets you grow under a high wall?"

"Princess of Wales, Marie Louise, and Lady Hume Campbell. I am flowering for the first time Anemone nemorosa Robinsoniana, and it is very nice for cutting. Then we have a quantity of Irises, which I part when the roots get on the top of the ground. Most of the herbaceous plants soon grow big, and I always part them then."

Japanese and Bush Chrysanthemums.

"Your Chrysanthemums appear to be coming on well."

"I grow some of the Japanese large-flowering and some of the bush, only. The best of the former are Nellie Pockett, Mrs. F. S. Vallis, Miss Mildred Ware, Mrs. E. Thirkell, Lady Henderson, Mrs. G. Mileham; the bush include Ladysmith and Dorothy (singles), Source d'Or and Nellie Pockett (double)."

"When do you put your Begonias out?"

"The beginning of June. The soil suits both fibrous and single tuberous, but we have to use

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a great deal of water. The sun does not hurt the flowers if they are kept moist at the roots."

"The Pears and Plums on the walls appear to be well set."

"The Pears are mainly Beurre Diel, Pitmaston Duchess, Uvedale's St. Germain, Catallac, Beurre d'Amanlis, Easter Beurre, Souvenir du Congres, Conseiller de la Cour, Marie Louise, and Marie Benoist; the Plums, Oullin's Gage, Cox's Golden Drop, Monarch, Heron, Belle de Louvaine, Archduke, and Transparent Gage. Brown Turkey Figs do well on the wall, though last year they were the only fruit crop that failed."

"How do you get your Apricots to look so well?"

"Perhaps the fact that we mulch them with a quantity of grass, mown from the lawn, may have something to do with it. The varieties are Moor Park and Hemskirk. The Peaches on the walls are Hale's Early, Sea Eagle, and Royal George. On the north wall are Morello Cherries and also a number of Red Currants, which are grown here in order to have a late crop. Red and White Currants are grown in quantity on bushes, likewise Gooseberries. The latter are also grown with the Raspberries in the large wire cage."

THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS AT OVER ROSS HOUSE.

"Do you keep your Strawberry plants for nine years?"

"Some of them are four or five years old, and are bearing well. The varieties are Royal Sovereign, Elton Pine, and Latest of All. Pears, Apples, and Damsons are also grown as standards."

The Vegetable Collection.

"What about vegetables?"

"We go in strongly for Peas, and shall soon pick Empress of India and Sutton's Harbinger. These are followed by Eureka, Ne Plus Ultra, and Sutton's Bountiful. In cultivating Peas, I dig out a small trench. We force a few Potatoes, Duke of York, in a cold frame, and grow Sutton's Satisfaction, Ringleader, and Up-to-Date. Asparagus is picked at the end of April, and we go on till the middle of June. The Broad Beans are Sutton's Long Pods; we generally get them early in July. Other vegetables are Onions, Glow, Long Keeping, and Giant Rocca; Parsnips, the Student; Carrots, Intermediate and Early Gem; Globe Artichokes, and Sutton's Longpod French Beans. We also grow Beet and Salsify, and Lettuces most of the year, though we do not force any. In order to obtain Seakale early, we cover up with pots of manure, and if we want to get Rhubarb early, we protect a few plants by covering them."

"How long have you been here, Mr. Andrews?"

"Three years. This is my first appointment as head gardener, and my previous experience was chiefly gained in the gardens at Compton Bassett, Wiltshire."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week we shall deal with the evolution of the garden at Berechurch Hall, Essex—an interview with Mr. George Peach.

Hints to Exhibitors.

ON GROUPS OF FLOWERS.

THE classes devoted to groups of hardy flowers leave much to the discretion of the exhibitor, and afford a wide scope for individual taste and judgment. Beyond stipulating whether the subjects are to be annuals, biennials, or perennials, and the number of bunches and separate flowers in each, the schedules usually impose no restrictions. With so large a field from which to select, these classes should be amongst the most attractive in the show, and yet too often they provide but a sorry spectacle. The same type of flower is repeated by each exhibitor, and few attempt to get beyond the beaten track; while, probably because of the ease with which they can be raised and grown, little trouble is devoted to the production of really fine specimens.

Pitfalls to Avoid.

Before considering the points necessary to gain the much-desired "first," it may be well to remind intending exhibitors of a few things they must avoid. A pitfall to many is the distinction between annuals and perennials. Some plants are represented by both forms, and care must be taken that the right kind is chosen. Annuals run their life-cycle within a period of twelve months, *i.e.*, they commence their growth, mature, ripen seed, and die within a year, the only exceptions being those hardy plants which can be sown in autumn, and are capable of surviving the winter. Those which may be perpetuated by cuttings, and thus be saved through the winter, are not eligible. Biennials require two years in which to complete their development.

Perennials, though they may be induced to flower and bear seed the same year as sown, are plants which have a longer period of life, coming up year after year. As a general rule, when perennials are asked for, those classed as "herbaceous" are intended. This term implies that the stems die down at the end of the season, but that new growths arise the following year from the same rootstock. Where the stems remain throughout the winter, and only the leaves are shed, the plant is called "deciduous." For this reason, if Roses are included among a group of perennials, they are liable to be disqualified, as they come under the last-mentioned definition. It may be generally taken for granted that plants which may be exhibited in special classes are not eligible for any others, except such as table decorations and bouquets.

How Points are Allotted.

The lines upon which judges work differ very little, and are in the main based upon the rules laid down by the Royal Horticultural Society. Points are allotted in varying proportions for the quality of the blooms, size and elegance, freshness, form and colour, rarity or difficulty of cultivation, arrangement, and naming. Of these points, some are given to the separate bunches; others, such as arrangement and naming, apply to the exhibit as a whole. The importance of care in cultivation, packing, staging, and selection will be at once apparent. Too many exhibitors think that they can include weak and common specimens in their group, and that among the multitude they will not be noticed. Each bunch, however, is first closely scrutinised, and points deducted for bad blooms; and after each has been thus judged, the group is looked at as a whole, and final points awarded. The points apportioned for rarity of the plants or difficultity of cultivation are a direct encouragement to those who are not afraid of originality, nor content to follow in the wake of others.

As the plants themselves differ so widely in habit, it is impossible to give explicit directions for staging them; moreover, in some shows this is not left to the exhibitor, but is managed by a committee, who also provide the receptacles. Each exhibitor should find out the practice at the particular place where he is showing. To have the flowers as fresh as possible, the advice so frequently given may be repeated, not to cut them when the sun is on them, but early in the morning; and also to beware of putting them into very cold water, that with the chill just taken off being far better. SCRUTATOR.

Flower Bedding at Hinchingbrooke.

(See illustration on page 311.)

AT Hinchingbrooke, the Huntingdonshire seat of the Earl of Sandwich, may be seen some fine examples of a style of bedding less popular nowadays than it was a generation ago. Our illustration gives a view of the south-west front. All the space, except that required for the walks, is devoted to the flower beds, which are edged with Box, closely trimmed and well kept. The bed in the immediate front of the picture is filled with Pelargoniums; and the second bed likewise contains the same sort of plant, but with variegated leaves, and also in standard form, which is rarely met with. Other beds to the left also contain Pelargoniums, relieved with taller plants of variegated Maize. The triangular bed to the right is made up with Heliotrope. In the background is the shrubbery, with some fine specimens of Irish Yew. The walks are gravel, covered with broken sea shells, pleasant to look at and walk upon.

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one way of acclimatising this beautiful Lily, but it requires patience—patience extending over seven or eight years. If plants were raised from seed and grown outside, they should prove as amenable to cultivation as the ordinary white Lily.

November 4th.—I have had many fine clumps of Pampas Grass, but I do not know that I have ever seen one with more flower-buds than the one shown in the illustration. The soil suits it, and there is plenty of moisture down below, so it grows most luxuriantly. An annual top-dressing of well-rotted manure around the roots is a great help, and as these plants sometimes suffer in very severe winters, the dead leaves should be left as a protection until the spring.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 162.—MR. GEORGE ANNAND, AT THE GARDENS, BASILDON PARK, PANGBOURNE.

WHEN I asked Mr. Annand to show me the gardens at Basildon Park, the beautiful country seat of Mr. Charles Morrison, he warned me that there was no kitchen garden. That is to say, it is found more convenient to let the kitchen garden attached to the park, and comprising about four acres, to a market gardener, who supplies the mansion with such fruit and vegetables as Mr. Annand does not grow. The whole of the head gardener's attention is, therefore, devoted to the lawns, flower garden, and glass, which are on a considerable scale. Arriving from Pangbourne on a pleasant afternoon late in September, at Mr. Annand's pretty lodge, I gladly assented to the suggestion that we should start at once up the picturesque Snail Creep, which forms a winding path, shadowed by splendid old trees, to the lawns. Our first pause was made at the old Rosery, with a summer-house built on the trunk of an old Yew tree, and called The Umbrella, in the centre. There are still some Roses, chiefly Scotch varieties, which do very well, but the system now is to fill the beds with plants of different kinds, according to the respective seasons. At the time of my visit there was a striking display of fine Sedum, and Mr. Annand said,

"The plants have been in bloom since July, and will remain in flower until the frost comes. The variety is Sedum populifolium. Now, as you see, there are also Godetias, Marigolds, and Dahlias. We had, earlier, a rare show of Sweet Peas (Sutton's Giant-flowered). They were raised indoors, four seeds being planted in a 5-in. pot. We put the plants out of doors at the end of April. The flower-stalks were eighteen inches long."

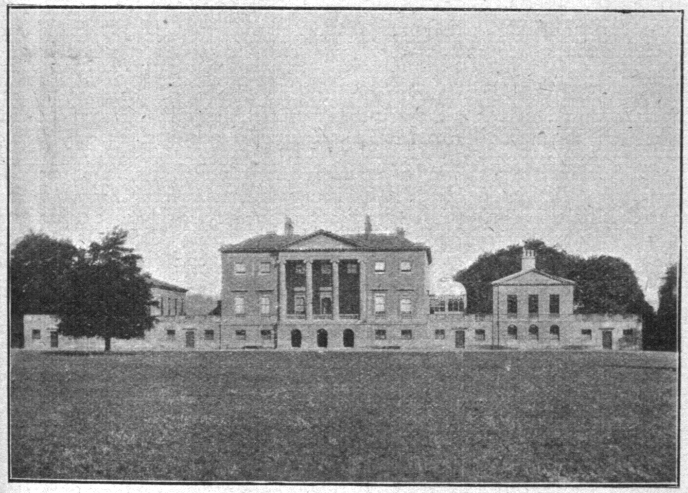
Close to the mansion, which stands on a lofty eminence, and commands extensive views of the Thames and the country, there are two croquet lawns, which were made last year, with turf lifted out from the park, and I congratulated Mr Annand upon their appearance under the circumstances. He rejoined that, in order to keep them in condition, they had to be watered every second day during the hot weather.

"With regard to lawns," he continued, "the lawn at the side of the mansion has taken the place of a clump of great trees. It was made also last October, and occupied us from the middle of that month until a fortnight from Christmas. I suppose that the trees and stuff we carted away amounted to nearly a hundred tons. There are here fine specimens of Quercus Ilex and Quercus pseudosuber. Ivy arches hide the blank wall and the domestic quarters."

"The mansion, I observe, has no creepers on it?"

"No, it is kept bare on purpose. The beds in the flower garden on the terrace are one of our features. There are twenty-nine of different sizes."

"It would be interesting to mention their contents in detail."



BASILDON PARK, PANGBOURNE.

"The four corner beds in panel are made up of bedding Cannas in the centre. There are four big panels, consisting of two of Flower of Spring Geraniums and two of Crystal Palace Gem, and four small ones of Lobelias, Royal Purple, marked out with Pyrethrums and Dactylis Grass, and a permanent edging of dwarf Sedums."

"The round beds are of the star pattern?"

"Yes. In the centre are Cannas in a ring of Golden Tricolour Geraniums. The star is worked out with Sedum populifolium, and the four half-circles with Lobelias Paxtoniana and speciosa, with a permanent edging of Veronica alpina variegata. There are four oblong beds,

MR. GEORGE ANNAND.

two of Indian Yellow Geraniums, and two of Mrs. William Paul Geraniums, edged with Saxifragas; and four, supposed to be carpet-bedding, consisting of Coleus Verschaffeldtii, Mesembryanthemums, dwarf Ageratums, and dwarf Begonias, the patterns being worked out with Pyrethrums and Dactylis Grass. Four other beds are filled with Geraniums Robert Fish and Lobelia speciosa. There are four more round beds, two with Lobelia cardinalis in the centre, with rings of Geranium Flower of Spring, Sedums and Lobelia Paxtoniana, and a permanent edging of the purple Aubrietia, the other two having bronze Geraniums (star pattern) in the centre, with the four half-circles in Lobelia, and two oblong beds with Ivy-leaf Geraniums."

"There are still three more beds, including the two with a pretty combination of colour."

"You mean the golden Tagetes, and Ageratums, edged with Pyrethrums. The other round bed contains Pentstemons, mixed, which have been in flower since the end of June, edged with Veronicas. The Pentstemons stay here all the winter."

"That is to say, you do not lift them?"

"No, we leave the old growth on until the young growth is well up at the roots, and then cut it off."

"The seven urns on the terrace must be very ancient?"

"They came from the Catacombs in Rome, and have been here a great many years. They are all solid marble."

"When were the Irish Yews on the left of the mansion put in?"

"I believe about seventy years ago, when the gardens were made."

"They are quite young compared with the Oaks close by?"

"Those two Oaks are supposed to have been in the original primeval forest, and are called Adam and Eve. The park, which is one of the oldest deer parks in England, contains a vast number of Beech trees, and some big Cedars,

one in particular covering a great stretch of ground."

"The tennis courts are also, I notice, adorned by a fine clump of Spanish Chestnuts."

Then, passing two statues of dogs on the terrace, we went into the conservatory, which is upstairs.

"Just now," said Mr. Annand, "the contents are chiefly Geraniums, Coleus, Fuchsias, and Ferns. In June and July the Pelargoniums were at their best; and in the spring we had Cinerarias, Primulas, and flowering bulbs."

"The appearance of the pale green paint picked out with white is very pleasing; but why do you use wire stages?"

"Because we can get a better effect than with the wood stages. The Hoya carnosa, or Honey-flower, we grow in a pit here instead of planting it out in the border."

"I conclude that you fill the balcony with flowers which were in the beds last year?"

"Yes. They are all Geraniums, four in each 12-in. pot. Some of them are nearly three feet through. On each side of the front door are two stands filled with flowering plants."

As we left the mansion, Mr. Annand pointed out on the right a rootery and a rockery combined. The roots were brought away from the proximity of the mansion, and Saxifragas and Ferns, and other rockery and shade-loving plants have been planted out. In this portion of the grounds a Poplar (straight as a dart), Tyrolese Larches, and a remarkably good specimen of Liriodendron tulipifera, are conspicuous. Lilacs have also been forced, and were planted out in clumps three years ago; last year they were in flower. A large bed has been made in order to break the monotony of grass and trees, and I asked what it contained.

"In the centre are Perillas, Geraniums Tricolour and Crystal Palace Gem, edged with Silver Tricolour Geraniums and Lobelias. We like the contrast in colour between the brown of the Perillas and the foliage of the Geraniums."

As we walked towards the herbaceous border, which is beautifully situated on a slope, sheltered by a magnificent belt of trees, I inquired the extent of the pleasure grounds.

"From twelve to thirteen acres, and you may judge of the extent of the park when I tell you that there are between four and five miles of stone wall round it. Thousands of bulbs of different varieties are planted under the trees. We are well supplied with water. The new tank just built holds 5,000 gallons, which brings our total storage capacity up to 17,000 gallons. An advantage in this garden is that all the paths are asphalte, and can easily be kept clean."

"You have a nice hedge of Lavender?"

"Yes, the Lavender is saved and sent to the hospitals. One border is filled with perennial Phlox, Pæonies, Michaelmas Daisies, Galegas, Dahlias, and annuals of different varieties."

"Hollyhocks seem to have prospered here?"

"They have done remarkably well. The old plants suffered a little from disease, but all the young ones escaped. The Sweet Peas (Eckford's varieties) are a second batch, and they will continue to flower until the frost cuts them down—probably right on through November."

"How many Chrysanthemums are there in pots?"

"About two hundred and forty. They include Japanese and Incurved; a third part are singles, and the rest bush plants."

"Did your Carnations flower well?"

"Wonderfully well. They are the Edenside Carnations. The border varieties are mixed, and consist of Selfs, Flakes, and Bizarres. They are last spring seedlings, were sown in March, and a good percentage came up. I had a lot of flowers off the Marguerite Carnations."

"What is your method of treatment?"

"I take them out of the seedling box, pot them up, and keep them through the winter, and plant them out in May. I had twenty plants, all doubles. The singles I discarded."

"Your Strawberry plants look healthy?"

"We do not force too early. There are two batches of a hundred and twenty, both Royal Sovereign; the first batch are only in 4-in. pots yet."

"What have you got in the frames?"

"In one of the ranges of frames there are bedding plants, and in a second Violets (Marie Louise and Princess of Wales). Bedding-out Geraniums, and Malmaison Carnations of the best varieties, which will have half a dozen or eight spikes next year, are in one of the other ranges. We put Azalea mollis out in the shade. There are about fifty plants, which promise to bloom luxuriantly. Where the frames used to be, a new wall for Peaches has been built. We have a glass top put on, and we shall have a border of early Strawberries at the bottom of the wall."

"Can you tell me the height of the enormous bush of sweet-scented Bay?"

"It is about sixteen feet high, and seven through. The Bay leaves are used for flavouring puddings, etc."

"Do you grow many varieties in the Rose border?"

"Cheshunt Hybrid is one. It does well both on the wall and in the ground. The only other varieties are Mrs. John Laing and W. A. Richardson. On the walls just here we grow a few Tomatoes, Sutton's A1. From the beginning of July until the middle of September, Godetias (double rose) gave us a lot of bloom."

"How many Pelargoniums do you grow?"

"About two hundred. I had a sport this year which is very rare. It came on a plant of the Outlaw, a very dark variety, and the sport was very light. The lower petals were pure white, and the top dark crimson. The flower was nearly as big again as the parent plant. I have never seen one before. I have taken cuttings of it, and it will be interesting to see if it will come true next year."

"Do you grow only Black Hamburghs in this house?" I asked, as we entered the late Vinery.

"That is all. The Vines are three years old. The crop is heavy, if the bunches of Grapes are not very big. Roses Niphetos and Maréchal Niel do well on the back wall; also Swainsonia, both the white and pink varieties. We have about four dozen plants of Smilax. It is grown on black cotton, as I find if grown on raffia, or twine, it shows when laid on the table, unless it is pulled out, and that risks breaking the trail."

"Is there but one variety of Grape in the early Vinery?"

"That is our principle—one Grape, one house—and I think that it is the best. I am going to plant new rods of Muscat of Alexandria in the early Vinery. The stage here is used for bedding-out plants. In the intermediate house we have a Datura, which has a magnificent bloom, and a fine foliage. It is cut right down in January; we have it planted in the border. Other plants here are about a hundred Poinsettias, about fifty Euphorbias, and a quantity of Sutton's hybrid Gesneras."

"When were they sown?"

"In February. The Gloxinias are Sutton's spotted hybrids. I had about a hundred and fifty plants out of a half-crown packet of seed."

We next inspected the early greenhouse, in which are many Pelargoniums, and I said, "Although you have told me the number you grow, you have not named any varieties. Which do you consider the best?"

"Duchess of Portland, Imogen (a special favourite), W. E. Gladstone, Madame Thibaut, Nyanza, Queen of the Belgians, Gloire de France, Jeanne d'Arc, Belle Nancienne, Madame Hoste, and Swanley Gem. These, with Raspail Improved, are the principal."

In a niche in the stove were a few Dendrobiums and Cœlogyne cristata, and Mr. Annand mentioned that there were a hundred and thirty-two blooms on one pan of the latter, and two hundred and twenty-three on another, some of the spikes having as many as ten blooms on them.

"In addition to the Orchids, you have Crotons and Dracænas?"

"The favourite Croton is Laingii. Others are Golden Ring, Prince of Wales, Warrenii, and variegata. The Dracænas include terminalis and alba, Cooperi, Goldiana, and Paqua, a very good table variety, of dwarf habit. There are also in the stove half a dozen Dieffenbachia Bausei. They are not difficult to grow. Then, there are four dozen Gloire de Lorraine Begonias. Outside, in frames, are four dozen each of Primula stellata and P. sinensis, and about fifty Salvias splendens and coccineum, a hundred greenhouse Cinerarias, and a hundred Cineraria stellata."

"Do you grow Primula obconica?" I asked, as we proceeded to another large greenhouse.

"Yes, a quantity. The supposed poison never affects me here, though in Wiltshire I suffered from it, and my brother nearly lost the use of one of his eyes, through rubbing it with his hand after he had been handling the foliage

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE, BASILDON PARK.

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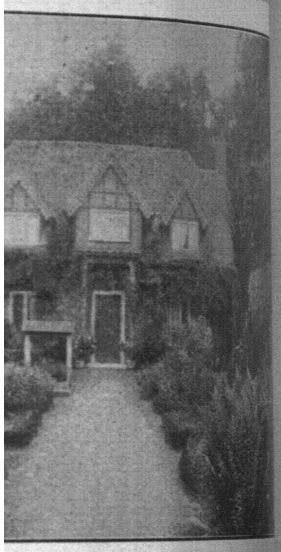

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of Primula obconica. This house is used for Chrysanthemums."

Crossing over to the Peach house, Mr. Annand told me that the spring bedding included some two thousand Wallflowers, Fairy Queen, Purple Queen, Eastern Queen, and Sutton's Golden Bedder (dwarf), and a large number of Pansies, Myosotis, Arabis, Polyanthus, Tulips, and Hyacinths."

"How long has the Peach house been built?"

"Seven or eight years. We had a hundred fruits off the little tree of Lord Napier Nectarine this year. The Peaches are Gros Mignonne, and Royal George, and we have just finished picking Barrington. I had half a dozen weighing about nine ounces each."

From the greenhouses we made our way to the garden in front of Mr. Annand's cottage, which is very tastefully laid out.

"There are nine beds in all," he said. "One consists of Phlox Drummondii and Chrysanthemum Burridgianum in the centre; two of Pentstemons; a bed of yellow and a bed of blue Violas face each other; there are two round beds of Cannas, Geraniums (Flower of Spring), and blue Lobelia; and two square beds done in panels with Cannas, Geraniums, and Lobelia, marked out with Pyrethrum and Dactylis Grass, and two old clumps of Ferns, which looked well before the dry weather set in. Canary Creeper grows well on the wall of the house, and Clematis montana and Honeysuckle on the porch."

"I believe you have spent a good deal of your gardening career in Scotland?"

"Yes, I am a Scotchman, and served my apprenticeship in the gardens at Sea Park House, Morayshire. I next went to Durris House, Aberdeenshire, for three years, as second in the houses. After that I was general foreman to the Duke of Fife at Duff House; and at the end of a year I proceeded to Crathes Castle, Kincardineshire, as inside foreman. Then I crossed the Border."

"As head gardener?"

"Yes, as head at Salthrop House, near Swindon. I filled that position for four years, and then for seventeen months I was head at Brent Eleigh Hall, Suffolk. Just a year ago I came here."

"Have you done much showing?"

"I have not done any since I was head gardener. There is one difference I notice between

A GROUP OF WHITE FOXGLOVES.

gardening in England and Scotland. They are not so strict in serving an apprenticeship here. In Scotland every beginner is bound for three years, and I think that every head gardener ought to make a point of enforcing that rule before he gives a certificate of efficiency to anyone who has started under him." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 119.—MICHAELMAS DAISIES, LILIES AND FOXGLOVES.

DEAR KATE,—We are very busy getting the garden into order for the winter, for although, as I told you, it is well to leave a few falling leaves on the borders to protect the plants, and help to nourish them, yet there is much to be done if the garden is not to look disastrous.

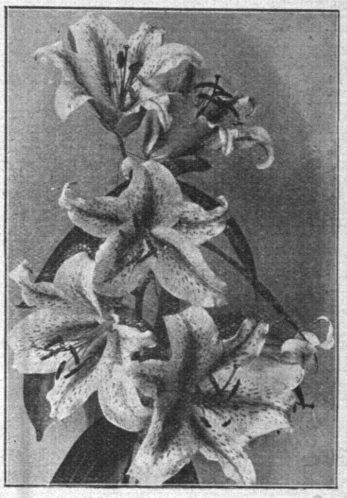
The Michaelmas Daisies, which have been lovely, must now be cut down (in fact, some of the earlier-flowering varieties were cut off a fortnight ago to prevent them from flooding the garden with their fluffy seeds), and from the stems of these Asters we select a few dozen of the strongest and best, remove their leaves, and the top, and tie them into neat bundles for stakes, as they are invaluable for pot plants (especially Freesias), being so slight and tidy-looking—much better than sticks. The stems of Helianthus are much thicker, but not so strong; they must be cleared away now, with the dead stalks of various annuals and biennials. Then the Cactus Dahlias (which are still bright at the time of writing) should be labelled before they are taken up for the winter (or confusion will reign amongst them next year), and as soon as the frost becomes sharp enough to cut them down, each root should be carefully raised with a fork (not a spade, or the tubers will be cut), and the label tied round the small piece of stem which is left above the roots. They can then be stored in a box in the cellar, covering them with sand or light soil, till the spring arrives, when they are taken into the greenhouse, or placed in a Cucumber frame, to start, and then divided, each into two or three pieces, and planted out. You can, of course, take cuttings from the shoots too, but those which appear first of all do not strike roots well, and it is best to take off the second set of shoots (each with a tiny piece of the tuber attached), and put each in a small pot, which can be sunk in the hotbed until growth begins, then potted on, and brought on in the greenhouse until it is fit to go out into the open.

But to return to the borders. We have a number of plants of the lovely blue Salvia patens, which are still showing a few blossoms; these are treated like the Dahlias, and they, too, spend the winter in a box in the cellar, for they have tuberous roots, and are half-hardy. Cannas, too, are in the same category; but we often pot up singly any late spike of these which is now showing buds, for these will open well in the conservatory, and their bright flowers are valuable towards Christmas. The old plan of drying off Cannas, I am convinced, is a mistake; too much dryness often ends in dry-rot, and they only need to be kept cool and slightly damp through January and part of February to start fresh growth strongly towards the end of that month, when they should be divided, choosing the strongest crowns to pot up separately, and starting them in warmth, with plenty of tepid water as they grow. The Heliotropes, Pelargoniums, and other tender things, of course, have been potted up, and by the time all these things are taken in the borders begin to look rather bare; but, then, there are the biennials to be put in for next spring, as well as plants of blue Delphinium, Pæonies, and other fine perennials.

Let me advise you to put these things in groups, not dot them about singly, or make a row of them; their effect is much finer in this way, and they are more easily attended to; they must have deeply-dug and rich soil, too, so that it is well to prepare the places for them before they arrive, adding a liberal allowance of hotbed stuff from the empty Melon frames.

White Foxgloves (Digitalis) are specially handsome, and the large white ones, spotted inside with crimson (maculata), are the best of all, growing to the height of eight feet and more in my garden. We treat them as biennials, sowing the seed every two years, in May, in the kitchen garden, pricking the seedlings out into a nursery border of good soil in July, and planting them out in October in groups of five or seven plants, each one foot from the next. The later seedlings do not always bloom the next season; but take the next summer to gather great strength, and these produce the finest possible spikes of blossom the second season after planting.

Hollyhocks can be grown exactly in the same way, and should be treated as biennials, for the spikes of bloom produced after the second season are not often fine. They need a great deal of rich soil, and enjoy a thorough supply of liquid manure just as they are beginning to throw



LILIUM AURATUM PLATYPHYLLUM.

up their tall flowering-stems. The disease which is so troublesome to these plants is probably the outcome of the foolish plan of coddling them in heat as seedlings, which has enfeebled their constitutions, so that they easily fall a prey to the fungoid disease. The best remedies are to sow the seed in the open ground in May, and to syringe the seedlings strongly with sulphide of potassium (half an ounce to the gallon of warm water), several times in succession, as they grow, giving them plenty of nourishment and moisture, and covering their roots in winter with a small conical pile of fine ashes, for the germs of this disease object to being deprived of air. It is said, too, that it is a good plan to soak the seed before sowing it in the warm (a hundred and twenty degrees) water and sulphide of potassium wash, or a solution of permanganate of potash, but this we have not yet tried. So far, all the remedies mentioned above are only palliatives, and do not thoroughly finish the disease, which has a nasty trick of reappearing in warm, dry weather.

Liliums, which can be planted now or in the early spring, make very fine groups, especially the Golden Lily of Japan (L. auratum), and its splendid varieties, L. auratum platyphyllum, and rubro-vittatum. But it is almost impossible, in my experience, to obtain bulbs of these Lilies which have not been deprived of their lower roots, for convenience in packing, and no bulb which has been treated in this way is worth putting into a border, for it will probably decay there, or, at the best, bring only a miserable bloom the first season, and then die. The best

THE GARDENS OF SIR EDWARD STERN, AT FAN COURT, CHERTSEY.

Interview with Mr. Geo. Arthur.

ALTHOUGH it was the middle of September when I visited the gardens at Fan Court, the approach of autumn had but slightly affected the beauty of their appearance. Mr. Arthur, the gardener, who met me on my arrival, suggested that we should begin by an inspection of the pleasure grounds, and on reaching the end of the carriage drive, some remarkably fine clumps of Rhododendrons at once claimed my attention.

"When the Rhododendrons are over," said Mr. Arthur, "the Liliums which are planted with them give a long flowering season. They include several varieties."

"Do you have to put peat in the soil for Rhododendrons?"

"Yes, but the natural soil, which is sandy, suits them. Many are choice hybrids, but the named varieties include Frederick Waterer, James Waterer, Lady E. Cathcart, Sappho, Pink Pearl, Princess Christian, J. H. Agnew, Mrs. John Clutton, Mrs. Holford, The Queen, Kate Waterer, Mrs. Stafforth, and Gloriosum."

"You have a number of specimen trees in the shrubberies. What is the aspect here?"

"South. Some of the most notable trees are Wellingtonia gigantea, Pinus Douglasii, and a Cedrus deodara feathered to the ground. On the rising ground above the gardens, ponticum Rhododendrons and Heather make a bright show earlier in the year. The bed of big shrubs near the winter garden contains chiefly Hollies, Berberis Darwinii, Laburnums, Buddleia globosa, Olearia Gunnii, Arbutus, and Ruscus. In the wood above the lawn there are two large Palms, Chamærops Fortunei, planted out. We have had twenty-five degrees of frost here, and it has not touched them. Near these Palms is a large bed of woodland Azaleas; and a quantity of Azalea mollis are planted in groups in the wood. On the heights of the wood there are fine views, and the Crystal Palace, Staines, and Sunbury, as well as the new motor track at Weybridge, may be seen."

The Winter Garden.

"I see that Plumbago capensis is still in flower in the winter garden."

"Yes, like Streptosolen, Abutilon Thompsonii, Bougainvillea glabra, and Lapageria rosea, it does well planted out in the winter garden. Here, also, are Camellias, white and red, which flower profusely. Ferns and Palms are used for decoration."

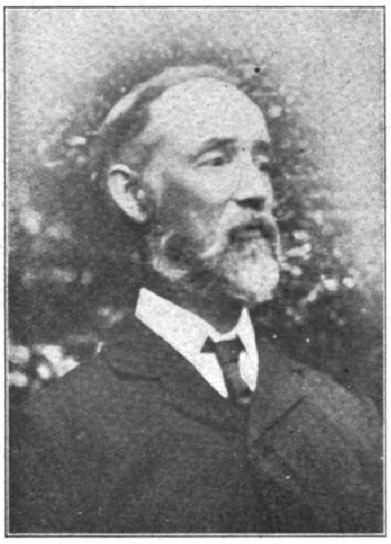
"What is the age of the grand piece of Dicksonia antarctica?"

"It has been in its present quarters for nearly thirty years The only thing I do to it is to feed it freely. Among Nephrolepis Ferns, todæoides and exaltata, which are each represented by two thriving specimens, are favourites. Of course, the rest of the contents of the house changes with the changing seasons. We make a great show of Chrysanthemums."

"Of which I shall ask you to tell me more presently."

Then passing under a pretty pergola, composed of Vitis in variety, and Wistaria sinensis, and noting some fine Cannas in tubs on the steps, we paused at the beds.

"Three of these," said Mr. Arthur, "consist of Heliotropes edged with Mesembryanthemums, and two of Salvia Glory of Stuttgart, edged with Echeverias, with a groundwork of Violas Imperial Blue, Maggie Mott, and William Keel. The standard Roses flower well.



MR. G. ARTHUR.

Near the Roses is a Tulip tree, generally said to be almost the finest in England."

A Contrast in Colours.

"You have a pretty contrast in colours in the long borders on the east front of the Court, made up of Begonias and Kœniga."

"The Begonias, of which there are four rows, are Crimson Gem, Crimson Bedder, Pink Queen, and Miniature White. The edging of Kœniga maritima sets them off very well."

"How are the beds composed on the north front of the mansion?"

"There is one round bed on the terrace with Canna Black Prince and Veronica Andersonii, edged with Ivy. Then, there is a bed dotted with Kochia trichophylla, and a groundwork of Viola Mauve Queen, edged by Geranium Lady Plymouth."

"How long do the Hydrangeas paniculata—which now yield huge masses of flower in two beds—remain in bloom?"

"Into October, and then the foliage continues. The groundwork of these beds is Gazania splendens, edged with Veronica aurea. In the well of the terrace is Cotoneaster trained as a table under the wall."

Kochias for Table Decoration.

"A very ingenious and successful device. I observe that you have another bed of Kochias, with Violas."

"The Violas are Imperial Blue, and the edging Geranium Mrs. Pollock. We raise the Kochias from seed in February, pot them off, and plant them out at the end of May. The flowers are very useful for table decoration. You will notice that the only creeper on the Court is Ampelopsis Veitchii. The six large vases on the terrace are filled with Bays, Golden Yews, and Golden Privet, two of each. Both Portugal Laurels and Bays flourish at the corner here; the subsoil is clay, and it suits them."

"I should think that it also suits Hollies," I rejoined, as we proceed along the drive towards the back lodge, where clipped shrubs of various kinds are a feature.

"Yes, it does; and all they require is careful trimming. The varieties are Ilex Hodginsii, scotica, Waterer's Gold, Golden Queen, aurea marginatum, Handsworth Silver, and common green. Yews in variety also predominate."

A Border of Perennials.

Descending the grass banks, a border of shrubs, including Prunus Pissardi, Acer negundo, and Acers in variety, with perennials in front, suggested a question as to the names of the latter, and Mr. Arthur replied:

"Chiefly Iberis in variety, Pentstemons, Anchusa italica, St. John's Wort, Sweet Alyssum, Verbascum olympicum, Campanula pyramidalis, Sedum spectabile, Statice latifolia, Aubrietias in variety, Veronicas in variety, Gypsophila paniculata, Lupin Snow Queen, Marguerites in variety, Scabiosa caucasica, and Spiræas in variety. In another long bed are similar shrubs with a quantity of Michaelmas Daisies in variety in front; and in the large bed beyond Cactus Dahlias and Irises are used with the shrubs. Then, there are the beds at the entrance to the Rose garden. Two of these are made up with Kleinias and Liliums in variety, and an edging of Ericas in variety; the other two with mixed Azaleas, one edged with Crimson Rambler Roses, and the other with Dorothy Perkins. The former has been a marked success. We have had it five years, and for six weeks we get masses of bloom."

A Remodelled Rose Garden.

"When was your delightful Rose garden planted?"

"It was originally made and planted thirty years ago. I started remodelling it last year, and am now engaged in getting distinct varieties for each bed."

"How many beds are there in the garden?"

"Twenty-three, some very large. Then, there are six arches and a chain, two pillars of Golden Hops, and ten pillars of Golden Hollies, all edged by clipped shrubs and flowering trees."

"And the edging of the Rose beds?"

"Three are edged with Ischarum; one with Virginian Stock; two with Saponaria calabrica; four with double white Arabis; four with Ajuga purpurea; two with Mignonette; one

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with Nemophila insignis; one with Tagetes; and two with Linaria Sutton's Snow White and Golden Gem."

"I should like to have the names of the varieties of Roses."

"Hugh Dickson, La Tosca, Madame Abel Chatenay, La France of 1908, Caroline Testout, Richmond, Prince de Bulgarie, Gruss an Teplitz, La France, Frau Karl Druschki, Baroness Rothschild, Boule de Neige, and Papa Gontier. The climbers used are Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Lady Gay, The Lyon, The Wallflower, Leuchstern, Tea Rambler, Paul's Carmine Pillar, Philadelphia, Blush Rambler, Waltham Rambler, Thalia, and Longworth Rambler."

"Do you frequently enrich the soil?"

"Every year. I have trenched the ground and elevated the soil lately."

"The Rose garden, in addition to the admirable arrangements, gains by its surrounding."

"Yes; the belts of trees help to render it picturesque, and the raised bank at the end—with climbers at the back, and Azaleas, Foxgloves, and Violas in front—improves the appearance. The Hollies, including the pyramids, belong to the varieties I have already named."

FAN COURT, CHERTSEY.

A Splendid Herbaceous Border.

At Fan Court there is a very attractive approach to the kitchen garden; and in the garden a splendid border running the whole length, with the glasshouses on the right, and the orchard on the left, challenges admiration.

"What are the dimensions?" I enquired.

"A hundred yards long and seven feet wide. The border is planted so as to have a great display of autumn flowers."

"And you have secured it in a striking manner. Perhaps you will first mention what you depend upon for the background?"

"Clumps of Sweet Peas are one of the features. The varieties are Miss Willmott, King Edward Spencer, Picotee, Frank Dolby, Lady G. Hamilton, White Spencer, Evelyn Hemus, Norah Unwin, and Gladys Unwin. Dahlias also are used considerably, such as Henry Stredwick, Spitfire, Champion, Floradora, and some of the Singles."

"I notice that you have some Pæony-flowered."

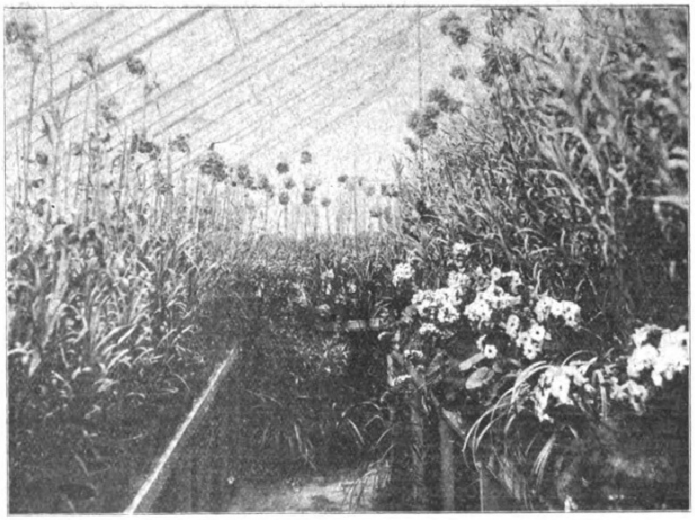
"Yes. Lady Stern is very pleased with them, and I think they promise to be a valuable addition. Duke Henry is very fine, and so is Queen Emma. Other tall-growing flowers include Heleniums in variety."

Heleniums for Table Use.

"You have glorious clusters of one variety of Helenium."

"You mean H. grandicephalum striatum, orange, striped with crimson. It is grown from cuttings quite easily, and it makes a splendid table decoration, lasting for two or three weeks. Michaelmas Daisies are, of course, largely used. Marguerites in variety, Tritomas, Cosmos, Nicotiana affinis and Sanderæ, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, and Tree Pæonies."

"Looking up the slope, gold, crimson, and white seem to predominate. I think we should add some of the varieties in front."



PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATIONS AT FAN COURT, CHERTSEY.

"One of the prettiest effects is contributed by Godetias Duchess of Albany, and Antirrhinums in variety. Calceolarias Golden Gem, dwarf Fuchsias, and Zinnias in variety are also specially helpful."

"You have a healthy lot of Japanese Chrysanthemums in pots outside."

"The Japanese and Singles are the favourites. We grow altogether about six hundred, using the smaller varieties for boxes in the house. Out of one hundred varieties, the best Japanese are J. Locke, Master James, Hon. Mrs. Lopez, Purity, Algernon Davis, Arthur Mileham, Bessie Godfrey, Edith Jamieson, Formality, General Hutton, Henry Perkins, H. J. Jones (1908), Jumbo, Lady Talbot, Leslie Morrison, Magnificent, F. S. Vallis, Mrs. A. H. Lee, Mrs. A. T. Miller, F. W. Vallis, and Mrs. G. Heaume."

The Cultivation of Primula obconica.

"Now we are beginning the houses, I should be glad if you would mention the special features briefly."

"One of these is certainly Primula obconica gigantea. I always show this, and invariably get first prize. In fact, I have never been beaten."

"Then your method of cultivation will be very interesting."

"I grow my Primulas, about one hundred, in a very cool frame, in a compost two parts loam, one part leaf-mould, and one part silver sand. To keep the insects out, it is very important to protect the plants from the hot sun. I use Clay's Fertilizer occasionally, and always secure plenty of flowers."

"The foliage seems equally good, but does it ever affect you injuriously?"

"No, it never hurts me; but I always let it flag a little before cutting—this takes the sting away. These plants flower all through the winter up to April. In the house we are now entering, Cannas are the feature. The strain is a German one, and the prevailing colours are crimson, orange, dark yellow, gold, and pink. This is the first season, and I am well satisfied with their appearance. In this house, also, is Eucalyptus globulus, which we shall plant out next winter; the seed is sown every year."

"You have a nice arrangement for your Ferns in the next house."

"We wire the moss on the wall, and Ferns grow into it, with Begonia Rex behind. The

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stage is filled with Orchids—Cattleyas, Odontoglossums, Cypripediums and Dendrobiums. But Carnations are much more a feature than Orchids."

Tree Carnations Outside.

"How many Carnations do you grow?"

"About six hundred. We plant the Trees outside. This is the third season we have done so. They flower indoors all through the winter, and are put out in the spring, where they yield blooms until the frost stops them. I believe that in the future Tree Carnations will be grown very largely outside. The indoor plants are just coming into flower. The varieties are May Day, Mikado, Winona, White Lawson, Cardinal, Britannia, Aristocrat, Enchantress, Mrs. H. Burnett, Rose-pink Enchantress, White Perfection, Lady Bountiful, Afterglow, Mrs. Tallon, Red Ridinghood, Octoroon, Jessica, Robert Craig, and Countess of Onslow."

"Do you grow more Malmaisons than Trees?"

"Yes, four hundred as against two hundred Trees. This house is entirely devoted to them. Duchess of Westminster is the best variety. Other Malmaisons are Marmion, Lady Grimston, Maggie Hodgson, Mrs. Martin Smith, Saulte, Monk, Nautilus, Prince of Wales, Mercia, Prime Minister, Nell Gwynne, King Oscar, and F. Galsworthy."

"In the intermediate house," continued Mr. Arthur, "Begonias Gloire de Lorraine, Coleus, Acalyphas, Bouvardias, and Celosias are conspicuous. We go in rather largely for double Petunias, pink and white."

"How do you get such fine flowers?"

"I take the cuttings every year, after flowering in the spring, and put them in cold frames. These have been in flower all the summer. The little blue flower which you see in this house is not often grown. It is called Ophiopogon, and requires greenhouse treatment. In the stove, Allamanda Hendersonii has been flowering all the summer, also white Stephanotis. Here are grown Tomatoes inside. The only variety used inside and out is Carters' Sunrise. Calanthes and Crotons are grown in quantity. The only Violets grown in frames are La France and Marie Louise, but we go in for a large number. Tulips and Irises are grown in large quantities for cutting out of doors."

"I observe that you have Roses on the wall of one of the Peach houses."

"We get flowers from these nearly all the year round. The varieties include Falcot and Niphetos. The Peaches which follow in succession are Early Rivers, Cardinal, Early York, and Waterloo; and Nectarines Humboldt and Lord Napier."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Three. In the early house Black Hamburgh is the only variety. The Begonias which you see in this house are for showing in November. Some of them are two and a half feet high, and two feet through."

"Both in respect to size and symmetry they are exceptionally fine. What are your mid-season Grapes?"

"Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, and Black Alicante. This is still a very good Vinery, though it is forty years old. Then, in the late house are Muscat, Gros Maroc, and Black Alicante. Three years ago I inarched Gros Maroc on a Black Hamburgh stem. I have done this twice, and the result is very satisfactory. There is no doubt that Gros Maroc does better on Black Hamburgh stem than on its own."

"You have a good deal of fruit outside also?"

"Peaches, in several varieties, do well on the south wall, and enable us to prolong the succession from July until October. The latest variety is Devonian. On the south wall we also grow Plums and cordon Pears, Plums being chiefly Golden Drop, Early Orleans, and Greengage. The Pears are Marie Louise, Doyenne du Comice, and Pitmaston Duchess. The north wall is literally covered with Morello Cherries, and on the east, late varieties of Plums are grown."

A Pergola of Fruit Trees.

"You must have a quantity of fruit on the pergola."

"The pergola consists of Pears and Sweet Cherries. The former, which cover one side, include Beurre Hardy, Fondante d'Automne, Thompson's, Durondeau, Beurre Bosc, Clapp's Favourite, and Brockworth Park. The Cherries on the other side are Governor Wood, Early Rivers, Frogmore Early Bigarreau, and Bigarreau de Schreken. The pergola, which has a border of Mrs. Sinkins Pink below, was only made three years ago."

"What about Apples?"

"The Apples, as well as more Pears and Plums, are grown in the orchard just beyond the kitchen garden. They are all standard trees, and the principal Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Cockle's Pippin, Fearn's Pippin, Gascoyne's Seedling, Worcester Pearmain, Bramley's Seedling, and Wellington."

"We have not mentioned Strawberries or Raspberries."

"The varieties of the former are Royal Sovereign, Laxton's Latest, Laxton's Reward, British Queen, and Comte de Paris. Raspberries do wonderfully well here. The variety Semper Fidelis is very prolific, and on another fence we grow Red Antwerp. The yellow Raspberry is also grown. There are plantations of Gooseberries and Currants."

Special Vegetables.

"Have you any vegetables of a special character?"

"Celery is rather a feature. We have about six hundred plants, the varieties being Sutton's Solid White and A1. Endive is grown in large quantities, and also Lettuces. The varieties of Peas include May Queen, Empress of India, Duchess of York, Invincible, Sutton's King Edward, Eureka, Royal Jubilee, Giant Marrowfat, Autocrat, Gladstone, Exhibition Marrowfat, and Sutton's Latest of All. Haricot Beans are a feature. We leave them to dry, and shell in the winter. The most prolific and best variety is White Haricot. Most Potatoes are grown in a field, but a few early varieties in frames, such as May Queen, Early Kidney, Sharpe's Victor, King Edward, Come to Stay, Table Talk, and Duchess of Cornwall."

"How long have you been here, Mr. Arthur?"

"Thirty-seven years. I have been here with four families, and twenty-three years with Sir Edward Stern. I came as foreman, and twelve years ago the management of the gardens was entrusted to me."

"You have done a good deal of showing?"

"I show locally at Addlestone, and have taken a good many first prizes for groups of foliage and table plants, also fruit. In 1909 I took nine prizes. For the whole twenty-three years since Sir Edward had Fan Court, we have done the dinner tables in London."

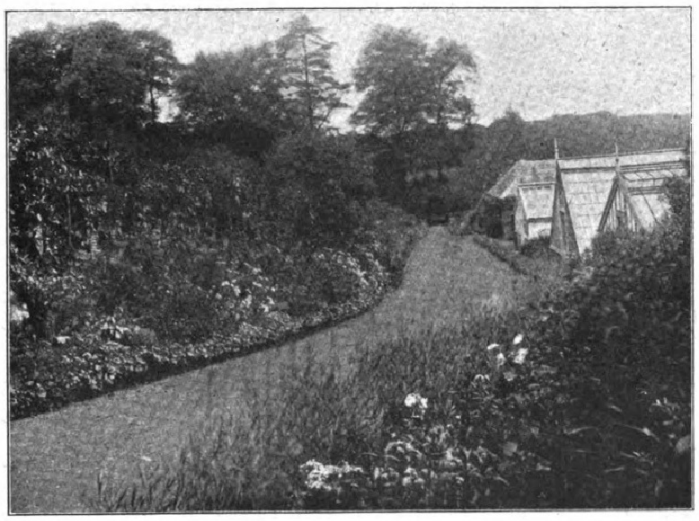
Dinner Combinations.

"Perhaps you would tell me some of the combinations you have used?"

"This year, at a dinner party in May, the tables were done with Schizanthus (pink and white), Asparagus Sprengeri, and Gypsophila elegans. In June we used orange and yellow Azalea mollis, with Asparagus Sprengeri and white Saxifrages. In July, Malmaison Carnations were used, upwards of three hundred blooms, deep pink, red and white, with Asparagus Sprengeri and Maidenhair Fern. We also use for the tables in London, red and pink Roses, red and pink or lavender or orange Sweet Peas. At Fan Court, blue flowers are used for the luncheon tables, notably Asters crenata and Salvia patens. For dinner Chrysanthemums are largely used, and, during winter, retarded Lilies of the Valley, Roman Hyacinths, and Orchids. In the spring, as long as possible, Daffodils are used. Throughout the whole of this time, table decorations have been a special study of mine, and I hope with some success."

ALFRED WILCOX.

[Since the above was written, Mr. Arthur gained the following awards at the Addlestone show in November: Six first prizes, viz., for Grapes, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Primulas, table plants, bush Chrysanthemums, and Salvias; two seconds for a group and a vase of six Chrysanthemum blooms of F. S. Vallis; third for Brussels Sprouts. He gained twenty-three points, and won the silver medal presented by Messrs. Toogood, of Southampton, for the highest marks.]



THE HERBACEOUS BORDER AND GLASS RANGE AT FAN COURT, CHERTSEY.

NEXT week's interview will embody a description of the gardens of the Duke of Wellington, at Stratfieldsaye.

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border, and, though repeated attempts have been made to confine them to a small area, isolated clumps still linger elsewhere, and, as they throw their seeds in all directions—Lord Avebury puts the distance at as much as ten feet—the ground around becomes covered with seedlings, many of them hidden among the herbaceous perennials, and escaping the hoe or weeding fork. It is useless to rely on picking off the flowers in spring. Most of the seed is borne in closed capsules—cleistogamous flowers, as they are called, relics of the time when the Violet was a water plant, and had to guard its pollen from moisture—and these later flowers hang down under the leaves, and are not easily seen. Another plant which is often very troublesome in or near a garden is the Elder. It flowers and seeds profusely, and though it does not, like the Violet, possess any means of dispersing its seeds, this is done by birds, especially blackbirds and thrushes. Under any tree in which they are fond of perching, seedling Elders spring up by the score. Indeed, it is not uncommon to see a small Elder actually growing out of an old Pear or Apple, as the result of the seed having fallen into a fork or hole where some soil had gathered. Pansies behave in the same way as Violas, but are much more useful. There are generally plenty of places where the seedlings may be planted to cover the ground.

A Plague we have lacked.

August 13th.—From one plague we have been singularly exempt this season—Cabbage caterpillars. Last year, and also the year before, great numbers of Cabbages had to be destroyed, they were so infested, but so far this year they have been almost free from the pests. Certainly, I noticed some white butterflies in spring, for my cat spent much of its time in chasing them, and succeeded in catching one or two—a fact which must be put to the credit of a cat in a garden—but there were unusually few of them. As the cause of their scarcity can hardly be want of food, it must probably be connected with the weather last winter. Unfortunately, there is still time for the caterpillars to appear in greater numbers. The small white Cabbage butterfly has two broods in the year, the second appearing in July or August. As the result of the cold summer, they are likely to be rather late this year. They must not be confused with the caterpillars of the Cabbage moth. These, though equally destructive, are quite different in appearance, smaller, darker in colour, and mottled on the back.

The Silver Fir.

August 14th.—There is no Conifer more beautiful or more distinctive than the Silver Fir. It looks best when associated with other evergreens, standing out against dark green background, but even when it is more isolated, it is a tree which instantly attracts attention. As it is rather slow in growth, it may be planted in comparatively small gardens, but in the atmosphere of a town it is rarely satisfactory.

H. C DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Billingbear, Wokingham.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. FRANK ASHMAN.

BY the courtesy of Mr. Charles T. Crews, the tenant of Billingbear, I had the pleasure of visiting the gardens last month. Billingbear, which belongs to Lord Braybrooke, is one of the famous historic seats in Berkshire, and is situate about equal distance from Wokingham and Twyford. The mansion itself is approached through a glorious park covering upwards of two thousand acres, timbered with splendid trees dating back to the time of Henry VIII., when the estate belonged to the abbots of Winchester. Mr. Frank Ashman, who has charge of the gardens, and resides in a pretty house close to the entrance to the pleasure grounds, deprecatingly said that there was not much to be seen, but before I left Billingbear I came to a very different conclusion. We first made our way to the terrace, passing a pair of fine Cedars planted in 1801, facing which are golf links a mile and a half in extent. The mansion is a Tudor building, and the Ivy, with which the front is covered, suits the architecture. The bedding below the terrace is on an elaborate scale, with a large Lily pond in the centre.

A Design of 1801.

"The design," said Mr. Ashman, "is either Italian or Dutch, and it was executed when the gardens were made, upwards of a century since."

"When the Cedars were planted?"

"Yes, in 1801. The Lilies in the pond include a number of the Marliacea varieties, such as chromatella and sulphurea. The other Nymphæas include Gladstoniana, Robinsonii, Froebelii, and gloriosa, with alba, the British species, in the centre. The latter has been in the pond for upwards of thirty years, but I planted the others."

Forty-four Beds.

"How many beds does the design comprise?"

"Forty-four. They are never alike two years in succession. Sometimes taller-growing plants are used, but this year they are flatter. As far as possible, the beds are of one colour, the idea being to obtain as many masses of colour as possible. For example, there are eight beds of scarlet Geraniums, the variety being the Rev. Atkinson, which is one of the best for beds of a moderate size."

"Is the number of beds containing masses of Marguerites the same?"

"Yes, eight; and in September we get a mass of white flowers, the variety being Queen Alexandra. The Marguerites are intermixed with Helianthus Black Nigger. These beds are rather higher than the others. Then, there are four beds of Geranium Chelsea Gem, a pink flower, with pretty foliage. These, too, and, in fact, all the flowers, are at their best in September. We plant with that object in view. Four more beds are filled with Ageratums of heliotrope colour. The variety is a seedling which we raised here, and kept to one colour by using cuttings."

"Many of your beds are planted with Heliotropes."

"Yes; the variety is Lord Roberts, and there is an old variety of Fuchsia. There are eight of these. Four beds are filled entirely with Little Pet Geraniums. In two there is a combination of Abutilon Thompsonii and Coleus Verschaffeltii; and another combination is Abutilon Savitzii, with a groundwork of Ageratums. As to the other beds, there are two of Crystal Palace Gem Geraniums at the corners, two of Coleus only, and four of MacMahon Geraniums, the handsome foliage of which makes a nice show."

"Can you tell me roughly the number of plants bedded out in the design?"

"Very nearly twenty thousand, and, as you see, they are all edged with Box. Probably you have noticed that plants on one side are growing better than on the other. They get more sun. The soil is very heavy clay, wet and cold."

"How are the borders on either side of the design filled?"

"The border under the Magnolia wall, so-called because it is covered by Magnolia grandiflora, has Cactus Dahlias at the back, chiefly pink, yellow, and white, with plants of corresponding colour, as far as possible, in front. The border under the Laurel hedge is similar."

"The May tree, with a branch of Mistletoe, at the corner of one of the borders, must be of considerable age?"

"Fifty years, if a day. One of the workmen on the estate, who is seventy years of age, remembers it as a boy. The fine specimen of Acer negundo near one of the Cedars has been there a long time."

"The estate," I observed, as we proceeded to inspect the terrace border, "must be very extensive."

"It is seven miles in circumference, and includes nine hundred acres of woods. On the lakes, which you can see from here, there are about four hundred ducks. The border, which runs the whole length of the terrace, is planted chiefly with Alternantheras, Dactylis (the silver-leaved), Abutilons in variety, Salvias (Pride of Zurich), and Begonias Rose Queen."

"I suppose that you vary the contents of the French vases?"

"Every year we make a change. This year we are using Marguerites; another year the vases may be filled with Geraniums. The Florentine figures of the shepherd and shepherdess at the bottom of the terrace steps are two hundred years old. In the borders under the mansion are Nicotianas in variety, Coleus in variety, and Chelsea Gem Geraniums."

An Avenue of Oaks.

From the garden front we proceeded to the carriage entrance at Billingbear, which is very stately. Facing the house is a noble avenue of Oaks, five hundred yards long. For a great many years this was the direct approach from Windsor, but the roadway has long since been disused.

"How old are the Oaks?" I enquired.

"I can scarcely tell you, but Oaks live to be eighteen hundred years old, and there is still plenty of life in these, though the clay soil keeps down the height of the trees. The Elms, I think, have reached their full age, which is about three hundred years."

"You have a fine expanse of lawn for tennis, and a fine show of bloom under one wing of the mansion."

"You refer to the Epilobiums. There has been a show of bloom since May, and it will last into September. The Epilobium grows wild in the coverts, and it looks exceptionally well, grown in conjunction with the Bracken Ferns."

"Yes, the green of the Ferns blends with the magenta flowers."

Roses Old and New.

The Roses at Billingbear are grown in the kitchen garden and its environs, which are very charming. In conjunction with a number of fruit trees, there is a succession of beds grown as standards and bushes.

"Some of the best of these," said Mr. Ashman, "are Frau Karl Druschki, La Tosca, La France, Lady Clanmorris, Viscountess Folkestone, Bessie Brown, Queen of Spain, Prince de Bulgarie, Madame de Watteville, Etoile de France, Countess of Caledon, Auguste Guinoisseau, and Marquise Litta. We get a mass of flower, very useful for decorating, from old

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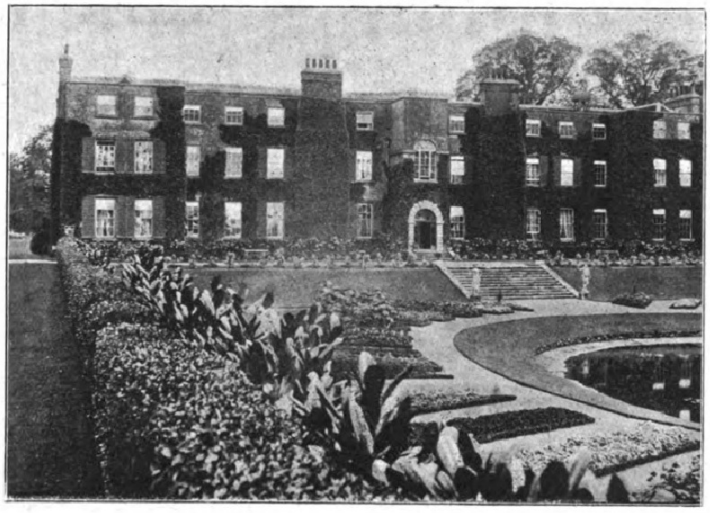
pieces of Maiden's Blush, which are trenched every few years, and then planted again. But we cut from all these Roses. Now, I will show you some that we do not cut."

"You mean the two long borders which we are approaching."

"Yes, these borders are each about a hundred yards long. One side was planted three or four years ago, and the other last spring. They are practically all new varieties, upwards of a hundred in number. Some of the best are Alice Lindsell, Perle von Godesberg (a very beautiful cream), J. B. Clark, Countess of Derby, Countess Annesley, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Elizabeth Barnes, Lady Battersea, Lady Ashtown, Betty, Joseph Lowe, Dean Hole, Madame Cadeau Ramey, Gustave Grunerwald, Jacob's Perle, Pharisaer, Daniel Harrison, Mrs. Conway Jones, Mrs. G. W. Kershaw, Miles Kennedy, Hugo Rollen, and Mrs. David Jardine."



BILLINGBEAR FROM THE GARDEN.

Pæonies for Cutting.

"I see that fruit is a great feature in your kitchen gardens, but before we allude to it I should like to make notes of some of the other flowers which help to give such a delightful appearance to the place."

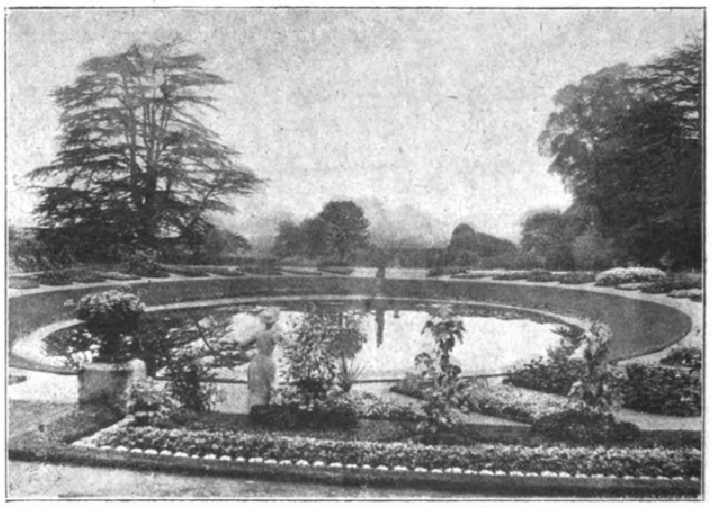
"Pæonies, you see, are rather a feature. We find large flowers the most useful for cutting. In the Pæony beds are Asters in variety, the whole being edged with double Arabis. Then, in the mixed border, are Stocks and other annuals, but no herbaceous plants. Of Chrysanthemums, we grow about eight hundred Japanese and Incurved; and, of the Sweet Peas, the principal are Eckford's Special and the Spencer family. We prefer the pink and white. I sow in pots in October, and some are planted out in clumps of one colour, and others in rows."

"You have a splendid lot of Black Currants."

"Probably the explanation is that I never buy bush plants, but raise my own. The varieties are the Old English and Boskoop Giant, but I greatly prefer the former. The fruit will hang till the trees wither, and they crop as well as this almost every year. I give them plenty of manure."

"The crop of Red Currants seems to even exceed in wealth that of the Blacks."

"Some of the trees are literally breaking down with the weight of the fruit. The varieties are well it deserves its name may be gathered from the fact that we picked our first supply this year before Gooseberries could be obtained in Covent Garden Market."



THE LILY POND AT BILLINGBEAR.

Apples and Pears.

"Have you many varieties in your Apple walk?"

"Between thirty and forty, of which the best are Cox's Orange Pippin, Charles Ross, Blenheim Orange, Houblon, Peasgood's Nonsuch, The Queen, and Beauty of Kent. I prune both Apples and Pears when they make their terminal bud. I believe in late summer pruning."

"Which are your principal Plums and Gages?"

"Of the twenty varieties, the best are Kirke's, Pond's Seedling, Angelina Burdett, Victoria, Orleans, Washington, Black Imperial, Diamond, Rivers' Early, Monarch, and Autumn Compote. The Gages are Transparent, Denniston's Superb, Jefferson's, Golden, and Reine Claude de Bavay. On our Peach walls we have Hale's Early, Dymond, Goshawk, Stirling Castle, Bellegarde, Barrington, Early Mignonne, Early Grosse Mignonne, Noblesse, and Dessie Jardine, a lovely Peach. The Nectarines are Rivers' Early, Precoce de Croncels, Pitmaston Orange, Stanwick Elruge, Pineapple, and Humboldt."

Apricots and Strawberries.

"Do Apricots flourish here?"

"We get a fair crop every other year, and grow several varieties, including Shipley's, Early Red, Moor Park, and Peach."

"Your Strawberries are fruiting grandly."

"You allude to Latest of All, the only other variety I grow being Royal Sovereign. The former does particularly well on this soil, and fruits up to August. I only keep the plants three years, and then throw them away. Also, I disbud Latest of All, and only leave the crown fruit."

"When do you pick your earliest Peas?"

"In June. I strongly recommend The Pilot. It is a sort of improved Gradus, but, though Gradus is good, The Pilot is better. It must not, however, be grown as a first-early. I tried it for this purpose, and was disappointed. Then I tried it again, sowing on February 4th, with the most satisfactory results. We began to pick the third week in June, and the variety is a magnificent cropper, as well as of very fine flavour. It comes in three or four days before Gradus."

"How many Peas do you sow?"

"About twenty-four quarters. I sow Veitch's Mammoth on March 27th, and it is ready on July 15th. Goldfinder is a very heavy cropper, and perhaps the best Pea for a large family. We have two rows of it. Other varieties are

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Lord Rosebery and Gladstone. Lettuces are grown alternately on the ridges with French Beans. The best Cauliflower is Snowball, which merits its name."

"What about Potatoes?"

"Seed from Scotland is used every year. We do not suffer from any disease. It is a mistake to let Potatoes stop in the ground too long. Directly the flowers have ceased, the haulm should be cut off. I dig up my Potatoes before the skin is set, and store them away."

Vines without Made Borders.

Then we entered the Vineries.

"I should explain," said Mr. Ashman, "that the whole of these Vines were planted on garden soil. There is no special drainage, and the roots run where they like in the garden."

"Do you mean that the borders were not made?"

"I do. There is not a single 'made' border. Most of these Vines were planted, in 1869, on the solid clay, two feet down, and I have since planted others on the same principle. The varieties are Black Hamburgh, Barbarossa, Buckland's Sweetwater, Trabbiand Muscat, Mrs. Pince, Gros Maroc, Gros Colmar, Alicante, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Madresfield Court. They have cropped every year, at any rate, during the five and twenty years I have been here. The Muscats carry eighty bunches a year; the Hamburghs, fifty to sixty bunches weighing three pounds each, and a Barbarossa which I planted yielded a bunch weighing over seven pounds. These facts tend to prove that a lot of the inside borders are not requisite. Of course, I feed them outside with a fertiliser, putting on from three to four hundredweights. The Chrysanthemums are brought in here, and do no harm."

Peaches from Old Trees.

"You have a brave display of Peaches inside."

"The Peaches are Dymond, Raymaeker's, and Barrington; the Nectarines, Humboldt and Pineapple. A Humboldt and a Dymond were planted in 1869, so that there is no doubt that trees of a great age will yield fruit. In the late Peach house, the Peaches at the back are similar varieties, and in front the Nectarines are Pineapple, Cardinal, and Early Rivers. Here is the early Vinery, which was put up about sixty years ago. We cut Grapes in this house at the end of May. The crops in the Fig house are very satisfactory, the varieties being Brown Turkey, Negro Largo, Bourjassotte, and Black Ischia."

"Which of your Cucumbers do you find most useful?"

"Veitch's Favourite and Market Favourite. You may care to know that I stopped Cucumber spot by putting carbolic and water in a saucer in the house. There are four batches of Melons, the varieties being Hero of Lockinge and Blenheim Orange. Earlier in the year I fill this house with Beans, which we were pulling in February. The Melons I start in pots."

The Plant-houses.

"Are there any special features in the plant houses?"

"There are only a few Orchids, chiefly Cattleyas gigas, Gaskelliana and Mossiæ. We find Begonia Lafayette not only useful for bedding, but also for buttonholes. We grow it likewise for decorating the table when we want a scarlet scheme of colour. I grow between four and five hundred Amaryllis, and cross the strains; and, finally, here is the Pine stove."

"You grow Pines in pots?"

"Yes, and they are just throwing up fruit. The varieties are The Queen, Prince Albert, Charlotte Rothschild, and Cayenne. Pines are quite easy to grow, but the soil must be prepared. I use a mixture of leaf-soil, sand, loam, and manure. We do not show, and, with regard to myself, I think it is sufficient to say that I have had charge of these gardens for a quarter of a century." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 368.—GOOSEBERRIES AND RASPBERRIES.

DEAR KATE,—I think many gardens are somewhat lacking in the matter of fruit-growing. I do not mean Apples and Pears, so much as the smaller fruits, for we have not all room for trees, but the smallest garden can grow Gooseberries, for instance, and there is no more useful fruit, whilst few plants are so accommodating, for they will grow on a paling or as a bush, in sunshine and in shade, needing little in the way of cultivation (except an occasional mulch of manure in the spring), and seldom fail to produce a good crop.

We find Whinham's Industry an excellent and most prolific red variety; Keepsake and Early Duke come in the first of all in May; and Golden Drop and Langley Greengage are amongst the finest in flavour for eating ripe.

A DEVONSHIRE COTTAGE.

Gooseberry Pests.

I am sorry to hear that Gooseberry mildew (an American blight which has unfortunately crossed the Atlantic) is doing much damage to the Gooseberries in some districts. I cannot tell you how to combat it, as I have never seen it, and it has not yet invaded these parts, I believe, but I think it would be best to burn any infected plant at once, and purify the soil with gaslime, as it is highly infectious, and quickly destroys the whole bush. In buying fresh plants, you should get them from an area free from this terrible blight, and avoid using the same soil or position for the young Gooseberry bushes for several years, if mildew has been present. Gooseberry caterpillars are the other special enemy of this fruit; these insects, as larvæ, winter in the soil surrounding the bush, and can then be destroyed by removing the upper soil to the depth of three or four inches (taking care not to injure any roots), and burning it. A good sprinkling of hot lime (just slaked) should be laid over the soil (after taking away the upper layer), and fresh soil (from another part of the garden, where no Gooseberries grow) can be used to fill up the space to the surface. As an additional precaution, it is desirable to dust around the trees with Vaporite (or some such useful stuff) in February, lightly forking it into the surface.

In a severe case, it may be well to examine the bushes in the early spring (after this treatment), in case any insect should have escaped, and syringe them with some good soapy water used warm; Gardo is a useful soap for the purpose, which we find an excellent insecticide. But do not use any poisonous wash or dust the fruit (when once formed) with Paris green, or any other horrible poison (as too often recommended). A Paris green pie is not a wholesome dish (for verdigris is one of the deadliest of all poisons), and one cannot be sure that a child passing through the garden may not taste a green Gooseberry, with terrible consequences. The light way in which these deadly things are recommended, without any warning, fills me with horror, and probably few gardeners are aware of this danger.

Pruning and Propagation.

Gooseberry bushes make an excellent hedge, through which no cats or dogs care to pass. You can train the bushes on stakes (or broad-meshed wire netting fixed to stout stakes at intervals), when young, and they will quickly keep out all intruders; but the pruning of the Gooseberries must be attended to each year in the winter. Do not, on any account, take the shears and snip off all the young points, for it is on these that the following year's crop is produced, but cut out from the stem any growths which threaten to crowd the others, so as to keep the middle of the bush thinly furnished, whilst you should only shorten the new growths where they might otherwise reach the ground, and preserve all you can of them.

Cuttings of Gooseberries are easily rooted, and can be put in either in October or in February; they should be long, straight pieces of the younger growths, fifteen to eighteen inches in length, if possible, as it is very desirable to have a single stem a foot long for the young bush, and yet you need to bury the end of the cutting firmly six inches down. Young Gooseberry bushes begin to bear fruit when two years old, and can be put into the garden best in the autumn; the soil surrounding them should be kept free from weeds, and open to the air, with the Dutch hoe; but, as in the case of all other fruits, the spade should be kept at a distance, as any injury to the roots is to be avoided.

How to Plant Raspberries.

Another valuable fruit for all gardens is the Raspberry, which can be trained on a wall or wooden partition very easily by means of wire (or even stout string) on long nails, yearly, as all the old growths are removed as soon as the crop is over. If there is room for a plantation of this delicious and most wholesome fruit, suckers should be put into deeply-dug and well-manured ground in November (as soon as the foliage drops), choosing a position as moist as possible; and it is very necessary that the roots should not be dropped into a hole, but spread out horizontally about four inches below the surface, treading them in carefully and firmly, for these roots will in time extend for many feet around the plant, just below the surface, and it is on their being preserved intact

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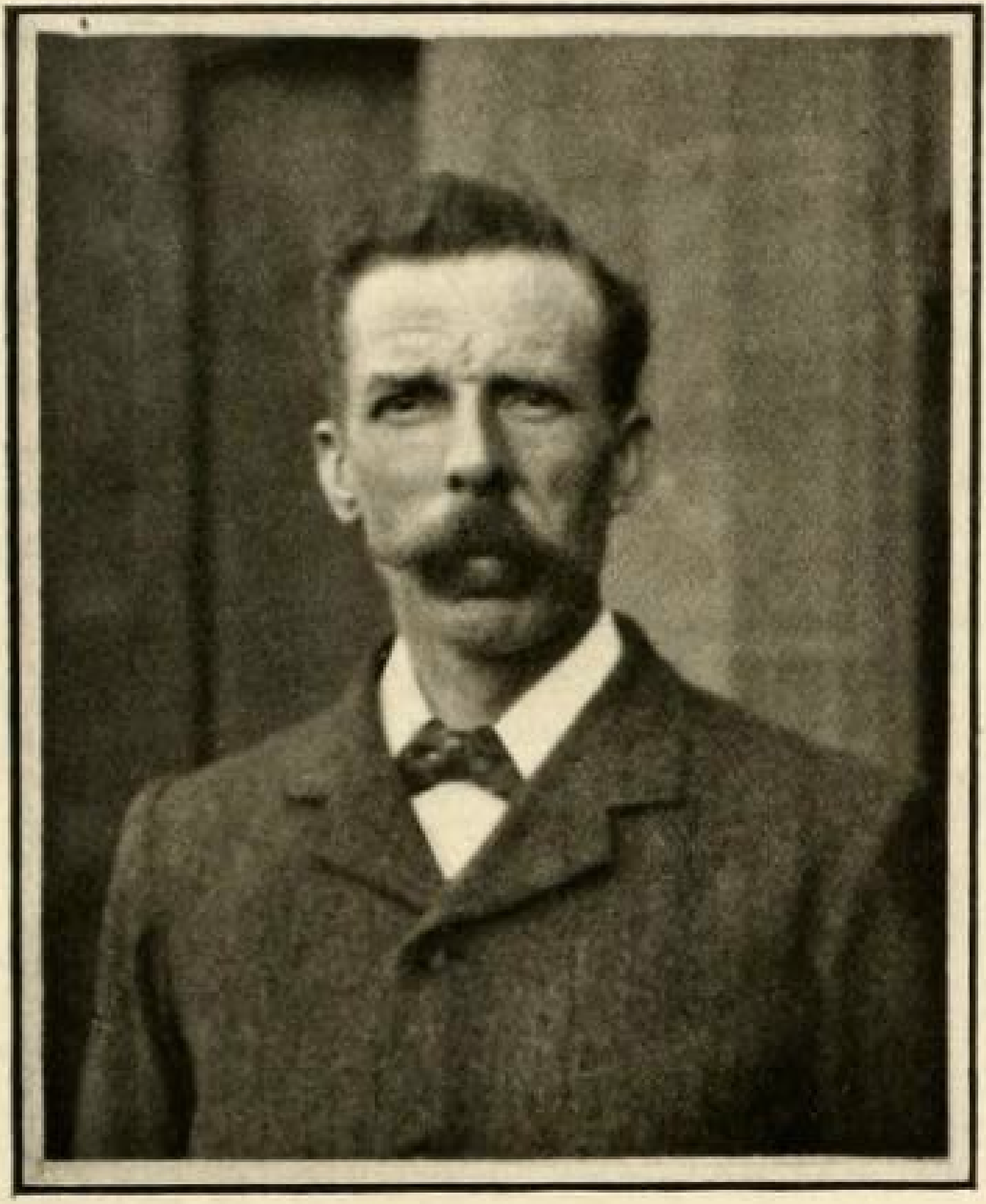

MR. BEN ASHTON,

Gr. to the EARL OF LATHOM,
Lathom House, Ormskirk.

THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

OUR PORTRAITS.

IN connection with the Vegetable Exhibition and Conference held on Tuesday last at Chiswick, we have reproduced the portraits of a few British gardeners who are good "all-round" cultivators, and who have shown a special preference and interest for the cultivation of choice vegetables and fruit. In the present day, when there appears to be an inclination in some quarters to regard the cultivation of kitchen garden crops with a certain degree of indifference, it is good policy on the part of the Royal Horticultural Society to endeavour to show by the proceedings of the past week that kitchen gardening forms one of the most important departments that can be undertaken by a first-class gardener. When a gentleman is about to engage a gardener, he very naturally expects that, whatever additional capabilities the candidate may possess, he at least will be able to produce first-class crops of fruit and vegetables.

As examples, therefore, to young men about to commence their work, the careers of the following gardeners may be studied with profit :—

MESSRS. ED. BECKETT, J. GIBSON, &c.

The two lions in the Vegetable world to-day, especially from the exhibition point of view, are of course Mr. Ed. Beckett, gr. to Lord Aldenham, Aldenham House, Elstree, and Mr. J. Gibson, gr. to R. W. Hudson, Esq., Danesfield, Marlow. But it is not necessary to publish separate portraits of them in this issue, as, being members of the Committee responsible for the Gardeners' Dinner, their photographs appear on our Supplementary Illustration. The same may be said of Mr. James Hudson, who was the author of a paper read at the Conference on the cooking of vegetables, Mr. James F. McLeod, Mr. Owen Thomas, Mr. Geo. Woodward, Mr. Norman, Mr. Fyfe, Mr. Markham, &c.

MR. BEN ASHTON.

The following particulars, furnished us by Mr. Ben Ashton, gr. to the Earl of Lathom, Lathom House, Ormskirk, Lancashire, are interesting :—

"A native of Nottinghamshire, I commenced my gardening career at a very early age in the gardens of Babworth Rectory, near Retford, in March, 1867, under the late Job Smith, who was a pupil of the late T. Speed, of Chatsworth. Mr. Smith was a very able gardener but a very severe taskmaster, which was perhaps a good thing for a somewhat mischievous youngster. After serving an apprenticeship of four years I went to Little Ponton Hall, Grantham, under the late Jos. Towers, but remained only a few months, going afterwards to Nocton Hall, Lincoln (at that time one of the seats of the Marquis of Ripon), as kitchen-garden foreman under Mr. Ridsdale, where I stayed nearly two years. From Nocton I went as journeyman under that celebrated Pine and Grape-grower, the late Joseph Jefferson, Carlton House Gardens, Worksop. If space permitted I should have liked to give some details of Mr. Jefferson's method of Pine-growing. I had not been with Mr. Jefferson many months before he gave me charge of the Pine-stoves and Vineries, and I need hardly say that I was then in my element. I remember his sending me to a noted local show with a quantity of fruit, and his joy at my coming back with eleven 1st and two 2nd prizes for thirteen entries. After serving Mr. Jefferson a little over two years I went as first journeyman at Ashburnham Place, Battle, Sussex, under Mr. Maxton, where I gained much useful knowledge in hardy fruits, &c.

"From Ashburnham I went as flower-garden man to that fine old gardener, Mr. Jno. Derricutt, Pye Nest Park, Halifax, who I am happy to say is now enjoying a well-deserved pension from the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, of which he was a staunch supporter for many years. After five months I was made foreman. I may here say that Mr. Derricutt was the finest propagator and plantsman that it was ever my good fortune to serve under. He was also an expert Pine and Grape grower, which will be readily understood when I say that he grew in 11-inch pots Black Prince Pines weighing as much as 10 lb. 8 oz., a photo of which I possess at the present time. I left my kind master and friend at Pye Nest after two years' service to go as foreman to another noted gardener, Mr. Robt. Milne, Vale Royal, Northwich, Cheshire, and while with Mr. Milne I created a mild sensation by growing in 7-inch pots Poinsettias with bracts measuring 22 inches in diameter. Many other things were at that time grown well at Vale Royal, notably Calanthes, specimen Mignonette, Eucharis, Begonia Ingrami, &c., in addition to fine Grapes and Peaches; carpet bedding was done on a large scale.

"From Vale Royal I went as foreman to Thurcroft Hall, near Rotherham, where I only remained a few months; after which I went as head gardener and manager to the late Selina, Viscountess Milton, Kirkham Abbey, York, in March, 1881. Her ladyship dying in 1883, I remained with her son, the present Lord Hawkesbury of Hazelbech till March, 1885, when I left to go as gardener to Lord Howard of Glossop, Glossop Hall, Derbyshire, where I remained eleven years. I may here remark that Glossop, from a gardener's point of view, is one of the worst districts in the British Islands, being wet, cold, and the atmosphere soot-laden; successful vegetable cultivation there was quite out of the question.

"I left Glossop to come to Lathom in January, 1896, and, as the story says, 'have lived happily ever since'—happy because I found at Lathom a soil that with good cultivation will grow most things fairly well, and because I found most kind and appreciative employers, who were ever ready to recognise and give a word of praise for whatever is good upon their table, whether fruit, vegetables or flowers.

"Of all vegetables the one perhaps that I cultivate best is the Potato, of which I grow every year about fifty varieties, and for which I have won many prizes, including the Silver Cup (of which I own two) of the Liverpool District Farmers' Club show, which has perhaps the finest Potato show in the country."

MR. W. L. BASTIN.

Mr. W. L. Bastin, gr. to Sir Alex. Henderson, Bart., Buscot Park, Berkshire, is well known as an exhibitor of kitchen-garden crops and fruit. The particular difficulty with which he has to contend is due to the soil of the garden being of a very heavy nature, and resting on a subsoil of clay. He says :—

"I have had the privilege of serving in good all-round gardens since I was fifteen years old. My aim has been to become a good practical and theoretical gardener. I have gained my experience as journeyman and foreman at Preston Hall, Maidstone, Kent; Swyncombe Park, Henley-on-Thames; Haydon Hall, Eastcote, Middlesex; Fetcham Park, Leatherhead, Surrey; and Ashgrove, Sevenoaks, Kent. For some years I was gardener to Admiral Pringle, Digswell, Hertfordshire; and I left that place to take charge of the gardens of Sir Alex. Henderson, Bart., M.P., Buscot Park, in 1897. These are good gardens, and we have a great demand for fruit and vegetables. I have also given some attention to the growing of vegetables for exhibition at the principal shows—London, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, Bristol, Cardiff, and Reading—where I have won gold and silver medals and numerous other prizes; also Silver Cup and other high honours at the Temple for fruit and vegetables. I was awarded a Silver Knightian Medal by the deputation from the Royal Horticultural Society in July, 1903, at Cardiff, for a collection of six varieties of vegetables, which I was told was an unusual distinction to be awarded a collection of only six varieties."

MR. NORMAN DAVIS,

although specially well known as a first-rate cultivator of Chrysanthemums, has distinguished himself also in the growing of culinary Peas under glass for consumption in the month of May, being the only cultivator nearer than the Channel Isles who has grown such a crop in anything like the quantity (see *Gardeners' Chronicle*, June 13, 1903, p. 369). He says :—

"I was born at Brixton in 1850, which at that time was principally inhabited by City merchants, and horticulture flourished. My father and grandfather were merchants and keen gardeners, and my love for gardening was inherited. Before I could be started in life misfortunes had overtaken us, and on leaving school at the age of fourteen I had little to depend upon but my own energies. I was, however, placed with an uncle, also a City merchant, where I remained some twenty years, gaining considerable experience in commercial life. Then, upon losing my mother, the home was entirely broken up, and I found myself in lodgings at Walworth; and it was here that my fate as a Chrysanthemum grower was decided. My landlord was a keen amateur 'Mummist,' exhibiting in his small way at the local shows; and it was not long before I was as keen as he. I spent in his garden much of my spare time, and together we often visited the then far-famed Temple Gardens, as well as such nurseries as those of Messrs. Salter, Adam, and Forsyth, bringing home cuttings or plants of the novelties. Upon marrying in 1872 I found more scope for the practice of my hobby, but my sympathies were not confined to Chrysanthemums. I have reared collections of many kinds of florists' flowers. Finding gardening expensive and beyond my means, I started as many others have done, and made my hobby pay for itself; and finally left City life and started as a professional grower. My success as a Chrysanthemum grower, however, is not the interest of the moment.

"After 1890, finding competition growing keener every year, I decided upon extending my business, and came to Framfield, in Sussex, in 1896. I tried market gardening under glass; scarcity of skilled labour in country districts rendered progress slower than I wished, but I think I can fairly say I have turned out various crops with some amount of success. Strawberries (these without heat), French Beans, and Tomatos, all paid well, and always will do, so long as they are well grown and properly marketed. My chief success, however, and what has proved most interesting to me, has been the growing of culinary Peas under glass for marketing in May; these I have grown for six years in succession, and no crop has paid me better: I have been able to

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Gard. Chron., 1876

Obituary.

We regret to announce the death, after a short illness, of Mr. George Austen, of Tresco Farm, Isles of Scilly. The deceased was a native of Staffordshire, and served his time in the gardens of Sandon Hall, the seat of the Earl of Harrowby. After leaving Sandon he was for several years foreman under Mr. Davidson, of Stackpole Court Gardens, Pembrokeshire, the seat of the Earl of Cawdor. After a temporary residence in the Messrs. Osborn's nursery at Fulham, he was appointed gardener to the then Lord Barrington, at Beckett Park, which situation he held for eight years. From thence he went to live with Mr. Biddulph, banker, of Ledbury, and on his death went to the Rev. T. Phillpotts, of Porthgwidden, Cornwall, in whose service he remained as gardener and bailiff for over twenty years. Six years ago he entered the service of the late Augustus Smith, Esq., Lord Proprietor of the Scilly Isles, as manager of the farm and estate of Tresco, and he continued in the service of the present proprietor, Dorrien Smith, Esq., up to the time of his decease. Mr. Austen was an excellent practical gardener, and famous as a first-class Melon and Cucumber grower. He was the introducer of that excellent Melon called after him, "Austen's Incomparable." The garden at Porthgwidden during his long superintendence, and under the encouragement and friendly help given him by his employer, became one of the most noted in the West of England. His genial disposition, integrity of character, general intelligence, and wide information on subjects of natural history, gained for him the esteem and respect of a large circle of friends, who will learn of his death with sincere regret. He leaves a widow to mourn her loss, and two sons, the younger of whom, Mr. John Austen, late of Blenheim, is now head gardener to Sir Greville Smyth, Ashton Court.

Liverpool by Thomas Aughton of Southport Grocer the Son and John Whittle of Birkdale in the said County Sergeant of Police the Executors.

AUGUST James.
Effects under £100.

12 July. The Will of James August late of Beddington in the County of **Surrey** Gardener who died 4 June 1877 at Beddington was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Mary Ann August of Beddington Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

AUGUST James.
Effects under £100.

23 October. The Will of James August late of High Town Foul Ford near Ringwood in the County of **Southampton** Yeoman who died 18 June 1877 at High Town was proved at **Winchester** by Elizabeth August of High Town Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

AULD William.

24 April. The Confirmation of the Commissariot of **Edinburgh** dated 23 March 1877 of William Robert Livingstone Auld Boot and Shoe Maker 381 High-street Edinburgh the Son as accepting Executor Nominate of William Auld Boot and Shoe Maker 381 High-street Edinburgh residing at 2 Meadow-place Edinburgh who died at Edinburgh 14 February 1877.

AULT Henry Horatio.
Effects under £50.

5 October. Administration of the effects of Henry Horatio Ault late of 202 New-crane Wapping in the County of **Middlesex** Engineer who died 1 July 1876 at 202 New-crane was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Jemima Ault of New-street Barking in the County of Essex Widow the Relict.

AUST Thomas.
Effects under £200.

5 October. The Will of Thomas Aust late of Ditteridge in the County of **Wilts** Labourer who died 9 August 1877 at Box in the said County was proved at **Salisbury** by Thomas Randall and John Hall both of Box Innkeepers the Executors.

AUSTEN Alfred.
Effects under £1,500.

2 October. The Will of Alfred Austen formerly of Guildford in the County of Surrey but late of 29 St. James-street Brighton in the County of **Sussex** Grocer who died 20 July 1877 at 31 King's-road Brighton was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Sarah Martin Austen Austen of 29 St. James-street Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

AUSTEN George.
Effects under £200.

14 February. Administration of the effects of George Austen late of Tresco one of the Islands of Scilly in the County of **Cornwall** Farm Bailiff who died 20 October 1876 at Tresco was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Maria Austen of Gulval in the said County Widow the Relict.

AUSTEN John.
Effects under £800.

20 March. The Will of John Austen late of Tenterden in the County of **Kent** Farmer who died 18 January 1877 at Tenterden was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Ann Austen Widow the Relict and John Austen Yeoman the Son both of Tenterden and Henry Austen of 41 Ludgate-hill in the City of London Grocer the Son the Executors.

The Gardens of Viscount Elveden, M.P.,

AT PYRFORD COURT, WOKING.

Interview with Mr. W. Auton.

THE annual dinner of that excellent institution, the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund, was this year presided over by the Right Hon. Viscount Elveden, M.P., formerly known as the Hon. Rupert Guinness. Both he and the Viscountess, who accompanied him, made eloquent speeches on behalf of the objects of the Fund, in the course of which they gave clear indications of an enthusiasm for gardening, while their practical sympathy was shown when the subscription list was read out, his lordship heading it with a donation of one hundred pounds, and the Viscountess following with fifty pounds. During the reading of this list an interesting statement was made by Mr. B. Wynne, the secretary. He had come to the name of Mr. William Auton, and explained that Mr. Auton was head gardener to Viscount Elveden, and the previous season had obtained permission to throw open the gardens at Pyrford Court to the public, making, on behalf of the R.G.O.F., a small charge for admission. That the public greatly appreciated the opportunity thus afforded them was evident, for the Fund benefited to the extent of nearly thirty-one pounds.

But few of those who visited the gardens, and saw them in their beauty, could have had an idea of the amount of work involved in their making, nor of the vast transformation that has been wrought since Viscount Elveden bought the land fourteen years ago. Indeed, as Mr. Auton showed me round, towards the end of July, and pointed out some of the principal features, it was difficult to realise that previously much of the vegetation was merely scrub.

Pyrford Court is midway between Byfleet and Woking, and close to Pyrford Common. The estate is about a thousand acres in extent, and the pleasure grounds comprise between forty and fifty acres.

"Except for the trees," said Mr. Auton, "everything has been made, and the gardens planted, since 1907."

"Was that when you came here?" I asked.

SYNTHETIC MANURING.

"No; I did not come till 1912, and developments had already started, though some of the features, such as the rock garden, have been made under my supervision. But at the outset I must explain that I am not now the head gardener, though I still act in an advisory capacity. Lord Elveden is keenly interested in the problem of supplying manure to the land, in view of the shortage of farmyard manure, and for some time I have been making experiments in synthetic manuring—the treatment of vegetable refuse of every sort—with a view to its use as an efficient substitute for animal manures. Much of this, at present, is laboratory work, in which I had had training. Until our experiments and trials are fully completed, which may take two or three years yet, we do not want to publish the details of our processes; but I can tell you the results so far justify me in saying that not a scrap of vegetable refuse—leaves, twigs, and even branches—need be burned, for all can be converted into valuable manure. You will be able to see some of the results for yourself as we go round. The work requires constant attention, so Lord Elveden kindly relieved me of the active duties attached to the gardens, so that I can devote more time to this problem of synthetic manures."

"Apart from the laboratory, there is, of course, much outside work?"

GAS FROM VEGETABLE REFUSE.

"Yes; field trials are carried out on a large scale. We have, I may say, so far succeeded that we are practically independent of farmyard manure, the synthetic manure and chemicals supplying all the needs of the soil. In the course of our experiments we have been able to utilise a by-product of decaying vegetation, marsh gas. Will-o'-the-wisp, as you know, is caused by this gas; and in the process of treating the materials we have been able to collect it into a retort, and produce a gas of excellent quality, equal, in fact, to coal gas. Here you can see it for yourself."

Mr. Auton then took me into a large shed, close to the structure where the refuse is treated. Nearby is a retort, and pipes from this are laid on in the usual manner. The gas was lit, and both as an illuminant and for heating purposes it seemed in every way as good as, if not better, than coal gas, and I was told that Mr. Auton's house would shortly be connected up, as a beginning; while it is believed that sufficient can be generated for all domestic purposes on the estate. The commercial possibilities thus opened up are of vast importance, but as the experimental stage is not yet passed, Mr. Auton did not care to commit himself by forecasting future developments. "Besides," he remarked, as we came out, "I must not detain you by talking too much of the scientific side, or you will have no time to look at the gardens. The rock garden is near by, so we will commence with that."

THE NYMPHÆA GARDEN AT PYRFORD COURT.

A LARGE ROCK GARDEN.

This rock garden is on a large scale, in keeping with the others. Advantage has been taken of the natural slope of the ground—for the house stands on the crown of a hill, with an extensive lawn in front, and the various gardens around it—but it has been considerably deepened, and all the surplus soil, together with that taken away in levelling the other gardens, some thousands of tons, was used to make a big embankment, which shuts off the rockery, and is planted with shrubs. This work was done in 1914, when the rockery was made, and the shrubs have now attained a large size. At the foot of the rockery is a bog garden, the water spreading out from a pool, which is fed by a waterfall. At the time of my visit the pool was dry, owing to the abnormal season; but ordinarily it is fed by the surface drainage which is collected higher up, and goes into a soft water tank, whence an electric motor pumps it into the Lily pond, and from this it finds its way to the rock garden. There is also a moraine here.

As to the plants, they comprised all the usual run of Alpines and rock plants, but I noted an especially large area devoted to Primulas, while some handsome Bamboos were very attractive. There are but a few kinds, the principal being Bambusa Metake, B. nitida, and Phyllotachys fastuosa, but these are in liberal clumps.

"The outbreak of war came when we were still working on this rockery," said Mr. Auton; "but we are now taking it up again. In fact, the gardens are not yet completed, and much remains to be done, as opportunity permits."

THE NYMPHÆA GARDEN.

The winding steps of the rockery lead up through tall trees to the Nymphæa garden, so called from the Water Lilies in the pond in the centre. They are some of the choicest varieties, and on this glorious summer day made a delightful picture. At each corner of the pond is an example of topiary work, two spirals and two birds; and a broad, flagged path runs round it. At one end the trees which top the rockery make a cool and shady background, while all around runs a well-kept hedge of Holly. Parallel with the pond on either side is a long bed of Cannas, and at each end are two beds of Carnations, which were blooming well, thanks to a good mulching of the synthetic manure. In the shaded border under the trees Funkias are established, and in front of these are beds of Ten-week Stocks. In the borders at the sides Wichuraiana Roses are planted and bent down; and other beds are filled with Ageratums. The Cannas, by the way, were raised from seed last year.

Passing through a gap in the hedge, we emerged on to the wide sweep of lawn fronting the mansion. Off to our left, Mr. Auton pointed out the Italian and Rose gardens, with the fountain and stone pergola; but we deferred our inspection of these, and crossed to the farther side of the house, where we entered a small shrubbery, devoted chiefly to Chinese shrubs, many of them new or rare. Here, too, are borders filled with all kinds of medicinal plants, and beds with culinary herbs. Connecting them are arches covered with climbing Roses.

And now we came to another large garden, paved with red brick on edges.

"This," said Mr. Auton, "we usually call the Tank Garden, from the three tanks, level with the path, and filled with Water Lilies. It is really a summer garden, where we stand

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tub plants, such as Hydrangeas, Agapanthus, and Fuchsias, which are rather a feature here. The borders and beds are filled with summer-flowering herbaceous plants."

GARDENS FOR SPECIAL EFFECTS.

"Have you, then, special gardens for special seasons?"

"Yes; and also to give special effects. For instance, we have a spring garden, and a grey garden, also blue, golden, and scarlet gardens, and, of course, Rose and Dutch gardens. Through this hedge of golden Cupressus macrocarpa we get to the June Garden, which is naturally now past its best."

The hedge, some eight feet high, is deserving of special mention, so bright was its golden foliage. As to the beds, they were filled mainly with Lupins, Pæonies, Aquilegias, and Irises, and only a belated blossom here and there lingered on to tell the tale of the loveliness which had been theirs. The Pinks which formed the edging were also done; but the Rose arbour in the centre was sufficient in itself to give interest to this garden.

However, we did not linger here, but passed on to the adjoining Spring Garden, where again the paths are paved with red bricks. Everything had long ceased to be effective, but from the broad masses of various species it was easy to conjure up a vision of the sheets of colour which had blazed forth three months earlier.

Still moving on, we now turned to the right, and soon came to a long and solidly made pergola, which seemed to run paralled with the gardens we had just looked at. Underneath, the path is of terra-cotta and white bricks; and Roses festooned the posts and arches.

"We had to renew all these poles last year," Mr. Auton explained. "The pergola was made and planted in 1914, when Larch was used, but it does not last well, and now we have substituted Scotch Fir, which has a longer life. The broad borders on each side, which you see are filled with Irises, contain only one variety, Kharput, and when it is in bloom the many thousands of dark blue flowers look well against the coloured tiles of the path and the green foliage of the trees."

BORDERS OF ONE COLOUR.

Another sharp turn, this time to the left, brought into view a very long grass path, with broad borders on each side, divided into sections by tall hedges.

"These, I presume, are borders planted to colour?" I remarked.

"Yes; we carry out in each a separate colour scheme. In this first one the plants present white, or cream, or pale yellow or dull green, some by their foliage, some by their flowers. Funkias give us silver and creamy variegation; Spiræas, Veronica Traversii, Skimmia japonica, and other shrubs and herbaceous plants are employed. The next division is the Blue Garden, and for this we rely largely on Delphiniums, Anchusas, bush Clematis, Eryngium Oliverianum, other Funkias, Lupins, and Campanulas."

"The golden border, which comes next, is very striking now."

"It is especially designed for summer and winter effect. The two we have just looked at are not so good just now, because the drought has dealt severely with them. For this golden garden we have, as you see, a backing of trees on each side, and they, too, by their foliage help in the scheme. There are golden-leaved Catalpas, and many Conifers of similar colouring. In the bed itself, besides the golden perennials, such as Sunflowers, Helenium pumilium, Rudbeckias, Anthemis, and others, to say nothing of Dahlias, we have Holly, Yew, and Privet of the golden-leaved species."

"And this next garden also has its framework of trees!"

"This we call the Grey Garden, and the trees outside are planted for their grey foliage—such as the grey Poplar. Thuya Triomphe de Boskoop is a beautiful Conifer with grey foliage: and among the plants are the Globe Thistle, Cotton Lavender, Gypsophila, Nepeta Mussini, and Carnations and Pinks. In the next, the Scarlet Garden, the Canadian Maples outside give us deep, rich colours in autumn, and there is plenty of variety in the plants. Dahlias will be fine; and the Red Hot Pokers, Lychnis, Zinnias, Antirrhinums, French Marigolds, and others are vivid. You see we make good use, too, of the Dwarf Nasturtium, and here is a most brilliant little plant, Verbena chamædryoides, which is a perfect gem, both for carpeting the ground and for the rockery."

Here a turn in the path brought us to the kitchen garden, divided into four by two pergolas which cross at right angles. All told, there are five hundred and sixty trees, part Apples, the rest Pears. The best of the Apples, I was told, are Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Golden Spire, King of the Pippins, Charles Ross, Lord Hindlip, Blenheim Orange, and Ribston Pippin, all of which thrive on this very thin soil.

DAFFODILS IN THOUSANDS.

At the end of the kitchen garden we again struck the path leading to the summer garden, and from this we turned off beneath the trees, and got to the wild garden. This is practically the only part that was in existence when Lord Elveden bought the place, and it contains a number of fine trees. Through a charming dell, cool and soothing in its shade by contrast with the fierce summer sun outside, we went down a bank clothed with Ferns of many species.

"In the spring," said Mr. Auton, "this presents a wonderful sight, for everywhere Daffodils are nodding their heads. In one year we planted as many as a hundred thousand. Then the Bluebells are numerous, and other bulbs are likewise in quantity, as well as Lilies of the Valley, Megaseas, and other spring flowers, so that we have great sheets of colour. Bluebells are planted beneath this archway of Nut trees which we are now under."

The walk through the wood had been very pleasant, the path winding for about three-quarters of a mile; but presently, after crossing a wooden bridge, we came out into the open again, with a glorious view stretching away to the south and south-west. We were on the brow of a hill, and a wide expanse of country lay before us. Evidence of the effects of the drought were apparent, however, in the parched herbage; while near at hand a large plantation of Rhododendron ponticum, made last year, was already dead for lack of moisture. The field sloping away to our right will later—when rain makes the work possible—be planted with Delphiniums and Lupins, making a vast bank of blue in various shades.

A BEAUTIFUL LAKE.

Descending the hill, and crossing another field, we reach the lake, one of the outstanding features of Pyrford Court. It is a sheet of water about five acres in extent; but its great charm consists in the moisture-loving plants on the island in the middle, the acre and a half of Japanese and Siberian Irises on one side, and the different colours of foliage and bark carried by the trees on its bank. A clear view is obtained from the mansion, a mile and a half away, and the planting throughout has had this as its object. The water this summer has been at a very low level, and the bed was almost dry when I saw it.

"All the Irises here are from seed," Mr. Auton explained. "Two years ago the space they now occupy was practically waste, for though Irises had been planted some years before, they seemed to have died out. So I had the ground dug over, and it was then that I found, coming up among the dead roots, a great number of seedlings. These were carefully saved and put on one side, and replanted with the others when the ground had been trenched. This year they flowered magnificently."

THE SUMMER GARDEN AT PYRFORD COURT.

"What scheme do you follow in planting the banks?"

"The idea is to get gold, crimson, and other tints intermingled with shades of green, to afford distinct patches of colour visible from the house, especially in winter, when, of course, we must rely chiefly on different coloured barks. All that you see here have been planted since 1909, and among them are Willows, Poplars, Abies Douglasi, Acers, Beech, and Ash. Some were planted in 1911, others in 1914, and a lot in 1916 by lady gardeners, after the ground had been trenched by Belgian refugees."

"But will not some of the trees in time grow so much as to make it impossible to see the full effect from the mansion?"

"To keep them in bounds they are planted in batches, and in alternate years we go round and take some of them out. Liquidambars form one group, and they look very fine against the dark foliage of Prunus Pissardii, planted near them. Canadian Maples in another group provide good colours, and American Oaks, Willows, Golden Privet, Sedges, Abies, and other suitable subjects are made to serve."

Walking round the lake, I was able to judge of the beautiful effect produced, the moderate-growing subjects on the margin, and across the

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path taller bushes, but each kind so planted as to throw into relief the colours of its immediate neighbours.

SOIL CULTIVATION OVERCOMES DROUGHT.

Before retracing our steps to the pleasure grounds we spent a few moments at the new kitchen garden—formed two years ago—some two acres in extent; and noticing how light the soil was, I asked how the crops fared.

"Six inches down is almost pure sand," said Mr. Auton; "and the subsoil is iron-pan. But for all that, we get good crops."

"Are you able to give them any water?"

"No; for the sufficient reason that we have none."

"Then how do you account for the good results?"

"The soil is well cultivated, and we give it a dressing of the synthetic manure. In trenching, we do not keep the top spit on top, but bring the subsoil to the surface, where we have more control over it, and can work it and improve it. Drought is, of course, bad for crops, but poor cultivation is worse, and in a dry season the man who cultivates insufficiently is found out."

Long rows of thriving Broccoli and Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Seakale (planted in March and April), and other crops bore out Mr. Auton's words; while as to the nature of the soil, it was dry, and as fine as powder on the surface, though a few inches down it improved.

In returning, we halted at a series of plots where the synthetic manure was under trial. The appearance of the crops was all in its favour, when compared with the control and other plots. But there was still much to see in the gardens, so we hastened forward, and got back to the principal lawn, where are to be found the Dutch, Italian, and Rose gardens. These are in sight of the house, though on the far side of the lawn. A handsome pergola in the Italian style runs along the south and west, forming a V-shaped angle, with its apex near the gate of the Well Garden.

AN ITALIAN PERGOLA AT PYRFORD COURT.

ROSES ON LIGHT SOIL.

Bounded by one side of the pergola is the larger of the Rose gardens. Here a long border of dwarf Roses, in groups of separate varieties, defied the drought. The surface had been heavily mulched with the prepared vegetable manure—this being, I was told, the only treatment the hungry, sandy soil had received. Among the varieties I noted as highly satisfactory were Lady Roberts (T.), Betty Berkeley (C.), Souvenir de Catharine Guillot (T.), Papa Gontier (H.T.), Lady Battersea (H.T.), G. Nabonnand (T.), Viscountess Folkestone (H.T.), Notting (T.), Comtesse du Cayla (C.), Cramoise Supérieure (C.). It will be observed that the Tea and China sections are well represented, and in addition two other China Roses, Laurette Messimy and Madame Eugene Resal, were used to fill large beds. Groups of five pillar Roses connected at the top with chains, in square beds cut in the grass, relieved the garden from the appearance of flatness.

In the angle of the pergola is the Italian garden, with its handsome fountain. Four beds here, cut in the grass, are filled with that always satisfactory variety, Caroline Testout, carrying out a scheme in pink.

Roses of the Wichuraiana section, ornamental Vines, and Clematis cover the arms of the pergola, with tuberous Begonias at the base of each stone pillar.

On the south side, through the pergola, another Rose garden has beds—one variety in each—of Madame Ravary, Madame E. Herriot, Lady Hillingdon, and Mrs. Wemyss Quin, and Hybrid Perpetuals, and Mr. Auton drew my attention particularly to a large bed of Fellenberg, pegged down, and another of Zéphirine Drouhin.

"These," he said, "are two of the best Roses I know of for flowering freely over a long time."

The Well garden, so called from the ancient well-head in the centre, is enclosed by a Yew hedge, and is paved with broken flags, between which Thyme is planted. This is a garden of fragrance, for of the eight beds four were filled with Heliotrope, dotted with standard plants, the other four with scented Geraniums and Tobacco Plants.

Heliotropes also figure largely in the Dutch garden, which, too, is bounded by a Yew hedge, and has some good examples of topiary work.

There is very little glass, and this is used to bring on a few plants for the house. Peaches and Plums are grown on the wall outside, and excellent crops were carried, the Plums being Early Rivers, Orleans, Victoria, and Diamond; the Peaches Early York, Royal George, and Noblesse; and the Nectarines, Lord Napier and Early Orange.

Many other features of interest were to be seen, but time was pressing, and I had to resist the temptation to stop and examine them; but as I was coming away the south wall extending beyond the pergola, and in full view of the house, compelled attention. Here, in the border, were more separate colour blocks; while on the wall itself were many rare shrubs, some of which are reputedly not hardy, but all, from their size and healthy appearance, were obviously suited by the situation.

Akebia quinata was growing rampantly; Punicea Granatum, the Pomegranate, was bearing several fruits; and Mr. Auton pointed out a Greville sulphurea, nine feet high and five feet wide; G. rosmarinifolia, still larger; Diospyrus Kaki, ten feet by twelve; Carpenteria californica, six feet by nine; and Chimonanthus fragrans, eight feet by ten.

How beautiful these gardens will ultimately become when they reach their full development can perhaps be left to the imagination. Meanwhile Viscount Elveden is doing a good work in encouraging investigations into the best methods of treating vegetable manures, a work Mr. Auton has taken up with enthusiasm, and for which his training at Kew has proved helpful.

W. J. Chittenden.

The Fruit Garden.

VARIETIES OF APPLES.

Now that the planting season is at hand, considerable interest will be taken in the choice of varieties of fruit trees. An examination of any catalogue will reveal long lists of Apples, described at varying length, but such descriptions are frequently of little use to the amateur requiring only two or three trees. There are, however, several general points, which are worth considering before selecting any particular variety.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

In the first place, the cropping powers of a tree should be known; for instance, some Apples bear young and heavily, whilst others may scarcely crop before their tenth year. A second point is to ascertain their mode of bearing. The majority bear fruit, or can be made to do so, upon spurs, but a few varieties fruit consistently at the tips of the young laterals, and, if they form spurs at all, do so with great diffidence. Obviously, such trees need a different method of pruning from the spur-bearers, if fruit is to be got. Thirdly, some varieties are much more subject to disease than others; so much so, indeed, that it is not always possible to grow some Apples for this reason.

With these ideas in mind, it will be realised that practical considerations should enter largely into the choice of Apples, and both defects and merits should be taken into account. It is now possible to make a few suggestions with regard to certain varieties, and it is hoped these will be of assistance not only in relation to the Apples mentioned, but also by suggesting queries to be answered in respect of other varieties.

DESSERT VARIETIES.

Starting with dessert Apples, Cox's Orange Pippin heads the list from the point of view of flavour. Every gardener should try this Apple, in spite of the fact that it is very subject to canker and mildew. This is a variety which repays when grown as a cordon; in fact, owing to its proneness to disease, the cordon gives more satisfaction because fruit comes quickly, and good returns should result during the early years, to repay any set-back that may be caused later by disease. The fruit keeps from October until December, and is of a better flavour if allowed a little time to mature after picking.

James Grieve is another variety that bears well on cordons, but may also be grown very successfully as a bush. Canker and scab often attack it badly, but it compensates by its heavy cropping powers. It is a delicious Apple when ripe, and well worth growing, especially as it seems probable that it will cease to be a first-class market fruit, owing to its tender skin, and the ease with which it bruises. Handled carefully at home, however, it is one of the most attractive dessert Apples at the present time.

Lector.

(To be continued.)

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THE GARDENS AT FINSTALL PARK, BROMSGROVE.

THE glimpse which the observant traveller catches of Finstall Park, as the train rushes through Bromsgrove on its way from Bristol to Birmingham, is sufficient to awaken interest; but the gardens surrounding the residence of Mr. J. B. Brooks, in near proximity to the pleasant Worcestershire town, are far prettier than most people giving the place a cursory glance would imagine. Visiting them on a delightful day towards the close of the lovely summer, I was greatly impressed when I reached the south side of the house. Mr. Ernest Avery, who has charge of the gardens, first, however, pointed out objects of interest on our way, beginning with the carriage drive, with its avenue of Conifers. Here a conspicuous feature is an Elm stump, with Ivy growing over it. Near the house is a horse-shoe border, about a hundred yards long, with Portugal Laurels as a background, and Hydrangea hortensis, which, put out for a trial, have stood for three winters, and flowered abundantly without any protection.

"What was the summer bedding here?" I asked.

"Sweet William Pink Beauty, and Violas Cornuta Snowflake. For spring we are using Wallflower Blood-red and Cloth of Gold, with an edging of Pink Mrs. Sinkins."

"You have a fine and wonderfully green croquet lawn below the slopes?"

"Yes, it was remodelled nine years ago, and relaid last winter. As croquet is quite a hobby of Mr. Brooks, no pains are spared to keep the ground in the best possible order."

Antirrhinums for Four Months.

"What is the variety of Antirrhinum which makes still such a brave show in the border below the croquet lawn?"

"Webb's New Guinea Gold. They began to flower at the beginning of July, and do not cease until the end of October. This border is filled in spring with Wallflowers and Myosotis. The creepers on the house are Crimson Ramblers, Wistaria sinensis, and Ampelopsis Veitchii. The principal trees on the lawns are a fine Walnut, with a good crop of nuts; a Fir, feathered down to the ground, and stately old Oaks."

"How many beds are comprised in your formal scheme?"

"Nine. Two have been occupied all the summer with Geraniums Henry Jacoby, two with Harry Hieover, two with Flower of Spring, two with Happy Thoughts, and the centre with Mrs. Pollock. The centre bed was edged with Little Dandy, and the other eight with Lobelia Katherine Mallard. The whole of these beds in spring will consist of Wallflowers—the two varieties mentioned—except the centre, in which we plant Eastern Queen."

"The Geraniums appear to thrive in their quarters?"

"They have done remarkably well. We double dig the ground, and put in plenty of manure at the bottom. The roots have gone down to the manure. We have not had to give them any water. They started flowering on June 15th, and last until October. Geraniums, of course, like a dry season."

Continuous Blooms.

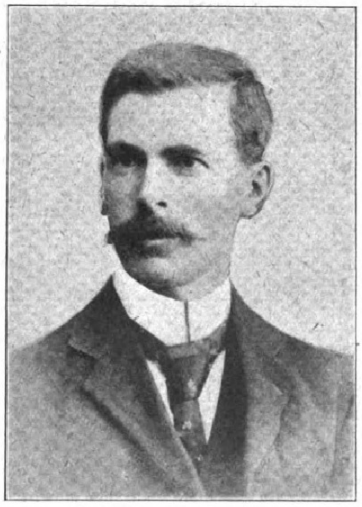
"I notice that there are Roses planted out in the conservatory."

"Niphetos and Gloire de Dijon, which give us blooms all the year round. Bougainvillea glabra is also planted out, and on the stage are Begonias (double and single), Coleus, Geraniums, Fuchsias, and Asparagus Sprengerii, chiefly grown from seeds."

"And all looking well."

At this point we turned our attention to the south front, of which a singularly pretty view is obtained from the house windows, embracing several specimen Piceas, Beeches, and Hollies; a very handsome and novel arbour made of wood; and a great stretch of velvet sward. Below the Piceas is a path with a rockery running right along.

"There are not many varieties yet in the rockery," said Mr. Avery, "but the Rosery below, which was replanted two years ago, contains over a hundred varieties. Previous to planting, the beds were dug two feet deep, and we worked in good cow manure. There are five long beds, three filled with Hybrid Teas, one with Teas, and one with Hybrid Perpetuals—all mixed, but each variety represented by about half a dozen plants in a group. Every variety is labelled."



MR. ERNEST AVERY.

"How long do you expect the plants to flower?"

"Seven years. Some might go on for fourteen years, but others deteriorate."

Favourite Roses.

"You might give me the names of some of the best Hybrid Teas."

"The Countess of Ilchester, Liberty, Dorothy Page Roberts, Dr. O'Donel Browne, Lady Alice Stanley, Lady Helen Vincent, Lady Ashtown, Betty, Lyon Rose, Mrs. David Jardine, Mrs. E. J. Holland, Mrs. James Craig, Mrs. Harold Brocklebank, Queen of Spain, and Mrs. A. R. Waddell. The Teas include Anna Olivier, Lady Roberts, Mrs. Dudley Cross, Empress Alexandra of Russia, Molly Sharman Crawford, and Ernest Metz; and the Hybrid Perpetuals, Frau Karl Druschki, Her Majesty, Countess of Oxford, Hugh Dickson, Madame Eugenie Verdier, and Victor Verdier. We gather Roses here until November."

"Then there is the border with more Antirrhinums?"

"The variety is Webb's Challenge, and Cliveden Yellow Pansies edging them. In spring we use Narcissus, Golden Spur, Barrii conspicuus, Pheasant-eye, and the double Daffodil, Von Sion. Narcissi in variety are naturalised on the lawn."

Annuals in the Fruit Walk.

With a glance at an asphalte tennis court, (which, unlike some, is used), a nice archway of Yews, and a typical Oak overhanging the walls, we made our way to the kitchen garden—a series of kitchen gardens. These are on a considerable scale, and the garden walk along one side of the principal block is quite picturesque.

"In the border on each side of the walk," continued Mr. Avery, "annuals and other flowers are grown under the fruit trees, for decorative work in the house. At the bottom of the border, still under the fruit trees, are Violets, The Czar, while beyond is a bed of Sweet Williams, and further on a collection of Ferns. The most notable annuals are the Shirley Poppy, Double White, White Swan, and Meteor; Asters, Ostrich Plume, Victoria, Giant Comet, and Snowflake; ornamental Grasses, Eragrostis elegans, and Agrostis nebulosa, which we use without flowers in the vases; and Stocks, New Admiration, Imperial Ten-weekly Snowdrift, and Intermediate large-flowering Perpetual Emperor. The herbaceous portion has at the back Michaelmas Daisies in variety, and Anemone japonica alba and rosea; towards the front we put in three rows of Canterbury Bells, rose, white, and blue, with an edging of London Pride."

"Are your Sweet Peas in this locality?"

"Yes, and we grow them in rows, of which the best are Maud Holmes, The King, Primrose Spencer, White Spencer, Miriam Beaver, King Edward Spencer, Apple Blossom Spencer, Helen Lewis, Etta Dyke, Countess Spencer, Paradise Ivory, and Masterpiece."

The Best Pears and Apples.

"Your fruit trees seem to be in prime condition."

"The crop of Pears this year is better even than that of Apples, which I know is not the usual experience. The Plum crop has also been good. The trees are chiefly Pears, and we have some fruit of excellent quality."

"Which do you consider the most valuable varieties?"

"Pitmaston Duchess is one, and others include Williams's Bon Chretien, Le Lectier, Beurre Hardy, Doyenne du Comice, Louise Bonne de Jersey, and Triumphe de Vienne. The best Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, Princess Pippin, King of the Pippins, Worcester Pearmain, Bramley's Seedling, Ecklinville Seedling, Cellini Pippin, Lord Grosvenor, and Pott's Seedling. We do not go in for a number of varieties, but prefer to grow a quantity of those which we know can be depended upon. They are all bushes and pyramids. With regard to other fruit, there is nothing extraordinary, but some of the vegetables may deserve mention."

"The Tomatoes, for instance?"

Outdoor Tomatoes.

"Yes, they are doing well outside this year. The varieties are Carters' Sunrise, Webb's Emperor, and Jubilee. I have had one fruit of Jubilee weighing a pound. The crops of vegetables are generally satisfactory. I get out trenches for Peas in the same way as Celery, and put in plenty of good manure in the bottom of the trench. In consequence, they stand the drought much better."

"What varieties of Peas do you grow?"

"Kinver Gem, for first early; and we follow

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on with Pioneer, Gradus, New Model, Stourbridge Marrow, New Kaiser, Senator, Duke of Albany, and for late use Masterpiece and Gladstone. Eight rows are devoted to Celery, the varieties being Pink Perfection, Mammoth Red, Aldenham Prize Pink, and Giant White."

"You go in extensively for Vegetable Marrows?"

"Which we grow on a bed of manure, the varieties being Large Cream, Large Green, Large White, Pen-y-byd, and Custard. The Runner Beans are Scarlet Emperor and Exhibition."

The Cultivation of Onions.

"You must not dismiss your Onions too summarily, for they deserve special attention."

"The ground was dug at least two feet deep, and plenty of good manure worked in. I sow the seed towards the end of January or early in February, in a temperature of about fifty-five or sixty degrees. I prick off into boxes when large enough to handle, and grow on till about the beginning of April, then gradually harden them off, and finally plant out about the end of April or early in May. Previous to planting, I give a dressing of soot, which I find is a sure preventive against the Onion maggot. The varieties are Ailsa Craig and Masterpiece. Onions have been grown on the same ground for seven years."

"Do you grow many varieties of Potatoes?"

"For earliest use Shape's Victor, and subsequently Express, Colonist, Wordsley Pride, King Edward VII., and new Guardian; and for the main crop, Up-to-date. Perhaps before you go into the houses you would like to say something about the Chrysanthemums."

"Yes; I see you have some outside."

"We only grow a few outside, but for inside use we have two hundred and fifty Japanese for big blooms, and a hundred and fifty Single and Decorative varieties. Two good varieties for flowering at Christmas and in January are Niveus and Nellie Pockett."

"How many houses are there altogether?"

"Half a score. The first is the Fernery, with Orchids—Cattleyas on the shelves. The Ferns are chiefly Adiantum cuneatum and Nephrolepis todeaoides. In the greenhouse there are Primulas, Exquisite and Rosy Morn, also Marguerites, and more Orchids, chiefly Cypripedium insigne, and C. Sedenis, and Cymbidium giganteum. In the stove are Caladiums and Dendrobiums in variety, and Strobilanthes Dyerianus. Other contents of the stove are Acalypha Clibranii, Anthurium Scherzerianum, Dieffenbachia Bausei, Ficus elastica, and Dracænas in variety, with an edging of Panicum variegatum."

"How do you manage to get such a fine show of Begonias?"

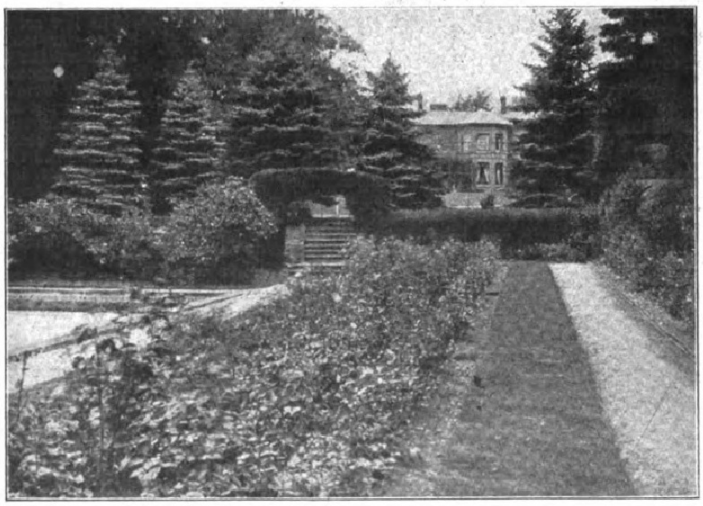
"I strike them, one each in a 'sixty'-size pot, using a compost of leaf-mould and sand. Subsequently I pot them on in ordinary loam, leaf-mould and sand. There are quite two hundred plants, and the varieties are Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, Turnford Hall, The King, and Gloire de Lorraine. Many of the plants are two feet through."

A FINE BED OF ONIONS AT FINSTALL PARK.

"What are your favourite Grapes?"

"In the early Vinery we have Black Hamburgh. Madresfield Court, and Foster's Seedling. In the second, Muscats, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Gros Colmar; and in the late Vinery, Black Alicante and Gros Colmar."

"There remain the Peach houses, in one of which I see you have a few Chrysanthemums in flower."



THE ROSERY, FINSTALL PARK.

"The varieties of Peaches in the early house are Hale's Early and Early Alexander, and Rivers' Early Nectarine. In the second house only one Peach and one Nectarine are grown, namely Royal George and Elruge. We have not yet quite finished the houses. Here is one devoted to Tomatoes, in which the varieties grown outside all do well. We force a quantity of bulbs for decorative purposes. Some Daffodils I have already indicated, but in addition we have Golden Spur, Empress, and Sir Watkin. Some of the best Tulips are La Reine, White Swan, Yellow Prince, Murillo, Tournesol, Red and Yellow, and La Candeur."

"How long have you been in charge at Finstall Park gardens?"

"I came here twelve years ago, and was previously foreman at Lockesley Hall gardens, Romsey. Prior to that I was, for upwards of two years, in the gardens of the Empress Eugenie, at Farnborough Hill House, where I had charge of the decorations."

ALFRED WILCOX.

An interview with a famous amateur Rose-grower and exhibitor, the Rev. Henry Tower, M.V.O., Rector of Holy Trinity, Windsor, will appear next week.

RUSSET APPLES.

RUSSET Apples usually keep well, and by many persons are greatly appreciated when in a rather shrivelled condition. But if gathered at the right time—when properly ripened—and stored in a suitable room, kept cool and somewhat dry, with ample ventilation afforded them in mild weather, the fruits will not shrivel until quite late in the season—and the season for many varieties comes several weeks after Christmas, just at a time when Apples are scarce.

The trees of some of the varieties flower late, and thus escape injury from frosts. They are mostly moderate growers and prolific bearers, doing well as dwarf bushes and pyramids, if necessary, and also as standards. But for general utility in small gardens, the bush form is decidedly the best.

The fruits of only a few sorts are very large, the majority being from small to medium, and very useful for dessert, although they are superior, for cooking purposes, to some varieties that have softer flesh. Nearly all are richly aromatic, a few being exceedingly juicy and slightly acid. Altogether, I think that the Russet varieties are very good to grow in small gardens, and highly valuable for amateurs to cultivate for late supplies.

Boston Russet, Aromatic Russet, Claygate Pearmain, Cornish Aromatic, Cornish Gilliflower, Court of Wick, Court Pendu Plat, Cox's Pomona, Dutch Mignonne, Golden Russet, Hormead Pearmain, Lemon Pippin, Lord Burghley, Mannington's Pearmain, Pineapple Russet, Pitmaston Pineapple, Reinette de Canada, Royal Russet, Sturmer Pippin, and Wareham Russet—these are in season from November to May. Lemon Pippin keeps until the end of June.

DELAMERE.

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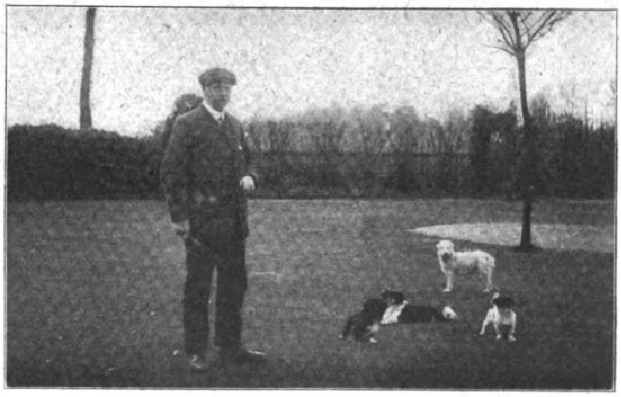
THE GARDENS AT LOUDWATER HOUSE, RICKMANSWORTH.

Interview with Mr. Tom Avery.

ALTHOUGH I visited the gardens at Loudwater House in November under unfavourable climatic conditions, their beauties were very apparent. The charming residence of Mr. John Kerr is situated about three miles from Rickmansworth, in the heart of the hunting country, and the surrounding pleasure grounds are both extensive and varied. On my arrival, Mr. Avery, the gardener, whose name is well known in the horticultural world as a singularly successful exhibitor of vegetables, suggested that we should first inspect the features in the vicinity of the lake, on the south front of the mansion. The lake, which winds its way along for a considerable distance, and contains trout in abundance, is adorned, at intervals, by pretty rustic bridges—one of them decorated with Rambler Roses, which have made wonderful growth; its banks on the far side are enriched by flowering shrubs in variety, and the autumn tints of many trees merit mention; while on the near side Mr. Avery is about to commence a herbaceous border, which will be one hundred and twenty yards long, and eight feet wide. On the lawn is a sundial, which dates back many years, surrounded by lettering in Box. The inscription runs, "To give light to them that sit in darkness, and guide our feet into the way of peace."



Mr. Avery.
Head gardener at Loudwater House, Herts.

Terrace Spring Bedding.

"The spring bedding underneath the terrace," said Mr. Avery, "consists of four panels of Wallflowers, intermixed with the same number of Myosotis, edged with Polyanthus. The varieties of Wallflowers are Blood-red and Cloth of Gold; the Myosotis Royal Blue is much the best. In summer, for these beds, we use standard Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall, Geranium Paul Crampel as groundwork, and Ageratum as edging. The walls below the terrace are clothed with Ivies, Jasminum, Lonicera, Ampelopsis, Ceanothus, and Vitis purpurea."

"And the bedding on the terrace?"

"In spring, Polyanthus, Tulips Keizerskroon, Montresor, and Cottage Maid, and Myosotis; and in summer, Begonias and Coleus, edged with Lobelias Katherine Mallard, and Geraniums Little Dandy. The standard Roses on the terrace are chiefly W. A. Richardson, which have made wonderful growth."

"What is the nature of the soil?"

"It varies, marl, chalk, and flint alternating. You may like to note that the Marguerites, which you see are still in flower, though just affected by frost, are planted out in succession. We use them and the Ivy-leaved Geraniums for the vases in the summer; in the spring the vases are filled with Myosotis. The tubs which we dot about on the grass are filled with Hydrangea hortensis and Bays. The large bed at the corner is entirely a Rose bed, the varieties being Hermosa and Ferrand; they flower all through the summer, and are edged with Violas."

Chrysanthemums in Flower.

At this point we entered the fine conservatory, and I was confronted with a brilliant show of Chrysanthemums, many of the blooms being splendid. There is no staging, and the whole of the contents were in pots.

"Please point me out some of the favourite varieties amongst the masses of bloom," I said.

"Mrs. A. T. Miller, Henry Perkins, Reginald Vallis, Mrs. W. Etherington, F. S. Vallis, Mrs. W. Knox, N. C. S. Jubilee, Mrs. W. H. Lee, Evelyn Cardew, George Terry (rather unique), Robert Powell (a good bronze), C. H. Curtis, Godfrey's King, The Duchess, Madame Oberthur, and Edith Jameson."

"How many plants are there now in the conservatory?"

"Between one hundred and fifty and two hundred. This is the second instalment. We grow about three hundred of the large-flowering varieties, and three hundred bush plants. The Ferns (which are also used in hanging baskets) placed below them add to the effect."

"Unquestionably, and the foliage immensely. Both flowers and foliage are so good that I shall be glad if you can tell me briefly how you get them to such a pitch of excellence."

How they are Grown.

"We take all cuttings early in December, and pot four cuttings in a 'sixty' pot. The soil consists of equal parts of loam, leaf-soil, and sand. The pots are placed in boxes in a cool greenhouse on a stage, putting sheets of glass over them till they are rooted. Afterwards we pot them singly in small 'sixty' size pots. They are then placed in a frame, which is kept closed until they have started rooting again. Then a little air is given, and if the weather is favourable, it is increased. As soon as the pots become full of roots we pot on into large 'sixties,' and then again in 'thirty-twos.' The plants are next put into a span frame on a bed of ashes, plenty of air being allowed in fine weather. The advantage of having a span frame for Chrysanthemums is that a little air can always be introduced on the side opposite to that on which the wind is blowing. All this applies to all the varieties."

A Packet of Mixed Seeds.

"And the bush varieties?"

"The methods of cultivation are somewhat similar, only that we pinch them earlier. When the breaks are eight or nine inches long, we pinch them again, and, after the second break, we allow the plants to make a natural bud, which in most cases will be the terminal. At this new break they will be all flower-buds. I have also grown about eighty plants from a packet of Sutton's mixed seed, which are very fine, hardly two being of the same colour. This seed was sown at the end of February, and as soon as the plants changed leaves, they were potted on in the same manner as those grown from cuttings."

"Do you spray the plants regularly?"

"Through the season three or four times with a patent mildew compound, which we find very effective, while it does not injure the foliage. The fact that the conservatory is lighted only with the electric light, and has plenty of ventilation, helps to preserve the blooms."

Flowers for the Conservatory.

"How long do you continue to keep the Chrysanthemums flowering in the conservatory?"

"Well into the New Year. This month and December we have also in flower here Azalea mollis (retarded), Spiræa confusa, Coleus thrysoides, Tulip Duc van Thol (red and white), Roman Hyacinths, early-flowering Narcissi of sorts, and Primula obconica and stellata."

"It would be interesting to know how you proceed in the succeeding months."

"In February we have Cinerarias of the Covent Garden strain, Narcissi of sorts, Azaleas, Spiræas japonica and Queen Alexandra, Hyacinths and Tulips. Schizanthus and Clarkias Double Rose follow in March, with more Primulas, Hyacinths, and Tulips; also a few Lilacs, Staphylea colchica, and Guelder Roses. In April the contents are much the same, with Roses in pots in addition. When May comes, we bring in about a hundred herbaceous Calceolarias in 8-in. pots, which, with Hydrangeas and foliage plants, make a good show. In June, Liliums are to the front, more Schizanthus, and Achimenes. We grow the latter in baskets as well as pots. Malmaison Carnations join these

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in July. We grow about two hundred of different varieties. In August the prevailing flowers are Liliums, Hydrangea paniculata, Ivy-leaved Geraniums in 8-in. pots, Fuchsias, and Campanula pyramidalis (white and blue). There is not much to attract in September, but towards the end of that month we begin with Chrysanthemums, and keep up a succession with Poinsettias at the end of the year. Mrs. Thompson is the latest Chrysanthemum."

Flowers Outside All the Year Round.

We next turned our attention to the north side of the mansion, where Crimson Rambler Roses on arches made a grand show, while Roses in front cover the area. But the feature here, facing the Hall, are the borders, one hundred and ten yards long, the top one eight feet wide, and the lower six feet. Ascending the steps up to the top border, I asked Mr. Avery to indicate the principal contents.

"The Acacia trees at the back are a great feature, and Acers and Prunus are conspicuous. There is a representative collection of Asters in clumps in the border, arranged according to height. Liliums tigrinum and giganteum, still in flower, throw out a large quantity of spikes. Then, we have Hollyhocks, which are not troubled by the pest; Helianthus, Solidago, Echinops, Pompone Dahlias, Chrysanthemum maximum, Honesty, Salvia patens, Violas in variety; clumps of Sweet Peas every ten yards; Antirrhinums; Nicotiana affinis and Sanderæ, Campanulas, and seedling Pentstemons."

Calceolaria mexicana.

"There are two good plants, with small yellow flowers."

"They are Calceolaria mexicana, of which I had a trial packet from the Royal Horticultural Society. The seed is sown in spring, and planted out as soon as the frost has done. The little golden Bays are rather pretty."

"Lilacs seem to be conspicuous in the lower border."

"Specimen trees of double-white Lilacs, creeping Mulberries, and Golden Yews are the feature; and the groundwork, which varies from season to season, is made to harmonise with the trees. In the season just over, we used Ivy-leaved Geraniums Charles Turner and Paul Crampel, edged with Pyrethrum Golden Feather, Geranium Little Dandy, Lobelias, and Ageratums. As standards in the border, which gives on to the tennis-court, are Roses Hiawatha, Crimson Rambler, and Dorothy Perkins. On the top terrace, above the wall, is a quantity of Ericas and Rock Roses, with a belt of Larch, Spruce, Beech, Limes, Chestnuts, and Copper Beech at the back."

"Do you spring-bed the borders?"

"There are flowers in them all the year round. Tulips are largely used in spring, the May-flowering varieties following the earlier. Wall-flowers are interspersed, and the whole are edged with Myosotis and Polyanthus."

Resuming our walk in the direction of the kitchen garden, we passed on the right of the lawn a bed with a quantity of Antirrhinums in flower, a small but excellent collection of rock plants, and a great wealth of Laurels under the trees. One of the charms of Loudwater is that there is no law of the Medes and Persians, so that you come across things quite unexpectedly. Proceeding along the banks of the lake, I observed close to the waterfall an Iris border, which is followed by the Russian Balsam, and Spiræas in variety. The Balsam seeds itself, and grows to a height of nearly ten feet.

"Also, you will notice," said Mr. Avery, "that the trunk of one old tree has climbing Roses, Hiawatha, on it, and another Caroline Testout; while further along the banks of the lake are a fine weeping Beech, Ferns in variety, and Polygonum. The rustic bridge we are now crossing brings us to an island, with a summer-house on it, and Cactus Dahlias still flowering profusely. The island was only planted two years ago."

"You must have a number of wild ducks hereabouts," I remarked, as we crossed another rustic bridge.

"We rear between three and four hundred. Here, Bamboos do splendidly. We are now approaching another piece of pleasure ground, which, however, has Plums and Pears on one side, and in the border Roses, Hermosa, with Wallflowers and Nasturtiums. The latter are also used for trailing over the fountain in the centre of the rockery, but the rockery itself does not at present contain many varieties. My bungalow, you see, is adjacent to this portion of the pleasure grounds, of which a number of

Loudwater House.

The Entrance to Loudwater House.

Waterside Gardens at Loudwater.

The Ornamental Water at Loudwater.

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Rose pergolas is another feature. A bothy, with four bedrooms, is a recent addition."

Exhibition Potatoes.

We next arrived at a large field, planted with Potatoes and vegetables.

"This," continued Mr. Avery, "forms a part of the estate, which is about one hundred acres; and here, with most of the green vegetables, we grow our Potato crops, which, as you can judge for yourself, are very good this year. For early work we grow May Queen, Early Puritan, Ashleaf Kidney, followed by Duke of York and Windsor Castle. For the main crop we have Up-to-Date, Scottish Triumph, British Queen, Farmer's Friend, and Fleetwood Defiance. For show purposes, our Potatoes are King Edward, Sutton's Supreme, Satisfaction, Goldfinder, Windsor Castle, and Superlative. In contrast to the good crops of Potatoes is the absence of Nuts in the Nut walk. Last year we picked in this walk two sacks."

"What is the reason, do you think, that there are none this year?"

"I think the woodpeckers have taken a good many of them. You observe that intermingled with Nut trees are Acacias, which form a pleasing combination. Within sight of the stables are the plantations of Apples and Pears, grown on bushes. The Apples are chiefly Peasgood's Nonsuch, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Blenheim Orange. The best of the Pears are Pitmaston Duchess, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Diel, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Williams's Bon Chretien."

The Rose Garden.

At this point we came suddenly to a sloping Rosery, of considerable dimensions, and I asked about the system on which they are arranged.

"There are upwards of two thousand plants in the Rose garden, all Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas. The whole of them were lifted three years ago, the ground trenched, and the Roses replanted. The principal varieties are Alfred Colomb, A. K. Williams, Captain Hayward, Duke of Edinburgh, Frau Karl Druschki, Ulrich Brunner, Glory of Cheshunt, Mrs. John Laing, Mrs. W. J. Grant, La France, Madame Abel Chatenay, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Irish Beauty, Mildred Grant, and Gruss an Teplitz. The Roses are edged all round with Violas, J. B. Riding and Walter Welsh alternating. I strike Violas every other year from cuttings, and they make either a good groundwork or edging for Roses."

A Pear Arch.

In the kitchen garden I noticed a Pear arch of considerable length, forming quite an ornament.

"What are the varieties on the arch?" I enquired.

"Pitmaston Duchess, Jargonelle, Margaret Marillat, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Marie Louise. The arch, which is of recent erection, is fifty-five yards long, and I think perhaps it might be made more ornamental by planting Roses on the top."

"You seem to go in largely for Strawberries."

"We only force two varieties, Royal Sovereign and Sir Joseph Paxton, but outside we grow Fillbasket, Laxton's Reward, the Bedford, Viscountess, Trafalgar, Givon's Late Prolific, and Laxton's Latest. We had a very good crop; in fact, this is our general experience; and I attribute it to the practice of digging the plants up after they have cropped twice."

"Do you manage to keep Black Currants free from mite?"

"The bushes you see have only been planted two years, and we have not had any trouble with them. The variety is Giant Boskoop, and this year the Currants are as big as Cherries. Morello Cherries and Gooseberries are grown on the wall."

Peas and Celery.

"Now, about vegetables?"

"We have a long succession of Peas from the end of June to the end of October. The varieties are Laxtonian, Sutton's Early Gem, Pioneer, Best of All, Gradus, Telephone, Ne Plus Ultra, Quite Content, Gladstone, Autocrat, and two new varieties, Curtis's Michaelmas and Dreadnought. The last two have done very well. Of Runner Beans, I grow Carters' Scarlet Emperor and Best of All; of Broad Beans, Green Windsor and Exhibition Longpod."

"You must have a quantity of Celery?"

"Nearly one thousand sticks, and also about two hundred sticks of Celeriac, which does very well. About three hundred Leeks are grown for cooking, and a few for showing."

"You show Onions also, I think?"

"Considerably; and I grow about six hundred for exhibition work, as well as a good stretch for kitchen purposes. The varieties for exhibition work are Ailsa Craig, Premier, and Cranston's Exhibition. I have also saved a few of my own."

How to Grow Show Onions.

In an admirably-appointed store-house, Mr. Avery then showed me a number of exhibition Onions, and I said,

"How did you get such magnificent Onions?"

"For large bulbs, I sow in January or early in February in boxes. The boxes are placed in a Vinery or warm house, on one of the shelves. After the plants are up, and have made their second flag or leaf, I prick them off in boxes, three inches apart, or pot singly into 3-in. pots. The plants are then placed in a frame on a mild bed until they are well rooted. I keep them close to the glass in order to prevent them becoming drawn. As soon as they have commenced to grow, I allow air on all favourable occasions, and well harden off before planting out. This is done about the third or fourth week in April. The soil for sowing and boxes consists of two parts yellow loam, one part Mushroom manure, one part leaf-soil, and some sand."

"You grow both Malmaison and Tree Carnations," I said, as we went in one of the Carnation houses.

"Yes. The varieties of Trees are Governor Roosevelt, Enchantress, Mrs. H. Burnett, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Mrs. Brooks, Seaspray, Duchess of Marlborough, Mr. L. de Rothschild, and Aurora. The Malmaisons are Duchess of Westminster, Blush, Nell Gwynne, Churchwarden, Lady Grimston, Mrs. Hambro, and Princess of Wales. Clarkias in pots for spring-flowering are rather a feature. We had some plants last year six feet high. The variety is Double Rose."

The Culture of Clarkias.

"What is the culture of Clarkias?"

"The seed should be sown in August or September for spring flowering. As soon as it is large enough to handle, it should be pricked off in 3-in. pots, each pot containing three plants. The pots should be kept close to the glass in a frame, or on a shelf in a cool greenhouse. They should next be potted again in 5-in. pots, and once more about the second or third week in January."

"Do you devote the next house to Chrysanthemums?"

"No; it has, until lately, been full of Tomatoes, of which we grow Moneymaker, Sunrise, and Perfection. The variety of Chrysanthemum which now takes up all available space is Mrs. Thompson, which, as I told you in the conservatory, is our very latest, and I only brought the plants in to-day. There is no white superior for this work, and perhaps no variety better for the end of the season. In another house are seedling Chrysanthemums, all in 6-in. pots, and most of them singles. The varieties are Mrs. Buckingham, Mary Anderson, Hilda Laurence, Merstham Jewel, F. W. Warden, and Sir G. Bullough. More late varieties are in the Vinery."

Sweet Peas in Clumps.

"You might name the Grapes you grow in the Vineries."

"Muscat, Madresfield Court, in the early Vinery, with Asparagus plumosus on the back wall planted out. Muscats, with Lady Downe, are also grown in the late Vinery. The Peach house, which is now full of Chrysanthemums, is one hundred and ten feet long, and several varieties are grown."

"We have not said anything about Sweet Peas, which, I notice, are showing."

"They are usually grown in clumps four feet apart, in a good open position; the seed is sown in January in 6-in. pots, five seeds in each. After the seeds are up, we put small sticks round them to prevent them from falling about. We usually turn to account the old brooms for staking. The plants are hardened off and put out early in April. The varieties grown last season were Countess Spencer, Lady Sarah Spencer, Hon. Delia Spencer, Earl Spencer, Evelyn Hemus, Althorp White, Althorp Cream, Sea Foam, J. C. Waud, Elsie Herbert, Silas Cole, Mrs. H. Sykes, Etta Dyke, Frank Dolby, Duke of Westminster, and many others."

Clerodendrons and Acalyphas.

"What do you consider the features of your stove?"

"There are a few Orchids, and Clerodendrons, which are nice for colour and are rather a feature. The Orchids include Cypripediums, Cattleyas, Cœlogyne cristata, Calanthes, and a few hybrids. The only variety of Clerodendron is fallax. We usually take cuttings of this in February, pot them singly in thumb-pots, which are placed in a propagating frame till they are rooted. Subsequently, we pot on to 3-in. pots in soil part loam, part leaf-soil, with well-rotted manure and sand."

"You have a nice show of Acalyphas."

"We keep them for Christmas, and the tails decorate the tables admirably. As to treatment, it is much the same as that of Clerodendrons. The Cucumber house is now full of Begonias—chiefly Gloire de Lorraine—Poinsettias, and Eupatoriums; and the next house has a number of Gesneras just coming out. Most of these are seedlings."

The Treatment of Gesneras.

"How do you treat Gesneras?"

"We pot up tubers singly in 5-in. pots in May, maintaining a temperature of sixty to sixty-five degrees. We keep them well shaded until they are rooted, and after the plants are three or four inches high, we give them more moisture, with a little weak manure water twice a week. When the flower-buds begin to show, to prevent them from becoming weakly, we place them fairly close to the glass. The soil consists of two parts peat, one part loam, and one part leaf-mould and sand. Here we have Coleus, which we use largely for bedding."

"When do you take cuttings?"

"Early in February or March. Five or six cuttings are put in a 3-in. pot, and placed in a propagating frame. As soon as they are well rooted, they are potted up singly in 3-in. pots, and kept in a temperature of sixty degrees. As soon as the pots become full of roots, the plants are transferred to other pots, gradually hardened off, and planted out when all fear of frost is over. The soil used is part loam and part leaf-mould, with sand."

"You must have taken a great many prizes, Mr. Avery?"

"I came here five years ago, and during that period I have gained over one hundred first prizes and five medals at different exhibitions for vegetables and plants. Before I came to Loudwater House, I had experience in Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, and Huntingdonshire; and after that I was foreman for four and a half years at Gaddesden Place, under Mr. Folkes, one of the oldest and most successful exhibitors of vegetables." ALFRED WILCOX.

"How Sweet Peas are Raised," an interview with Mr. George Herbert at Colden Green Nurseries, Twyford, Hants, will be the subject next week

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THE GARDENS OF THE RIGHT HON. MARK LOCKWOOD, M.P.

Interview with Mr. A. Bagg, at Bishop's Hall, Lambourne.

SITUATED on the borders of Hainault Forest, several hundred feet above sea level, Bishop's Hall, Lambourne, the seat of Colonel Lockwood, M.P., is one of the finest mansions in Essex, with all the advantages of most picturesque surroundings. In some respects, the pleasure grounds, which I visited by the owner's courtesy in July, were a revelation to me. Their extent, variety, and arrangement are a remarkable proof of the capacity and skill of Mr. A. Bagg, the head gardener, who nearly a quarter of a century ago began the work of making the grounds. Under his auspices they have since been developed and enlarged. This process is still going on, and when we started on our necessarily protracted round of inspection, along The Chase, which leads from Mr. Bagg's charming cottage to the Hall, he almost immediately called my attention to an addition which was made only eighteen months ago. It consists of a number of beds, filled at the time of my visit with English Irises, but previously occupied with Pæonies officinalis, and earlier still with Narcissi, the object being to keep up a succession of flowers from the dawn of spring to the end of July.

"Here," continued Mr. Bagg, "are several Azalea beds, flanked by Rose beds, one containing Gruss an Teplitz, and the two others Gloire de Dijon. These beds are on the site of the field which was taken in at the beginning of last year."

"When were the Roses planted?"

"Only in the spring of this year. The beds were simply trenched two feet, and some cow manure put into the ordinary soil. No artificial manure was used."

Creepers on the Hall.

Approaching the Hall, and the south lawn, a noble Chestnut attracted my attention, as well as a fine show of Roses on the wall. I asked the probable age of the Chestnut.

"About one hundred and fifty years," rejoined Mr. Bagg, "and the tree is twenty-five yards through. The Roses on the wall and elsewhere in this vicinity, including the summer house, are Marie Baumann, Mrs. John Laing, Felicite Perpetue, Catherine Bell, Carmine Pillar, and Crimson Rambler."

"Then, there is the Hall itself?"

"On the verandah are Clematis montana and viticella alba, Lonicera in variety, Irish Ivy, Jasminum in variety, Clematis Jackmanii, and Wistaria sinensis; these are on the south front. On the north are Irish Ivy, Clematis Armandie, Ampelopsis in variety, Bignonia capreolata, and a Rose, Blairii II. When the late King Edward stayed here, his room faced north."

"How is the bedding in front arranged?"

"The contents are Geraniums Queen of Whites, sweet-scented Pheasant-foot, and a border of Alyssum maritima. Then there are four beds of scarlet Begonias, Phosphorens, edged by blue Lobelias. The Rose pergola, of which a good view is obtained from this point, includes Lonicera, and the groundwork is Geranium Madame Crousse, with an edging of G. Manglesi."

"What are the varieties in the adjoining bed of standard Calceolarias?"

"C. Burbridgeii, and C. amplexicaulis. Further on, facing west, is a bed of Gladiolus Gandavensis, edged with Alyssum; and beyond this is a bed with a grand specimen of Rose Mrs. Flight, while each side of the pillar is Clematis Jackmanii, the groundwork being Gladiolus Gildi, a pink variety, and Hyacinthus candicans."

Trees Planted by the King and Queen.

"You must tell me the names of some of the very numerous ornamental trees on the lawns."

MR. A. BAGG.

"First, the wonderful Mulberry which faces the grand old Chestnut is probably fifty years older. Between the two veterans is an Araucaria imbricata, planted when Colonel Lockwood was born. In this quarter is a Cupressus occidentalis planted when the Colonel entered Parliament, and a C. Lawsoniana, raised by me from seed, and planted on May 22nd, 1909, by the present King and Queen."

"I must mention at this stage the six beds of Geraniums, Paul Crampel, slanting to the sundial, which make such a bright show, but I should like to know the names of the varieties in the Eremurus bed."

"The Eremurus include Bungei, robustus, Warei, himalaicus, and Shelford. This is the first year E. Shelford has flowered. The aspect of this bed is north. As to treatment, I only give them a top-dressing annually, and lift the plants every fourth year. The Cannas in the neighbouring bed are mixed, and edged with Alyssums. The summer-house here is covered with Rose Celine Forestier, and Lonicera reticulata, with a groundwork of Geraniums Surprise (silver-leaved) and blue Lobelias. Another bed near the Irish Yew contains single Begonias mixed, edged with blue Lobelias."

Notable Specimen Conifers and Shrubs.

"Now we might have the names of more specimen trees and shrubs."

"Some of the most prominent are Abies nobile, Arbor Vitæ, Cedrus deodora, Taxodium sempervirens, Arbutus unedo, Abies orientalis, Thuja gigantea, Cupressus Fraserii, Retinospora plumosa. Hollies do well when they are established, especially Ilex Golden Queen and marginata."

"You have a thriving specimen of the Scarlet Oak."

"That was planted by King Edward on October 31st, 1895. Near the Quercus coccinea is Fatsia japonica, which is perfectly hardy out of doors. It used to be known as Aralia Sieboldii, and is more often seen in a greenhouse. The plant has been here between six and seven years."

"The soil seems to suit Berberis stenophylla?"

"The specimen you indicate is twelve feet through, and always flowers well. There is a new variety of Cotoneaster, with scarlet berries, C. Applantia, near it, and Abies concolor and Cedrus atlantica are neighbours."

"When did you plant the Rose beds in this quarter?"

"Only last winter. The variety of the groundwork is Madame Abel Chatenay, and in the centre is Buttercup. We cut Roses from these beds."

"Do you cut many flowers outside?"

"Sometimes as many as twenty boxes a week. Now we come to a bed which contains a collection of hardy Primroses. These were planted last autumn, and flowered in spring."

"Can you tell me the names?"

"Alba purpurea (fl. pl.), lutea (fl. pl.), lilacina (fl. pl.), sulphurea (fl. pl.), alba (fl. pl.), acaulis, cœrulea, Evelyn Arkwright, Crousse, Double Lilac, Rose du Barry, rubra (fl. pl.). The aspect of the bed is north, and the Primroses are planted in ground trenched two feet."

Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

Passing a border of flowering and other shrubs, we arrived at another recent addition to the pleasure grounds.

"This was made," said Mr. Bagg, "in 1908, and embraces several features. One is the number of hardy Ferns planted under the trees, and another the Rose beds. The latter are chiefly Madame Melanie Soupert, Lady Ashtown, and The Lyon, with Buttercup in the centre. Then, there are the Azalea beds, with Berberis at the back to hide the fence."

"Are there many varieties of Azaleas?"

"They are all named, and include Fama, coccinea speciosa, Unique, magnifica albicans, William II., Narcissiflora, chromatella, Bijou des Amateurs, Gloria Mundi, Bronze Unique, Queen Victoria, and Anna Louise. Opposite the Azaleas is a collection of named Rhododendrons, amongst which are John Walter, John Waterer, Mrs. John Clutton, Mrs. Holford.

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Michael Waterer, Pink Pearl, Sir Arthur Guinness, Marchioness of Lansdowne, giganteum, Princess William of Wurtemberg, Princess Camille de Rohan, and Early Gem."

"Do you use peat in the soil?"

BISHOP'S HALL, LAMBOURNE.

"No. The soil is quite stiff, but the Rhododendrons grow and flower well. Although most of the pond was only made this winter, the Water Lilies are doing well. The varieties are Nymphæa alba, Pygmæa, rosea, Gladstoniana, Laydekeri purpurata, odorata major, odorata exquisita, odorata lucidium, Robinsonii, ignea fulgens. Planted behind the rustic house are Roses, Eulalias, Polygonums, New Zealand Flax, and Bambusa mitis growing by itself and doing well."

Giant Oaks.

"Facing the croquet ground you have a number of Rose beds?"

"Yes, but they do not form part of the addition. Here we are on the older part of the lawns. Among the Rose beds is one of La France; another of Perpetual Thalia; and a third Gruss an Teplitz."

"The croquet lawn is adorned by a noble Oak."

"Yes; this is the finest Oak we have, so far as habit is concerned. It is so pendulous that it sweeps the water. There is another giant Quercus, with a seat underneath it, and in close proximity is a bed of Rhododendrons Mrs. J. Clutton, surrounded by Pentstemons Newbury Gem, which have stood out all the winter—a quite unusual thing."

"You make a great display of Hypericums almost under the Oak."

"There are quite a dozen varieties, notably aureum, chinense, densiflora, Moserianum, Richerii, tomentosum, tricolor, and calycinum."

"What is your treatment of them?"

"The important points are to plant them with a little shade, but they will grow in a wet or dry position. Moserianum makes a fine subject for the border, and is very useful to cut from. Calycinum is grand to plant on banks or rising ground."

"How many Camellias are represented in the large bed near the Hypericums?"

"About a dozen, chiefly alba plena, tricolor Sieboldi, Chandleri elegans, Donckelaari, latifolia elegans, and Sophia Chirrerghi. The Clematis have only been planted three years. They flower in the spring. Partial shade is good for them, but they should not be planted against a wall. Here is a pond made about fifteen years ago, on the banks of which, and on the island in the centre, are many varieties. These include Spiræas, Rosy Cloud, venusta, Lemoinei pyramidalis, Silver Sheaf, Snow Plume, and palmata alba; Astilbes Davidii and rivularis major; Sagittaria variabilis; Lythrum Rose Queen; Butomus umbellatus; and Irises in variety, notably siberica and pseudo acorus."

A Former Rabbit Warren.

"Then you have a number of Bamboos."

"They are all the same variety, Metake, but there are Acers in variety. In the spring, a bed of Mimulus Gillingi is a blaze of gold, but to grow Mimulus satisfactorily they must have plenty of moisture. The Primulas in variety include two of the best new, Bulleyana and Littoniana, brought out by Bees, Ltd., of Liverpool; and both, as you see, are doing exceedingly well. On the banks of the water are also Osmunda regalis Ferns, and a group of Rushes. You may also like to make a note of a bed of Polygonum sachalinense, with its lovely foliage; the only attention required is top-dressing.

"The portion of the grounds through which we are now passing," continued Mr. Bagg, "was formerly a rabbit warren, and we still keep the Blackberries growing as they used to grow when the place was wild, though we have added others for decoration. Here is the upper Lily pond, with Blackberries on the island in the centre. We dug round the tree, and left it as it was originally. Near the pond is a nice plant of Senecio clivorum, whose large flowers of golden-yellow are very attractive. Senecio is a plant admirably suited for the banks of water of any kind, the only attention it requires being top-dressing. The specimen of Gunnera manicata next to the Senecio was planted five years ago, and is now fifteen feet through."

The Situation for Gunnera.

"Can you tell me the size of the magnificent leaves?"

"They are seven feet across. Of course, for Gunneras, a damp, shady situation is the best. At this point we touch on yet another extension of the grounds. This is the very latest, and was only made last winter."

"It appears to be on a large scale?"

"The features are principally hardy Ferns, Spiræas, Fuchsias, Primula japonica (in the ditch), Heleniums pumilum, Mimulus rosea, double white Arabis, Bambusa palmata, Deutzia gracilis (growing out of doors), and Irises in variety, all planted since Christmas. Outside in the carriage drive itself are various beds—one of Phlox Avalanche and Mrs. Jenkins, and another of Roses Fellenberg. Now we come to the Rosery itself, entered through an archway of Felicite Perpetue. Another archway is composed of Bennett's Seedling, Myranthes, L'Ideal. American Pillar is grown on poles; and Aimee Vibert and Gloire de Dijon as standards."

"Does the large centre bed consist entirely of La France?"

THE POND AT BISHOP'S HALL, LAMBOURNE.

"No, half La France, the other portion Gloire de Dijon. The ten beds round are Caroline Testout, General Jacqueminot, Lord Macaulay (a variety dating back twenty-six years), Abel Carriere, and three each of Mrs. John Laing,

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and Ulrich Brunner. All the beds have been here three years. By constant pruning you can keep Roses a long time in the same position. Now you must see the Garnish Mead."

The Garnish Mead.

"When was this added?"

"Twenty-two years ago. I do not quite know the extent, but the beds were designed for colour, and with the leaves, shrubs, and trees, make up large pleasure grounds. It will be better to notice a few of the more conspicuous beds as we proceed."

"I observe that Delphiniums are doing well, and, in conjunction with golden Pansies, make a most brilliant show."

"The Pansies are Bullion; and the principal varieties of Delphiniums grown are The King of Delphiniums, Mrs. Creighton, Duke of Connaught, Mr. Faisier, and Bella Donna. The bed of Hollyhocks consists entirely of seedlings."

"They look so well that I should like to know your treatment of them."

"They are planted in ground which has been trenched two feet deep, with plenty of well-decayed manure added. The plants are raised under glass, and put out in April, weather permitting. Treated in this way, Hollyhocks are not so liable to suffer from the disease which often affects them seriously."

"How many varieties are there in the bed of Acers?"

"Twelve, with the Rose Starlight in the centre. They include dissectum purpureum, rubifolius panceus, versicolor, atropurpureum, and flavescens. Near the Acers is a bed of Roses, Marie Baumann, as groundwork, and the Thornless Rose in the centre. Quite one of the features is the great bed of Hermosa, the delicate China Rose; there are about five hundred plants, and they flower until the frost cuts them down. Another combination is a bed of Antirrhinums, Sutton's Intermediate, with Vitis megaphylla on a pole. Rosa Moyesii is grown as a specimen, and opposite it is another very handsome specimen of Sericea keracantha. A bed of single Asters has Vitis Thunbergi in the centre. Then we come to a plantation of Delphiniums and Montbretias, the latter including Pottsii, Bouquet Parfait, crocosmiæflora, and aurantiaca. A bed of Kalmia latifolia is combined with white Pansies and the Rose Niphetos. Other Rose combinations are Rubus Bambusa on a pole, with mixed Roses in the centre; Hiawatha as groundwork and on a pole; Papa Gontier as groundwork, with Shower of Gold on a pole; while in another bed, the Rose Ariel is grown on the pole, with a groundwork of Veronica Traversii."

Novel Combinations.

"Then you have Azaleas mixed with Roses?"

"A rather fine combination is represented by the Azaleas surrounded by Funkias grandiflora, with the white Banksian Rose in the centre scrambling amongst the branches of the neighbouring Catalpa bignonioides. Beyond a bed full of the Rose Mrs. Cutbush, is a large plantation of Hybrid Teas, faced by one of Hybrid Perpetuals; and then near the Five Oak Ways are two large beds of Michaelmas Daisies, a bed of Heleniums, and a large bed of Nasturtiums Sunlight."

"You have rather a novel bed just beyond the Five Oak Ways?"

"The bed itself consists of Lilium Henryi, the tripod in the middle being filled with Clematis in variety, with a groundwork of Pansies and an edging of Arabis. Archways of Vitis in this vicinity are ornamental, and then we come to a bed which is rather unique. It includes Clematis, and Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles; also Liliums tigrinum splendens, which come into flower the same time as the Ceanothus, and, with Prunus Pissardi behind, make a pretty picture. Behind this is what we call the Pampas garden, with Tritomas between, Marguerites, Hyacinthus candicans, and Gladiolus Brenchleyensis, with a border of Stachys latifolia. The Tritomas include Torchlight and grandiflora."

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE, BISHOP'S HALL.

The Planting of Tritomas.

"How do you treat them?"

"We plant in ground broken up two feet deep. Tritomas Goldelse form a pretty combination with Pansies Admiration (dark blue); and quite in contrast to this is a bed of Chrysanthemums Morning Star, and Roses Lady Gay on poles. Other beds in the Garnish Mead include Betula laciniata pendula, with a groundwork of Portuguese Broom; a bed of Golden Elders, with variegated Strawberries outside, and Hyacinthus candicans planted between the Strawberries; two beds of Lupins, polyphylla rosea; and two beds of Helenium pumilum, edged with Echeveria. A large space is also devoted to Chinese Pæonies."

"When were these planted?"

"Some years ago. We only top-dress them after they are once established, making no addition to the natural soil, which is stiff loam. The Chinese Pæonies are at their best in June. Then we have a plantation of standard Roses, including Gloire Lyonnaise; Dorothy Perkins on a pole, with Blush Rambler each side, flanked by Richmond and Liberty as dwarfs; a bed of Pansies, with the Rose, Killarney, on a pole; and a large bed of mixed Roses, some on poles and others as groundwork. Here, too, are the Dahlias, of which the varieties are Paul Kruger, Constance, Mrs. Hawkins, Clown, Mrs. Taggart, Miss Jekyll, Ernest Glasse, Midnight, Charles Woodbridge, Cannell's Gem, Baron de Gavey, Solfaterre, King Leopold, Mikado, and Queen Emma."

A Big Rose Garden.

"Do you grow Sweet Peas in quantity?"

"Quite a hundred yards, which are sown in succession from January to May to cut from. All the best varieties are grown. You have still to see the Rose garden adjoining the kitchen garden."

"There seems to be no limit to the number of your Roses. What are the varieties on the arches here?"

"Trier, Blush, and Turner's Rambler in the centre; Turner's Rambler on the arches at both ends, Reve d'Or on the arch on the right, and Turner's Rambler on the arch on the left. In the border which runs round two sides of the garden are placed four poles, with Turner's Rambler, Lady Gay, Felicite Perpetue, and Ruga growing up them. The borders on both sides of the central path in the kitchen garden are planted with Roses, Lilium candidum, and Pinks."

"What about hardy fruits?"

"Apples, Pears, Cherries, Plums, Peaches, Apricots, Figs, Medlars, Quinces, Damsons, Raspberries, Gooseberries, and Currants in variety are grown; also great breadths of various vegetables. There are twenty-four glasshouses, but there is not time to go through them on this occasion."

Mr. Bagg's Career.

"And you have been here nearly a quarter of a century, Mr. Bagg?"

"I came to Bishop's Hall as head gardener over twenty-three years ago. As to the rest of my gardening days, I served my apprenticeship in Forde Abbey gardens, near Chard. Then I was at Leybourne Grange, Kent, for eighteen months, proceeding as plant foreman to Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire. There I remained for four years, and for the next four years I was plant and fruit foreman at Bushbridge Hall, Surrey. From Bushbridge Hall I went to Ashburnham Place, Battle, in the same capacity, and at the end of twelve months I went to Gredington, near Whitchurch, Salop, as head gardener, staying there for seven years. Leaving Gredington, I was head gardener at Stone Park, Kent, for a year, and then I came here."

"I gather that you have been very successful in showing?"

"While I was at Gredington, I gained a good many prizes for fruit, flowers, and table decorations at Whitchurch and Ellesmere shows. Since I have been here, I have done particularly well at the Ongar flower show. In 1890, and again in 1896, I won the silver cup for Chrysanthemums."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE subject for next week will be The Gardens of Sir Gilbert Greenall, at Walton Hall, Cheshire.

THE autumn show of the National Rose Society which was held last week, served to introduce a number of new seedlings, six of which obtained awards.

"GARDEN LIFE" ASTERS.—Mr. F. Dobson writes: "The Aster seed you sent out has yielded some really first-class blooms. It was very kind of you to send such high-class seeds, as I consider your paper alone grand value. Please accept best thanks for these, and also for your handbook, which was also very useful. I am rather late in writing, but better late than never."

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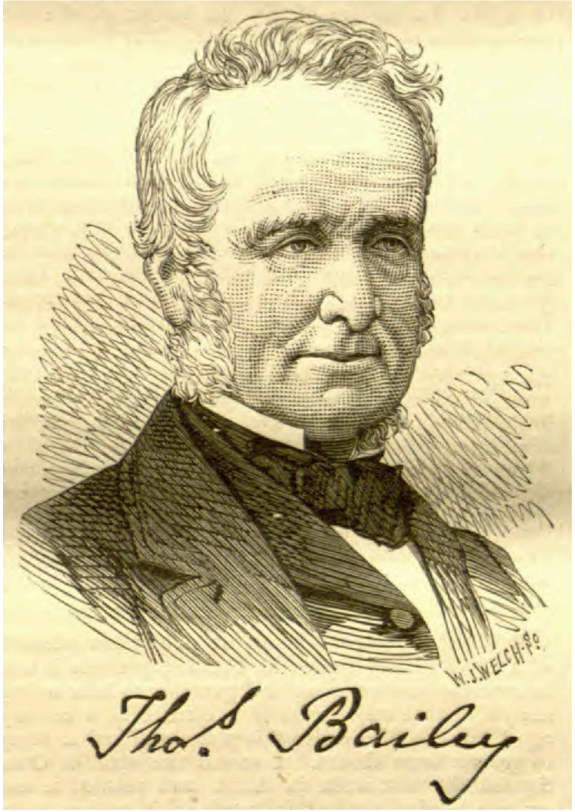

Thomas Bailey

Those who were in the habit of attending the metropolitan shows some few years since, will not have forgotten the magnificently grown and exquisitely-flowered Pelargoniums shown by Mr. Bailey, of Shardeloes, whose name is, moreover, familiar as a most successful exhibitor in other departments of horticulture.

Mr. Bailey was born at Croydon on October 13, 1806. He received his first horticultural lessons at home, in a market garden, where he remained until sixteen years of age, and thence removed to Addington Park, where he remained for two years, under the direction of the gardener, Mr. Buckwell On leaving Addington he went to Althorp Park, under his uncle, who was for many years park steward and gardener there.

The next situation upon which he entered was that of head gardener at Delapré Abbey, the seat of the late Edward Bouverie, Esq., where he remained for eleven years; from whence he removed to his present situation as gardener at Shardeloes, the seat of Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake, Esq., and which in March next he will have held for thirty-seven years. As regards matters of practice, Mr. Bailey writes in reply to our inquiries, “I think my most successful points have been fruit culture and Pelargonium culture.”

one, and should not be absent from the smallest collections. It is increased by division in spring.

S. palmata.—Second to no species in the whole genus, and one of the handsomest plants in cultivation. In a word, a form similar to our British Meadow Sweet, producing broader corymbs of bloom than even this, and of a deep purplish-red colour, the branches or stems to which these corymbs are attached, being more crimson still; set off by lovely foliage, which in autumn assumes also a pleasing ripening hue. To this may also be added the taller growing S. venusta, with rosy-carmine coloured flowers, and if need be, the white-flowered form of S. palmata, and the variegated-leaved S. ulmaria. *William Earley.*

CULTURAL MEMORANDA.

PLUMBAGO CAPENSIS.

This is a showy greenhouse climbing plant of free growth, yielding an abundant supply of sprays of beautiful grey-blue flowers during the summer and early autumn months. It is admirably adapted for draping a wall, pillar, or for training to a trellis as a pot plant. Cuttings taken now and inserted round the side of 3-inch pots, and placed in a Cucumber or Melon frame, will soon root. They should then be potted singly into properly drained 3-inch pots, in a compost consisting of three parts sandy loam and one of leaf-mould, put back in heat, watered, and shaded from bright sunshine for a few days until the roots have taken to the soil. As soon as the young plants have made fresh growths they should be stopped to make them branch. When the plants require more room at the roots they should be shifted into 4-inch and 6-inch pots respectively, again pinching the points out of the shoots soon after each shift has taken place. Thus grown, nice bushy little plants, having several trusses of flowers each, will be secured by the end of August next, and which will then be found very effective for intermixing with Pelargoniums, Fuchsias, Begonias, &c.

Cinerarias.

"J. H." states at p. 490 that his plants of Cineraria growing in 5-inch and 6-inch pots have heads of bloom from 6 to 6½ feet round, which, if the heads are close, are very good specimens of culture resulting from the size of pots indicated. We grow a goodly number of Cinerarias here, and which are now, as they have been for the last few weeks, in fine flower, and which are greatly admired by visitors as well as by my employer. The plants are growing in pots ranging in size from 6 to 10 inches in diameter in an admixture of three parts good turfy loam and one of sweet leaf-mould and pulverised horse-droppings, with a good sprinkling of drift sand added. They have compact heads of bloom measuring from 6½ feet to 9 feet in circumference. Had the plants been pegged or tied out the measurements indicated would have been considerably increased, as we have had heads of bloom on plants so treated nearly 4 feet in diameter, as a reference to back numbers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* would show.

Bougainvillea glabra.

Although this climbing plant is classed in catalogues with the stove climbers it is, in my opinion, more adapted for a greenhouse temperature. It is a matter of fact that the finest specimens I have seen were grown in a greenhouse at Broadlands, Romsey, and Pyt House, Tisbury. It is a very suitable plant for draping a pillar or training thinly under the roof of conservatory or greenhouse, and when grown in a 12-inch pot in good fibrous sandy loam, and trained over a balloon or pyramid oval-shaped trellis it is very telling. Cuttings taken with a heel of the old wood from plants now starting into growth in a cool temperature, and inserted in small pots filled with sandy soil, placed under a hand-light or bell-glass in the stove and watered, will soon root. They should then be potted singly into 3-inch pots, afterwards shifting them into pots a couple of sizes larger, and by pinching the points out of the shoots once or twice to make them branch, and subsequently training the young growths to a small trellis, neat little table plants with trailing shoots, well furnished with pale mauve flowers or bracts and light green leaves, will be secured in due time.

Hoya bella.

This old favourite twining plant is not so often met with as its merits entitle it to be. Well cared for, the plant produces freely during the summer months lovely wax-like flowers, white, with a pink star-like centre, and delicately scented. It is a beautiful plant for a hanging basket in the stove. Cuttings put in now, in pots filled with sandy peat, placed in heat, and watered, will root freely; and if they are then potted singly into 3-inch pots, and grown on in heat and stopped a few times, they will make nice little plants by the autumn. *H. W. Ward.*

THOMAS BAILEY.

On the morning of Sunday, April 17, Mr. Thomas Bailey died, in his eighty-first year, at the gardens,

Shardeloes, Amersham, Bucks. For nearly fifty years he very successfully managed these gardens for T. T. Drake, Esq., whose confidence and esteem he enjoyed to the last. Mr. Bailey was a most enthusiastic and thoroughly practical gardener, who carried out every detail of his work in a most scrupulously systematic manner, and made a chief point of being well in advance with it. Of late Mr. Bailey did not exhibit frequently, but that was not the case formerly, as he used to be an almost regular contributor of plants, &c., at the metropolitan and provincial shows, and generally speaking his name was in those days to be found in the foremost place.

The magnificent plants of both kinds of Pelargoniums that he used to show will be remembered by many now as being wonderful examples of skilful cultivation. He likewise exhibited fruit, &c., sometimes, which was also remarkably good; and in the cultivation of some kinds but few have surpassed him, particularly in Providence Pine-apples. These, of great weight and size, he produced under the old-fashioned system, viz., in small places heated by means of fermenting materials. Melon cultivation was a favourite pursuit. He raised several new kinds; Bailey's Greenflesh is undoubtedly one of the best kinds in cultivation, and which has borne the test against others for the past thirty years at least. The vegetable garden was to him a delightful study, and it was very interesting to hear his description, &c., of some of the subjects which he treated almost as pets. His chief productions in this way comprise Bailey's Superb Cabbage, Selected Bath Cos Lettuce, and Pearl Cauliflower. This most valuable kind was recently introduced by Messrs. Veitch, London. The methodical way in which the rotation of crops and other kindred arrangements were carried out in his kitchen garden was at once observable to a practical hand, and without fear of contradiction it may safely be said that in the ordinary way of cultivation in this department here it stands second to none in the kingdom. *G. T. Miles, Wycombe Abbey, April* 20.

Mr. Bailey was born at Croydon on October 13, 1806. He received his first horticultural lessons at home in a market garden, at sixteen years of age removing to Addington Park, where he remained two years under the direction of Mr. Buckwell. On leaving Addington he went to Althorpe Park under his uncle, who was for many years park steward and gardener there. Leaving Althorpe after some time he became head gardener at Delapré Abbey, the seat of the late Edward Bouverie, Esq., where he remained for eleven years. In the year 1838 he became gardener at Shardeloes.

NARCISSUS LITTLE NELL.

Our illustration (fig. 107), taken from a drawing made by Mr. Hartland's niece, shows three flowers of a new variety introduced by Mr. Hartland, of Cork, and exhibited by him at the meeting of the Narcissus Committee at South Kensington on April 12 last. The elegance and beauty of the flower will undoubtedly render it a great favourite. It would be a great boon to those who have to fill greenhouses and conservatories in early spring.

THE HARDY FRUIT GARDEN.

INSECTS.

The foliage and buds of Peaches and Nectarines are very liable to attacks of greenfly and red-spider early in the season, and should therefore receive frequent and careful examination to see if any are present, when means must be taken immediately to eradicate them. Insecticides are not very suitable for this purpose in the early stages of growth, as the downy covering of the fruit absorbs the mixture, however carefully it may be applied, disfiguring the fruit. The most simple and easily applied remedy is tobacco-powder, which should be dusted over the infested trees, and washed off a few days afterwards with the syringe or garden engine, and again applied if found to be necessary. Should the Apricot maggot put in an appearance it can easily be detected by the leaves being rolled up; the leaves should be pressed between the finger and thumb, and so destroy it.

Watering.

Should the trees be protected by heavy copings, and become dry at their roots, advantage should be taken of the early part of a mild day to give a thorough watering, and (if not already done) give a good heavy mulching of well-rotted manure. Allowing the roots of wall-trees to become too dry is a fruitful source of bud dropping and the trees not setting their fruits. *E. Ward, Hewell Grange, Bromsgrove.*

Presentation.—Mr. William S. Bisset, Head Gardener and Land Steward to Sir Robert Drummond Moncreiffe, Bart., of Moncrieffe, Perth, N.B., has been presented with a handsome gold watch and pendant and a purse of sovereigns, by the members of the Kilgraston and Moncreiffe Curling Club, tenants on the Moncreiffe estate and numerous other friends, as a mark of the high respect and esteem in which he has been held during the thirty years in which he has discharged the arduous duties of his responsible position.

BAILEY Sarah Spalding.
Personal Estate £70.

15 December. Administration of the Personal Estate of Sarah Spalding Bailey late of 31 Varcoe-road Camberwell in the County of **Surrey** Widow who died 15 October 1887 at 31 Varcoe-road was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Henry James Bailey of 178 Rotherhithe-New-road in the said County Cooper the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

BAILEY Stephen Spicer.
Personal Estate £519 15s.

24 January. The Will of Stephen Spicer Bailey late of Ilfracombe in the County of **Devon** Master Mariner who died 20 November 1886 at Ilfracombe was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Mary Bailey of 21 Marmion-road Southsea in the County of Southampton Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

BAILEY Susannah Maria.
Personal Estate £70 2s. 7d.

20 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of Susannah Maria Bailey late of Butterfield-row Keighley in the County of **York** Widow who died 6 May 1874 at Butterfield-row was granted at **Wakefield** to Amos Bailey of Well-street Ulverston in the County of Lancaster Iron Miner the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

BAILEY Theophilus.
Personal Estate £48 5s.

17 December. Administration of the Personal Estate of Theophilus Bailey late of 6 Amies-street Lavender Hill in the County of **Surrey** who died 30 October 1887 at 6 Amies-street was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Mary Bailey of 11 Amies-street Widow the Relict.

BAILEY Thomas.
Personal Estate £1,181 5s.

1 February. The Will with a Codicil of Thomas Bailey late of the City of **Coventry** Chemist and Druggist who died 28 June 1886 at Coventry was proved at **Birmingham** by Helen Elizabeth Bailey of 4 and 5 Burges Coventry Spinster the Daughter one of the Executors.

BAILEY Thomas.
Personal Estate £1,340 15s. 8d.

5 April. The Will with a Codicil of Thomas Bailey late of Elsecar in the Township of Nether Hoyland in the Parish of Wath-upon-Dearne in the County of **York** Farmer who died 10 December 1886 at Elsecar was proved at **Wakefield** by James Crawshaw of West Melton in the Parish of Wath-upon-Dearne Colliery Proprietor and Charles Long of Elsecar Butcher the Executors.

BAILEY Thomas.
Personal Estate £816.

28 May. The Will of Thomas Bailey late of Amersham in the County of **Buckingham** Gardener who died 17 April 1887 at Amersham was proved at **Oxford** by Ann Elizabeth Bailey of Amersham and Caroline Bailey of 63 Abington-street Northampton in the County of Northampton Spinsters the Daughters the surviving Executrixes.

BAILEY Thomas.
Personal Estate £41 10s.

7 June. The Will of Thomas Bailey late of Leicester in the County of **Leicester** Gentleman who died 18 May 1887 at Leicester was proved at **Leicester** by Elizabeth Bailey of 23 Aylestone-street Leicester Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

Thomas Baines

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 3

The name of Thomas Baines has become a household word amongst gardeners, while a most honourable niche in the temple of horticultural fame has been won by its possessor, to whom may be fairly assigned the premier position as a plant grower at the present day. Of this the gardening records of the past few years are a sufficient attestation. The Thomas Baines to whom we refer, and whose portrait accompanies this notice, comes of a race of successful gardeners dating back some three or four generations. He was born in July, 1823, in the then entrance lodge to Claughton Hall, the seat of the Brockholes, of Claughton, in North Lancashire, one of the oldest families in the country, they having been in uninterrupted possession of the estate since the time of Edward II. Whitaker, in his History of Lancashire, traces the Baines family on the estate for 400 years. His great-grandfather, Thomas Baines, whom, he remarks, he well recollects, died at the age of ninety-six, at Claughton Hall, after having been for many years steward of the estate for the grandfather and uncle of the present James Fitzherbert Brockholes, Esq. His grandfather served his time in the garden at Claughton, and held the head-gardener's situation for fifty years; and his father was also there brought up to the profession.

"From early childhood," writes Mr. Baines, in the notes which accompanied his portrait, "I was passionately fond of gardening. My first essay, and the one most indelibly fixed upon my memory, occurred when I was about five years of age; I then assisted my mother in planting some Ivy near the door of the lodge, which Ivy now forms a complete porch over the door, and in the forty-five years which have elapsed has developed a trunk 33 inches in circumference. At thirteen years of age I commenced my gardening career under my grandfather, who was a really good gardener of the old school, and was well known in the north of the kingdom as a most successful grower of fruits, especially of Grapes. Indeed the fine old Vines planted by him some sixty years ago still bear ample testimony to the careful preparation first made for them, since they have never even had the soil renewed, and at the present day finish off such crops of sloe-black fruit, both early and late, as are rarely surpassed. In common with most garden-boys at that day I had to submit to what, even if against one's will, was of great advantage afterwards—that is to say, I had to commence at the foot of the horticultural ladder. There was in those days little chance of a youngster trying his hand at the walls until he was sufficiently initiated in the work of the kitchen garden, or in the houses, until he knew something considerable about both. In most of the old establishments fruit and vegetable culture were the chief considerations, with such plants as sufficed for decorative purposes, and to furnish the comparatively small demand for cut flowers which was then made. Having fewer subjects to deal with, the young men learnt their culture, especially the things of a utilitarian description, more thoroughly. First impressions are lasting, more especially those affecting one's occupation, and if a man be from the first engaged in fruit culture, he will always feel a preference for it. Nevertheless, I was very fond of plants, and in the summer of 1842 walked 30 miles to see Fuchsia corymbiflora; railroads were not so plentiful then as now, neither was the money to spend in riding over-abundant, so that young men situated as I was, thought less of using their legs.

I was excessively fond of reading. The books on gardening and kindred subjects to which I had access were not over-numerous, but they got pretty well thumbed. I also dropped upon an old copy of one of Linnaeus' works, over which for years I used to spend an hour or so of an evening out in the fields; but I was ultimately with reluctance obliged to give it up, seeing the impossibility of getting sufficient time for studying the science in a way likely to lead to proficiency. If young men in gardens in remote parts of the country had then comparatively few professional and really useful books for perusal, there was at least this advantage, that there was much less of the fascinating but useless light reading which is the bane of learning at the present time. Half the young men in gardens now indulge far too much in this sort of literature ever to become versed in the most

essential knowledge of vegetable physiology. I also read every book I could procure upon landscape gardening, and had a good opportunity of seeing such work practically carried out and judging of the effects produced, for, in addition to the natural beauties of the finely-wooded undulating grounds of the estate, alterations on a large scale were continually going on under the personal direction of the late Squire, who was known to be one of the very best landscape men of his time, and who succeeded in making the property unsurpassed in general effect by any in the country. Here were hundreds of miles of draining done before many people could see the necessity for draining at all; old fences were leveled and new roads made, large tracts of land were trenched and planted, irrigation on a large scale was carried out, and work of all sorts was done, such as afforded an excellent opportunity to any young man who was disposed to take a general interest in the cultivation and improvement of the land, as well as its effective embellishment upon correct principles of landscape art. Here were large open breadths to deal with, that gave scope to the planter in massing trees of distinct colours at different elevations, and which the undulating nature of the land admitted. As this work was going on for many years, it gave me an excellent opportunity to observe how it was done, and to note the effect produced in after years.

High farming was also carried out at Claughton, and in this I took much interest, especially in connection with stock, for which that part of the country was, and still is, celebrated. My grandfather, with whom I lived during the time of my learning the business, continually impressed upon me the necessity for a gardener being well acquainted with general farming, in consequence of the frequency with which one individual is required to act in the double capacity of manager both of farm and garden. With this in view, I went, at twenty years of age, for some three years to the best general farmer in the neighbourhood, where by practical experience I was enabled to acquire a knowledge which in after years has been of the greatest service to me. Through those early years and up to this time I went regularly to a night school.

I then engaged as gardener to S. L. Behrens, Esq., of Catteral House, near Garstang, in Lancashire, and afterwards removed with the family to the Polygon Avenue, Ardwick, near Manchester. Here Mr. Behrens became extremely fond of plants, and we soon got together a nice collection of Orchids, Heaths, stove, greenhouse, and fine-foliage plants, and Ferns, as well as most of the best florist flowers of the day, including Auriculas, Dahlias, Pansies, Pinks, Carnations, and Hollyhocks. These latter, although never exhibited, were just as carefully prepared by tying, thinning, and shading, even to the providing of stands similar to those used for exhibition, and in which the flowers were arranged for placing on the tables in the entrance hall. Few men had a more perfectly trained eye, or better taste as regards the appreciation of form and colour, either in a painting, a well-kept garden, or a florist's flower; and although at present we have such a furore against exhibiting these in the only way in which it is possible to decide their merits, unnatural as it may be, Mr. Behrens, even in his own house, could best enjoy and admire them when thus arranged in the way calculated to display their individual excellence.

I remained in Mr. Behrens' service for seven years, until he went to reside abroad, I then engaged with his cousin, H. L. Micholls, Esq., with whom I lived for twenty years—first at Bowdon, in Cheshire, where the collection of plants I had charge of was formed, and afterwards at Southgate. Mr. Micholls was exceedingly fond of his garden, and took the greatest delight in watching the growth of the plants, from their earliest stages up to the time of their full development. At the commencement, a few dozens in 6-inch pots were purchased, and this was kept up yearly, so as to provide a supply for filling up the places of such as got worn out or died—for plants, in common with other things possessing life, are liable to lose it by these natural causes; and those who profess to have few or no losses must be much more fortunate than I have been, or must possess some secret

whereby vegetable life is indefinitely prolonged. Strictly speaking, the plants were not a collection, but a selection, representing most of the popular kinds at present in cultivation, requiring a wide range in the difference of their treatment.

I feel the greatest repugnance to personal allusion relative to anything I have individually accomplished in this respect. The pursuit somehow begets feelings which are unobtrusive and reticent in their nature. In it, as in most other things, if a man is not able to do much, the less said the better, and if he does ever so little worth notice, the world is honest enough to give him all the credit he deserves. If, then, I make any allusion to my own doings, it is with a view of throwing a little light on the path of young men who may follow in the same track. Amongst the different plants I have grown, nineteen-twentieths were utterly strange to me, as I had no opportunity in early life of becoming acquainted with their usual treatment. This was in some measure an advantage, as I had nothing to unlearn. I always had a liking for growing plants that had the character of being difficult to cultivate; and whatever measure of success I may have been able to arrive at in the cultivation of such, I owe it to a close study of the nature and consequent requirements of vegetable life, and the natural conditions under which different plants exist in their native habitats. This I learnt in my younger days through the diligent reading of such books as treated upon the climate and soil of foreign countries, and the general conditions under which the plants we receive from them exist. A want of this knowledge is the rock upon which many young men, who attempt to grow difficult plants, split. Such reading is, however, distasteful to those who have become habituated to light literature.

Five years ago Mr. Micholls removed from Bowdon to Southgate House, near London, to which place I accompanied him and remained until his disposal of it and the dispersion of the plants. Few gentlemen take a greater delight in gardening than did he, or encourage it through a more genuine love of plants for their own sakes. From him, and the family in general, I experienced uniform kindness and liberality, such as is seldom accorded to a gardener."

Parisian life, whose name it now best commemorates; and we are glad of the opportunity to publish some facts concerning him, for which we are indebted to our correspondent, Monsieur Edward André of Paris.

Jean François Boursault was born in Paris in 1752; or, according to the *Dictionnaire Larousse*, toward 1760, and died in Paris in 1842. He was the great-grandson of Edme Boursault, a poet and author of some celebrity, and the son of a linen-draper in easy circumstances of the Quartier des Innocents. Boursault early left Paris to follow a band of travelling players, making for himself some reputation in his earliest *rôles*. Admiration for his ancestor, the dramatic author, influenced his choice of the theatrical profession, and out of respect to the memory of his name, which he did not want to run the risk of having hissed, he adopted that of Malherbe, which he retained as long as he continued on the stage. Boursault established a French theatre at Palermo, but being unfortunate, and his affairs involved, he took advantage one day of King Ferdinand's passing to throw himself into the sea. This excellent method of getting his head above water, as a wit of the time remarked, succeeded admirably. A crowd collected, the curiosity of the king was excited, and Malherbe, who had been fished from the water, was brought before him. The actor described his miserable condition in such a dramatic manner that the sympathy of the king was moved, and he gave him money enough to pay his debts. Returning to Paris at the beginning of the Revolution, Boursault plunged into the movement with enthusiasm, but soon afterwards returned to the stage, and had built for himself in the passage des Nourrices, between the Rue St. Martin and the Rue Quincampoix, a theatre which he called Théâtre Molière. In 1806 Boursault changed the name of his theatre, which he now called Théâtre des Variétés Étrangères, and undertook to play Shakespeare, Schiller, Lope de Vega, &c., an undertaking which soon failed. Next we find him engaged in cleaning the streets of Paris. His street-cleaning contract and the gambling-houses, which he obtained control of later, made him immensely rich, and he became known for his taste in horticulture and his collections of plants. The garden of his villa in Rue Blanche and his gallery of pictures were among the most famous in Europe. He collected in his hothouses the rarest plants of the two hemispheres. In 1830 he bought for three millions of francs the Salle Ventadour, and became Director of the Opéra Comique. This venture was not successful, and he was on the point of failing, but eventually was able to save his fortune. After this, with the capriciousness of old age, Boursault sold his famous gallery, pulled down his hothouses, which were the richest and best stocked in France, and perhaps, in Europe; destroyed his park, building on its site two rows of houses, which now form the Rue Boursault. This was his last fantasy and his last undertaking, for he died shortly afterwards, leaving a large fortune.

Obituary.

Mr. R. B. Laird.—The death occurred on the morning of Monday, March 4, at Dundee, of Mr. R. B. Laird, senior partner of the firms of R. B. Laird & Sons, nurserymen, Edinburgh, and W. P. Laird & Sinclair, Dundee. An affection of the heart, which unexpectedly showed itself, was the cause of death. Born at Balgone, North Berwick, in 1823, Mr. Laird went at an early age to Dundee, and under his elder brother, the late Mr. W. P. Laird, learnt the business of nurseryman and seedsman. He came to Edinburgh in 1843, and was about five years in the establishment of Messrs. Dickson & Co. In 1848, along with the late Mr. John Downie, he founded the business in Frederick Street, and lately at West Coates, which was well known for many years as Downie & Laird. Mr. John Laing joined the firm afterwards, and for some years the business was carried on in Edinburgh, London, and Sydenham, under the title of Downie, Laird & Laing. At the dissolution of this partnership the firm was carried on under another designation by himself and his sons, and latterly he has been for the most part resident in Dundee, where another branch was established. A man of strong individuality, with excellent business capabilities, and of a genial and amiable disposition, Mr. Laird was widely known in the horticultural world, and was one of the remaining links between the past and present generation of horticulturists. By many gardeners, old and young, he will not soon be forgotten. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need of assistance, and he spent much time in doing what he could to further the interests of young gardeners, and to get them a start in life. He was one of the founders of the Dalry Congregational Church, and one of the original elders. For many years he was a director of the Scottish Trade Protection Society. *Scotsman, Tuesday, March 5.*

Thomas Baines.—We greatly regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Baines, a personality well known to horticulturists in most parts of the country as a first-class cultivator of plants, an exhibitor of renown in former days, and latterly a successful landscape-gardener. The deceased had been in failing health for the past two years, and fell a victim to the prevailing epidemic of influenza. He died at his residence at Fern Cottage, Palmer's Green, N, on Saturday, March 2, at the age of seventy-two years, and was buried at the Great Northern Cemetery on the 7th inst. We publish anew extracts from an article that appeared under the heading "British Gardeners" in these pages on February 6, 1875, which accompanied a portrait of him as he then appeared:—

"He was born in July, 1823, in the then entrance-lodge to Claughton Hall, the seat of the Brockholes, of Claughton, in North Lancashire, one of the oldest families in the country, they having been in uninterrupted possession of the estate since the time of Edward II. Whitaker, in his *History of Lancashire*, traces the Baines family on the estate for 400 years. His great-grandfather, Thomas Baines, whom, he remarks, he well recollects, died at the age of ninety-six, at Claughton Hall, after having been for many years steward of the estate for the grandfather and uncle of the present James Fitzherbert Brockholes, Esq. His grandfather served his time in the garden at Claughton, and held the head-gardener's situation for fifty years; and his father was also there brought up to the profession.

"From early childhood," writes Mr. Baines, in the notes which accompanied his portrait, "I was passionately fond of gardening. My first essay, and the one most indelibly fixed upon my memory, occurred when I was about five years of age. I then assisted my mother in planting some Ivy near the door of the lodge, which Ivy now forms a complete porch over the door, and in the forty-five years which have elapsed, has developed a trunk 33 inches in circumference. At thirteen years of age I commenced my gardening career under my grandfather, who was a really good gardener of the old school, and was well known in the north of the kingdom as a most successful grower of fruits, especially of Grapes. There was in those days little chance of a youngster trying his hand at the walls until he was sufficiently initiated in the work of the kitchen garden, or in the houses, until he knew something considerable about both. In most of the old establishments, fruit and vegetable culture were the chief considerations, with such plants as sufficed for decorative purposes, and to furnish the comparatively small demand for cut flowers which was then made. Having fewer subjects to deal with, the young men learnt their culture, especially the things of a utilitarian description, very thoroughly. Nevertheless, I was very fond of plants, and in the summer of 1842 walked 30 miles to see Fuchsia corymbiflora; railroads were not so plentiful then as now, neither was the money to spend in riding over-abundant, so that young men situated as I was, thought little of using their legs."

At that time much landscape-work was being done at Claughton, including draining, a subject then not much understood or practised. These operations, on a large scale, much interested young Baines, and gave him, as he said, an excellent opportunity to observe how it was done.

The high-farming at Claughton also interested him much, especially in connection with stock. Through those early years he went regularly to a night-school.

The narrative continues: "I then engaged as gardener to S. L. Behrens, Esq., of Catteral House, near Garstang, in Lancashire, and afterwards removed with the family to the Polygon Avenue, Ardwick, near Manchester. Here Mr. Behrens became extremely fond of plants, and we soon got together a nice collection of Orchids, Heaths, stove, greenhouse, and fine-foliage plants, and Ferns, as well as most of the best florist flowers of the day, including Auriculas, Dahlias, Pansies, Pinks, Carnations, and Hollyhocks. These latter, although never exhibited, were just as carefully prepared by tying, thinning, and shading, even to the providing of stands similar to those used for exhibition, and in which the flowers were arranged for placing on the tables in the entrance-hall. Few men had a more perfectly-trained eye or better taste as regards the appreciation of form and colour, either in a painting, a well-kept garden, or a florist's flower.

"I remained in Mr. Behrens' service for seven years, until he went to reside abroad. I then engaged with his cousin, H. L. Micholls, Esq., with whom I lived for twenty years—first at Bowdon, in Cheshire, where the collection of plants I had charge of was formed, and afterwards at Southgate. Mr. Micholls was exceedingly fond of his garden, and took the greatest delight in watching the growth of the plants, from their earliest stages up to the time of their full development.

"In 1870 Mr. Micholls removed from Bowdon to Southgate House, near London, to which place I accompanied him, and remained until his disposal of it, and the dispersion of the plants."

Mr. Baines was a very prolific writer on a great variety of horticultural subjects, and had been for a long series of years a correspondent of this journal. He was the author of a useful book of reference, entitled *Greenhouse and Stove Plants*, which was published in 1885.

Markets.

COVENT GARDEN, March 7.

[We cannot accept any responsibility for the subjoined reports. They are furnished to us regularly every Thursday, by the kindness of several of the principal salesmen, who revise the list, and who are responsible for the quotations. It must be remembered that these quotations do not represent the prices on any particular day, but only the general averages for the week preceding the date of our report. The prices depend upon the quality of the samples, the supply in the market, and the demand; and they may fluctuate, not only from day to day, but often several times in one day. Ed.]

Cut Flowers.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.
Arums, per doz. bl.	4 0– 6 0
Azaleas, doz. sprays	0 6– 1 0
Bouvardias, p. bun.	0 6– 1 0
Carnations, 12 blms.	1 6– 3 0
Chrysanthemums, per 12 blooms ...	1 0– 4 0
— per 12 bunches	4 0– 8 0
Daffodils, double, dozen bunches ...	15 0–18 0
— single, doz. bun.	24 0–30 0
Eucharis, per dozen	3 0– 4 0
Gardenias, per doz.	3 0– 4 0
Hyacinths (Roman), doz. sprays ...	0 10–1 0
Lapageria, 12 blms.	1 0– 2 0
Lilac (French), per bunch	5 0– 6 0
Lilies of the Valley, doz. sprays ...	1 0– 2 0
Lilium Harrisii, per dozen	4 0– 8 0
Maidenhair Fern, per 12 bunches ...	6 0– 9 0
Marguerites, 12 bun.	1 0– 3 0
Mignonette, 12 bun.	2 0– 4 0
Mimosa (French), per bunch ...	0 9– 1 0
Pelargoniums, scarlet, per 12 bunches	4 0– 6 0
— 12 sprays ...	0 6– 0 9
Narcissus, Pheasant-eyed, 12 bun.	9 0–15 0
— Paper-white, p. 12 bun. ...	8 0–10 0
Orchids:—	
Cattleya, 12 blms.	6 0–12 0
Odontoglossum crispum, 12 blm.	3 0– 6 0
Pyrethrums, 12 bun.	2 0– 4 0
Roses, Tea, per doz.	1 0– 2 0
— coloured, p. dz.	2 0– 4 0
— yellow (Maréchals), per dozen	6 0– 9 0
— red, per dozen	1 0– 1 6
— (French), red, per dozen... ...	1 6– 2 6
— (French), yellow, per dozen ...	1 0– 2 0
Snowdrops, 12 bun.	1 0– 1 6
Stephanotis, dozen sprays	4 0– 6 0
Tuberoses, 12 blms.	0 4– 0 6
Violets, Parma (French), p. bch.	4 0– 5 0
— Czar (French), per bunch ...	1 9– 2 0
— doz. bunches	2 6– 3 0
— (English), per dozen bunches ...	1 6– 2 0

Orchid-bloom in variety.

MODERN GRAPE GROWING.

The Border.

(*Continued from page 252.*)

The principal objects of a Vine border are to protect and keep the roots in position, and to afford a suitable medium for conveying food to the root hairs. The chemical constituents of the soil are of minor consequence compared with its physical condition. You may have a soil with the dozen or more elements and compounds essential to the Vine's prosperity, so beautifully balanced that nothing more could be desired in that way, and yet it may be comparatively sterile.

On the other hand, if you possess a soil which is physically right and contains nothing obnoxious, it is an easy matter to make it fertile and to keep it so. Whatever soil the Vine may succeed in abroad—and I am told it often flourishes well where there is hardly any soil at all—experience teaches us that there is nothing suits our purpose so well as a rather heavy loam, that is a soil containing not less than 30 per cent. of clay in almost invisible particles.

Do not let it be thought from this that I disparage the work of chemists, far from it. There is nothing I devour more greedily than records of experiments made by such men as Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, and certainly any honours that can be bestowed on the world's benefactors ought to be theirs. But if anyone thinks that by paying a few shillings for an analysis of his soil at the village laboratory, even if the presiding genius should be a Davy or a Voelcker, his fruit-growing is going to be made a matter of rule and thumb, he will find himself woefully mistaken. Analysing a soil is not such an easy matter as it appears to the uninitiated. It requires a good many delicate operations if it is to be done thoroughly; and after all, though the ingredients may be there which would render the soil a fertile one so long as it was a ploughed field, a Vine border has the disadvantage of being very much shut off from the beneficial action of frosts and winds, sunshine and showers, and must to a great extent be dependent on the cultivator.

Analysing manures is by comparison an easy matter, because everyone who has learned the rudiments of agricultural chemistry knows what they should contain, and thanks to our legislators no one need now buy quack mixtures, though they do buy them and will continue to do so. Those having a good soil to deal with, and abundance of energy in themselves, may succeed in spite of the quackery, in the same way that people having a good constitution, make their supper, when they have fancied ailments, off Mrs. Swindle's tincture of soap bubbles, and still live. Of course, the tincture gets the credit of saving their valuable lives for the benefit of humanity at large, and Mrs. Swindle is immortalised.

Sometimes it is difficult to secure a soil that is physically correct, and then recourse must be had to mixing. There is no doubt a natural soil is best if you can get it in proper form, but clay can be dried and beaten into powder so that it shall appear almost like a part of the natural soil itself. On the other hand, if a soil contains too much clay and too little sand, there are many other gritty substances to choose from which will be better than sand for mixing, such as mortar from old buildings or burned clay. If a soil does not contain sufficient clay it is not holding, water passes through it too freely, and remember that every time you water a light, loose soil you wash something out of it.

Also it is not retentive of manure. If you use a chemical fertiliser you apply so much to the square yard according to the printed directions received from the vendor, a small part of which goes to the plants and a large portion to the drains. The worst of it is you have no means of knowing how much is retained by the soil, whether too much or too little. Again, what is called a light soil, if it is sandy, gives a great portion of its moisture to the air in the way of evaporation. A soil which is too heavy also has its drawbacks. It may hold the water too long, and not be sufficiently porous to admit air, consequently it will become sour, so that no roots can grow in it, or, if they manage to do so, will not ripen, and the leaves soon find this out.

It has been my lot to have the two extremes to deal with in the matter of soils. In the kitchen garden at Longleat the soil is so stiff that if worked at all when wet it is injured for years after. One portion, about twenty-eight years ago, had some of the subsoil taken out and burned on it by one of my predecessors. The ground, I have been told, was wet at the time, and the axles of the barrow wheels ran uncomfortably close to the soil. Of course the burned material was placed on the top and dug in, but the ground had not recovered when I last saw it, and probably has not done so now, although I made a practice of keeping a fire going the greater part of every winter outside the garden, burning refuse and clay, and this particular patch must have had at least 4 inches of such material put on it during my superintendence. Such ground when well managed grows enormous crops of splendid quality in a season that is not too wet, but it requires a great deal of humouring.

Now, in this neighbourhood it is altogether different. I see men working the ground immediately after and indeed during heavy rain, and this does not seem to hurt it at all. I have seen the best of farmyard manure placed 8 or 9 inches deep over it, and buried with great difficulty by a man with a spade. Very good Mangold was grown on it, but it would want manuring again the following season. Where grass is grown there is very little of what can be called soil before we come to a yellowish sandy material, loose at first, but a little deeper it takes out and looks like clay. It crumbles when exposed to the air, and its capacity for absorbing and disposing of vegetable manure is something marvellous. Going deeper we find some clay mixed with the sand, and at 8 or 10 feet come on a very soft bluish clay, and this when dried and pulverised, by the action of frost preferably, or pounded, is what we use principally to mix with our Vine soil.

If a soil that is neither too heavy nor too light can be obtained with the turf on it, all well and good. If not we can do without the turf, and when necessary alter the material to make it of the right density. It is an advantage to have at least a little turfy soil to start the Vines in, but there is no particular need for a large amount of fibry turf; indeed it is apt to make the border too rich in nitrogen, causing at the first rampant growth and large pith. The pith, I believe, is what you make it at first, it never enlarges. The part it plays in the plant's economy is, so far as I am aware, not well understood, but no one likes to see too much pith.

When one is starting Vine-growing in a new place where the soil and surroundings are strange, it is advisable to begin cautiously, for even after a life's experience one is easily out of his reckoning. I would recommend starting with perfect drainage and narrow borders, say 4 or 5 feet in width, and then feel one's way during the next year or two.—Wm. Taylor.

(To be continued.)

THE LATE MR THOMAS BAINES.

Miss Baines favours us with an excellent portrait of her late widely known and much-respected father. It will be recognised by many of our readers as a life-like delineation of the famous plant grower, gardener, and judge, while those who may not have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Baines will be pleased to see what manner of man he was as he went about so actively from show to show in his latter years, and from garden to garden in the course of his landscape work. The portrait is taken from an oil painting by Mr. C. F. Lowcock, who has been very successful in producing a characteristic likeness of Mr. Baines, who was a man of mark in the gardening world in which he worked so long and so well.

THE LONG FROST AND INSECTS.

Some of my friends, while emphatic in their complaints as to the damage caused by the long frost to many plants and shrubs, are rather jubilant over the supposed effects it has had upon insect life. It must have killed many, they say, above ground and beneath. I have felt myself obliged to discourage them a little by telling them we do not know just yet; we are unable to judge of its results till the world of insects are once more aroused by the influences of spring. The observations of entomologists on the insect tribes generally tend to the conclusion that the hybernating species can stand severe cold better than mild and moist weather. Certain it is that no amount of cold would injure insects' eggs, nor affect to any great extent such moths and beetles as live in their perfect stage from the winter to spring. About those in the pupal or chrysalis stage there may be more doubt. The species that are usually exposed to all the weather of winter are so seasoned to it, I should say, that a prolongation of frost, or some degrees of extra intensity, would not be likely to touch them. We shall soon be able to ascertain whether the two common white butterflies (Pieris Brassicæ and Rapæ) which emerge in April to deposit eggs about gardens have had their numbers diminished by death of pupæ.

Amongst the Noctua group of fat-bodied moths we have several destructive species which pass the winter as pupæ under the soil, but not buried at any great depth. A familiar example is the too abundant Cabbage moth—Mamestra Brassicæ Possibly some of these have been killed by sudden change of temperature in this way. On two or three days in February the sun shone brightly, melting a layer of snow, the warm fluid then partly entering the earth; but after sunset the temperature fell rapidly, and a sheet of ice formed that would freeze up pupæ near the surface which had been previously thawed by the sun. But there is this to be considered also—that many birds during the winter seek out and eat pupæ, which by the long frost obtained protection from their enemies, the ground resisting the birds' bills and feet. Mild winters are helpful to the birds hunting, not only pupæ but other subterranean insects, and when the mildness is accompanied, as it often is, by heavy rainfalls, that destroys hybernating species by inducing a sort of disease, attended by fungoid growth on the skin.

Gardeners, I know, generally suppose that a cold winter lessens their insect enemies next season. This does not seem to be the case, taking the majority of species, but rather the reverse. Still, the early months of 1895 were exceptional, owing to the severity of the frost, and its prolongation towards the spring, though it is the fact that caterpillars may be so congealed as to chink like stones if shaken in a box, and afterwards recover. Some, of course, could not endure such intense cold. Then, again, we must remember that instinct guides many caterpillars to descend deeper into the earth when frost is approaching, wherein they have much the advantage of our water pipes. Whether any of the caterpillars that pass the winter in a silken abode—the brown-tail, for instance—would strengthen its walls during sharp frost, if awake enough to do so, we cannot tell. Amongst the feeders upon wood, our persistent enemy, the goat caterpillar, destroyer of many ornamental and also some fruit trees, prepares for itself a warm retreat, well lined

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with silk and chips, for its security in the winter. Probably a similar plan is followed by the leopard caterpillar, a resident in various trees.

The much smaller caterpillars of several clearwing moths, which pass their life in stems, branches, or twigs, take up a winter position where they will be least exposed to the cold; but they appear to feed all that season—at least, such is the habit of the species infesting the Currant, Pear, and Apple. I expect the winter has seen the death of many of those insects which secrete themselves under loose bark, birds having been very diligent in their researches on tree trunks, after the supply of spring it feeds upon various plants, such as Lettuces and Strawberries; before hybernation it is often found infesting Hollyhocks, amongst other garden species. The habit of this caterpillar is to hide near the ground during the cold season, and a per-centage, I expect, will have been killed by the snow or frost, though their coats are some protection.

Unshielded, however, is the caterpillar of the Currant moth (Abraxas grossulariata), some individuals of which conceal themselves amongst stones or refuse in the winter, while others brave it by simply fixing themselves firmly upon a twig of their favourite bush. Hardy fellows they,

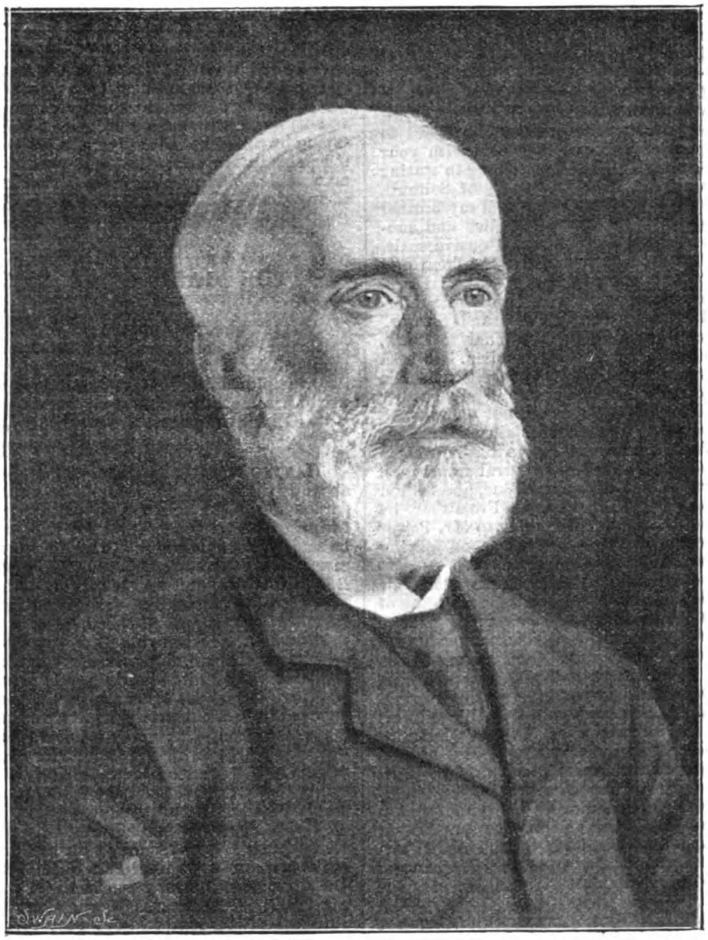

FIG. 51.—MR. THOMAS BAINES.

berries began to fall short. It would be pleasant to think the frost was likely to make a reduction in the number of the aphis hosts of the spring, but I expect it will not; the eggs would not be affected, nor probably the insects, "queen aphides," or other adults which hybernate under the earth or in various nooks, their bodies seem to be well stored with oil.

We will just notice a few species of garden and orchard insects, where the hybernating caterpillars or larvæ of last winter may not have escaped entirely from its effects. A familiar insect at once occurs to us in the caterpillar of the tiger moth (Arctia caja), often called the "woolly bear," though not clothed in wool, but black-and-grey silk. During the as I know from observation, but February, 1895, may have been a bit too sharp for them, though not markedly injurious to our Currants and Gooseberries. Then there is the caterpillar of the angle shades (Phlogophora meticulosa), one of the very few caterpillars that feed through the winter, quite exposed to the weather, upon any garden plants that may be accessible, such as young Chrysanthemums, Primroses, and early Peas, a velvety leech-like fellow, brown or greenish, with white lines and dots; some of these I saw about in December, but since then they have disappeared.

Another of the hybernators common in gardens is that to which

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The Garden, 1895

OBITUARY.

MR. THOMAS BAINES.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Baines, which took place last Saturday at Palmer's Green from influenza and pneumonia. Among the best gardeners few, if any, were better known than Thomas Baines, who first distinguished himself as a plant grower, perhaps the best grower of our time. Afterwards he became an author and also designer of gardens. So far as we can judge in our own time, there never was a better plant grower than Thomas Baines, as tested both by the northern shows and those about London. There are people who think that to write is characteristic of the non-practical man, but such an opinion was not justified by the case of Thomas Baines, because he was a voluminous writer for the garden press and wrote an excellent book on stove and greenhouse plants, which is indeed the standard work on a subject he knew so well. He was extensively engaged in laying out gardens, and amongst other large places which he planned, or greatly altered, were Glansevern, Montgomeryshire; Claughton-on-Brock, near Preston; Waddesden, Chacombe, Banbury, Broxbournebury, Boxley and Munden Park, Herts; besides many minor places. Mr. Thomas Baines was a Lancashire man, his people having been stewards and gardeners among the old estates there for many generations. He was seventy-two years of age, and was buried on Thursday last in the Great Northern Cemetery, Old Southgate.

1895.

BAINES Thomas of Fern cottage Palmer's green Middlesex died 2 March 1895 Probate **London** 25 May to Mary Anne Baines and Rose Baines spinsters and John Henry Bethell surveyor and auctioneer Effects £3708 11*s.* 9*d.*

BAINES William of Horbury Yorkshire general dealer died 8 May 1894 Probate **Wakefield** 1 February to Ada Hargreaves (wife of Edwin Hargreaves) and Lilla Baines spinster Effects £221 9*s.* 9*d.*

WILSON or
BAIRD mrs. Barbara. *See* "**WILSON.**"

HATTON or
BAIRD Cecilia George. *See* "**HATTON.**"

BAIRD David sergeant master tailor of the 1st battalion black watch died 27 August 1895 at East London South Africa on board the steamship "Doune Castle" Confirmation of mrs. Christina Graham or Baird widow Sealed **London** 2 December.

BAIRD James of Fairfield-crescent Fairfield Liverpool accountant died 24 February 1895 Probate **Liverpool** 17 April to Mary Baird widow and James Greig fruit merchant Effects £1658 10*s.* 1*d.*

BAIRD John of 90 Regent-terrace Stirling-road Glasgow sometime wine and spirit merchant died 7 June 1895 Confirmation of William Taylor wine and spirit merchant John Blackwood grocer and John Dickson farmer Sealed **London** 20 August.

BAIRD Sarah Holmes of 21 Belgrave-terrace Newcastle-upon-Tyne widow died 1 December 1894 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 2 February to Thomas Barrow gentleman and Alfred Holmes electric light engineer Effects £8936 9*s.* 6*d.*

BAIRD William Gunning of Plas Gwilym Llysfaen Carnarvonshire died 18 May 1895 Probate **London** 12 June to James Grainger Bellamy merchant Effects £5495 13*s.*

BAIRSTOW Albert of Lidget-place Lidget green Bradford Yorkshire tobacconist died 13 January 1895 Administration **Wakefield** 18 December to Jonathan Bairstow shoemaker Effects £24.

BAIRSTOW Ann of Broomfield-street Queensbury Northowram Halifax widow died 6 December 1894 Probate **Wakefield** 21 February to Peter Woodhead labourer and David Woodhead gentleman Effects £65 16*s.* 11*d.*

BAIRSTOW Anthony of Southowram Halifax innkeeper died 20 July 1895 Probate **Wakefield** 19 August to Sarah Bairstow widow Effects £283 3*s.* 1*d.*

BAISS Grace of Walmer Exeter-road Bournemouth Hants widow died 12 October 1895 Administration **London** 9 November to Arnold Baiss wholesale druggist Effects £114 19*s.* 4*d.*

BAKER Ann of Olive-place Edwardes-street Balsall heath Birmingham widow died 28 January 1895 Probate **London** 3 April to Thomas Onions commercial clerk Edwin Baker dairyman and William Henry Freeman engine fitter Effects £2129 6*s.* 10*d.*

BAKER Ann of Clevedon Somerset (wife of Thomas Baker) died 25 March 1895 Probate **Bristol** 16 May to the said Thomas Baker gentleman Effects £23 15*s.*

BAKER Ann Eliza of 13 Malthouse-road Landport Hants widow died 3 March 1895 Administration **London** 19 August to William Baker dairyman Effects £395.

BAKER Anna of Nunthorpe-avenue York spinster died 12 May 1895 Probate **York** 17 June to George Baker accountant Effects £3600 0*s.* 11*d.*

BAKER Benjamin of Attwood-street Wollescote Worcestershire nail maker died 5 March 1895 Probate **Worcester** 30 March to Thomas Newall mechanic and Albert Baker frost stud maker Effects £26 16*s.*

BAKER Bridget of 29 Victoria-street Cheltenham widow died 31 March 1895 Administration **Gloucester** 19 April to Joseph Baker commercial traveller Effects £282 16*s.*

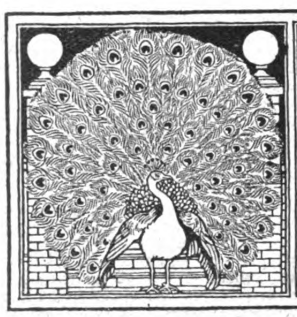
BAKER Caroline Louisa of 48 Cedar-road Walham green London (wife of Edward Baker) died 2 July 1893 Administration **London** 22 April to the said Edward Baker builder Effects £258 10*s.*

BAKER Caroline Matilda of 54 Tavistock-square London widow died 4 May 1895 Probate **London** 3 July to Caroline Baker and Harriet Constance Baker spinsters and John Ferrier esquire Effects £2708 16*s.* 1*d.*

BAKER Catherine of 50 High-street Hounslow Middlesex spinster died 4 April 1895 Probate **London** 29 May to Henry Thomas Cooper stationer Effects £59 14*s.* 9*d.*

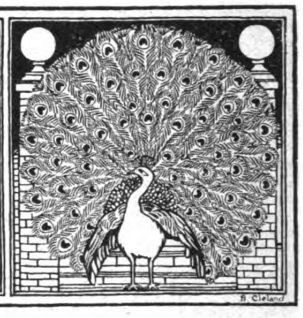
BAKER Charles of 41 Midland-road Frizinghall near Bradford Yorkshire railway signalman died 2 April 1895 Administration **Wakefield** 21 October to Caroline Baker widow Effects £69 9*s.* 7*d.*

BAKER Charles Ernest of 48 Hythe-road Ashford Kent fitter died 25 August 1895 Administration **London** 21 October to Sophia Amelia Baker widow Effects £191 7*s.* 5*d.*



THE GARDENS AT TILTWOOD, CRAWLEY DOWN.

Interview with Lady Barbour.



IN the amazing development of horticulture during the last decade, nothing has been more pleasing than the growth of personal interest taken by the owners, or wives of the owners, of gardens of considerable extent. In many cases there is more than interest; there is personal knowledge, supported by enthusiasm, and this is turned to the best possible account. At Tiltwood, the delightful residence of Sir David Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., on Crawley Down, the management of the gardens is literally undertaken by Lady Barbour, who has done much to make them beautiful. She was good enough, on a lovely day in June, when the Roses were beginning to come into evidence, to show me her fair domain. It is a domain, too, which is not put in order for a period, and then allowed to languish, but is carefully tended all the year round. And Lady Barbour finds in her gardener, Mr. Baker, an able employee, who carries out her instructions with skill. In going round the gardens, the first feature to attract my attention was what Lady Barbour calls "Primula Corner."

"For years," she said, "this was a corner where nothing would grow. Then we decided the year before last to go in for Primulas and Ferns, and see how they would do in this shady, moist position. You can see that the result has been encouraging. Now we have Primulas in succession, rosea, japonica, Cockburniana, and Sikkimensis, with others. The Grape Hyacinth also thrives here in the early spring, and the Gentiana verna when there is the maximum of sun. The Ferns last through the summer, and the Primulas keep their leaves until late in the winter; then they die down."

"Their appearance at the present time shows that they have found a home to suit them."

The Flower Rock Garden.

One of the principal features at Tiltwood is the flower rock garden, which is approached by a shady path, and is in an ideal situation. This was designed by Lady Barbour, and has for a background a plantation of Laurels, with a belt of Scotch Firs; while in front is a charming Rosery.

Observing that the Rock Roses contributed a very bright element in the sunny border, I enquired the names of favourite varieties.

"Helianthemum carminatum plenum, H. mutabile, H. Attraction, H. roseum multiplex, all bright and attractive Rock Roses. Other favourite rock plants are Arenaria montana, the close-growing Thymus serpyllum alba, and Thymus citriodorous argentea. Another favourite, because of its glossy foliage, is the Waldsteinia trifolia. I occasionally add to the collection by plants which I pick up in travelling. A recent addition is one of the Balms, which I brought from Switzerland, and it promises to flourish. Lithospermum purpureo-cœruleum, now in flower, is in its element, and early in the year Trillium grandiflorum and sessile californicum are at home. Omphalodes verna, with its pretty blue flower, also takes kindly to the soil in the spring. Sometimes the slugs are troublesome."

"Have you discovered any effective remedy?"

"I have been powdering the border over with Sanitas, and it has done some good. Besides the varieties mentioned, there are a very large number of beautiful Alpines."

Roses for Arches.

The Rosery next claimed notice, and I was much impressed with the splendid blooms of Gruss an Teplitz on a fine arch across the centre of the Rose garden.

"Gruss an Teplitz," Lady Barbour said, "should be more used for arches. It is well recognised as a good Rose for general purposes, but as a climber it is not so much known as it merits. The other varieties are Jersey Beauty, Gardenia, and Crimson Rambler—all white one side of arch, and red the other.

THE LAKE AT TILTWOOD.

"Do you group the beds in colours?"

"Yes, that is the plan. Some beds are mixed, as, for example, Madame Abel Chatenay—one of the best Hybrid Teas—with American Beauty, Viscountess Folkestone, and Baroness Rothschild. There are beds of Lady Battersea, and Caroline Testout. The mixed beds one side of the arch include such combinations as Augustine Guinoisseau, Captain Christy, and Mrs. John Laing; Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Killarney, and Lady Battersea; a long bed with Gloire de Margottin, Suzanne Marie Rodocanachi, Marchioness of Lorne, Louis van Houtte, Duchess of Albany, and Grace Darling; Francisca Kruger, White Maman Cochet, and Souvenir de Catherine Guillot."

"I should like to know, please, the varieties for which you have the most regard?"

"I am extremely fond of Killarney, Lady Battersea, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Louise van Houtte. The last is a special favourite, and a most beautiful Rose. There are other varieties which thrive in different parts of the gardens, as well as some in the Rosery."

"Do the Roses require much attention?"

"The green-fly is a troublesome enemy, and syringing has to be done constantly to prevent its ravages."

Through a refreshing Fernery, in the woods which form the boundary, with a large collection of hardy Ferns and London Pride growing luxuriantly, we proceeded to inspect the bedding on the terrace.

The Terrace Bedding.

"What was the spring bedding here?" I asked.

"Polyanthus in the smaller beds, masses of Forget-me-nots, and Blood-red Wallflowers in the centre, and double white Arabis. In one bed the Forget-me-nots formed a groundwork for the Azaleas, and in others there were masses of Daffodils. For summer bedding, Geranium Paul Crampel and Nicotianas are largely used, and the line of Roses on cords consists of Lady Gay, with Dorothy Perkins forming beds of creeping Roses, supported on short stakes. There are also beds with scarlet Alonsoas on one side, golden Calceolarias on the other, and blue Heliotropes in the centre. I just choose what I think will look pretty, and vary the combinations as often as I can."

"One of the prettiest of your flowering shrubs is the Kalmia, and I notice that Carmine Pillar is flowering splendidly as a weeping Rose."

"The other weeping trees on the lawn are Dorothy Perkins, Queen Alexandra, Dundee Rambler, and Blush Rambler."

"Then there is the other corner bed with a number of flowering shrubs, amongst which a lovely Magnolia is conspicuous."

"The variety is M. obovata. The other shrubs include varieties of Broom, Forsythia suspensa, the flowering Cherry and Peach, pink Acacias, white Weigelas, and American Azaleas, which, as you see, flower abundantly. A specimen of Buddleia variabilis is worth mentioning."

"And, not least, the magnificent show of Rhododendrons, principally in clumps on the north side of the house."

"The Rhododendrons have been very fine, but, of course, they are going off now, and the Azaleas have gone, though in their places Liliums are coming on.

A Border of Climbing Roses.

"Now I will show you a border of Roses planted last autumn from our own cuttings. It forms a border to the orchard, and faces south. The varieties are Lady Gay, Blush Rambler, Felicite Perpetue, Euphrosyne, Crimson Rambler, Leuchstern, and Waltham Beauty. Sweet Peas were originally grown here, but they got tired of the soil, and we started Roses."

"They have certainly made a wonderful growth in a short time. How large is your orchard behind the Roses?"

"About an acre, but the soil does not suit fruit; it is too poor."

"Have you any name for the pretty garden we are now approaching, with a border on each

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side of the grass walk, and a pergola running the whole length?"

"We only call it the wall border. One of the features is the pavement near the seat at the end, which is planted with a collection of Alpines, such as pink and white Dianthus, encrusted Saxifrages, Campanulas, and Phloxes in variety."

"In one of the big borders I notice the scarlet of Oriental Poppies is exceptionally brilliant."

"Yes, it is very flaming. In the border are also Doronicums, yellow Irises, Centaureas, Evening Primroses, Michaelmas Daisies, herbaceous Lupins, a few Pæonies, Valerians (red and white), and Tellimas, which give very fine foliage effect. Amongst the plants of dwarfer growth are Violas and Aquilegias. Then there is the wall itself, with a very pretty Polygonum Baldschuanicum coming into flower at the far end. At this end great Fig trees cover a considerable portion of the wall, with their very effective foliage, though they give little fruit, except in very sunny years; and on other parts of the wall are Carpentaria, Choisya ternata, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, C. azureus, Lonicera fragrantissima, Akebia quinata, and Forsythia europea. Near the wall are two plants of Gum Cistus, which flower remarkably well. You may like to know that when Shirley Poppies are in flower, we pick them for table decoration, and they last well for a couple of days."

"I should like to know the names of some of the Roses on the pergola."

"In addition to those you have already had, there are Aimee Vibert, Marchioness of Turin, Madame d'Arblay, Gruss an Teplitz, Conrad F. Meyer, Austrian Brier, Tea Rambler, Aglaia, Debutante, and Rosea alpinus, which has a pretty red stem in the winter. There is double white Clematis at the end of the pergola, but it is practically confined to Roses. Near a corner lately planted, confined to shrubs and Roses, is the new Sweet Pea quarter."

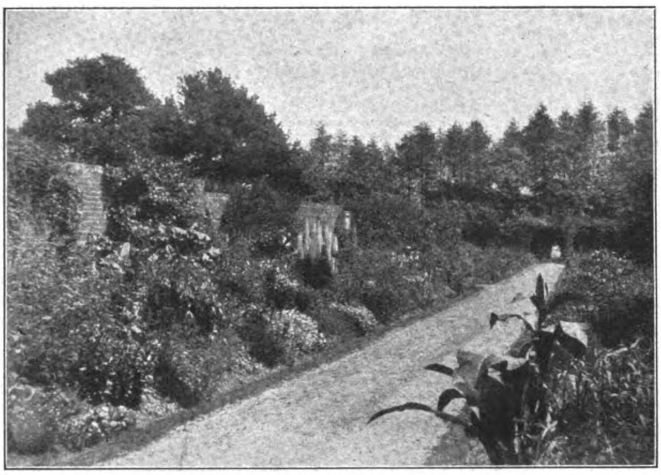
"Of which I see you grow all the leading favourites."

"Adjacent to the Sweet Peas is a clump of German Iris, to be followed by Spanish and English, with Violas Florizel, and Aubrietia græca in front. I think the English Iris the more effective."

Flower Beds in the Grass.

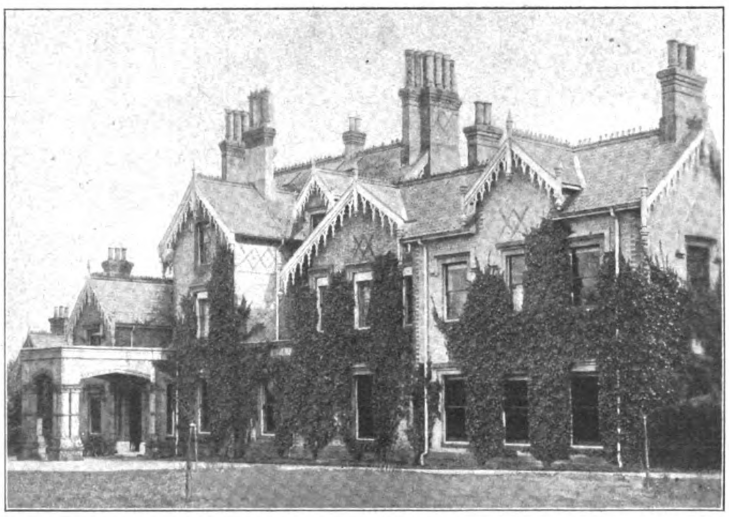
Passing through the kitchen garden, we looked into the Vineries, which consist of early, second, and late houses, the varieties in the first being Black Hamburgh and Madresfield Court; and in the others, Muscat Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Black Hamburgh, Muscat of Alexandria, Mrs. Pince, Lady Downe's Seedling, Alicante, and Frankanthal Hamburgh. Commenting on the flourishing appearance of the Vines, and the promise of heavy crops, I asked, when we reached the front of the house, whether the beds on the grass were recently made.

"They were made," replied Lady Barbour, "soon after we came here, eight years ago, and many of them are filled with Hybrid Perpetual and climbing Roses, such as Trier, Hiawatha, and Minnehaha. There are also beds of herbaceous Lupins, and a large bed is filled with a good collection of Show and single Dahlias.



THE WALL BORDER AT TILTWOOD.

The singles were raised here. Other beds contain Spiræas in variety; Tree Lupins (white and yellow); and American Maples, which find the position very congenial. The tubs standing outside are filled with Agapanthus and Hydrangeas. In the spring, yellow Polyanthus contrast pleasantly with the dark foliage of the trees, and Daffodils in thousands are naturalised."



TILTWOOD, CRAWLEY DOWN.

"You have some fine specimens of Cupressus Lawsoniana."

"The position and climate also suit Picea Nordmanniana, Wellingtonias, Copper Beeches, and Chestnuts. There is nothing to note on the house itself, but Ampelopsis does well on the portico, and the Wistaria on the verandah makes a lovely show, with its glorious blooms."

The Conservatory.

Lastly, we went into the conservatory, a very commodious and lofty building.

"Here," continued Lady Barbour, "the contents for the most part change with the changing seasons, but Bamboos are planted in the soil, and other permanent tenants are the Palms, the Ginger plant, Ficus repens, Rhyncospermum jasminoides, Swainsonia, and the Asparagus creeper."

"During the progress round the gardens, I have not noticed any Carnations."

"The soil is too heavy for them. For table decorations, we use principally light, graceful flowers—Sweet Peas with grasses, Iris with grasses, or Shirley Poppies with grasses. London Pride is combined with Ivy-leaved Geraniums, or with Cerastium tomentosa. Other table combinations are Erigeron Villarsi with grasses, and the wild, pale mauve Orchis (spotted), Ox-eyed Daisies with quaking grasses, or Maidenhair Ferns with white Geraniums."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE gardens of Colonel Rogers, D.S.O., at River Hill House, Sevenoaks, will be described next week.

The Amateur's Frame.

VI.—CUCUMBERS IN A FRAME.

HAVING described the making of a hotbed, we may now profitably consider to what uses it can be put. One of the most popular uses is to grow Cucumbers in it. Let it be said, however, that if Cucumbers are to be grown, the frames should be given over to them entirely. They should be the dominating feature, so that all other plants have to fall in with the treatment accorded to them; or a slate or wooden division should be formed, so that one light may be used for Cucumbers, and the other for other purposes.

Getting the Plants Ready.

We will presume that the reader has no means of raising the Cucumbers except by the frame. If he has a propagator in his greenhouse, or is prepared to buy the plants when they are ready for planting, his task is less difficult; but there is no valid reason why he should not raise his own seedlings. For this purpose, it is advisable to make up the hotbed in January, so that it may be used for seed-raising in February, the early part of which month would be a good time for putting in the pips. Until the plants are large enough to set out, the frame can thus be employed for the propagation of many plants from seeds and cuttings.

The seeds should be procured from a reliable seedsman, and should be sown singly in 2-in. pots. Ordinary sandy soil, free from manure,

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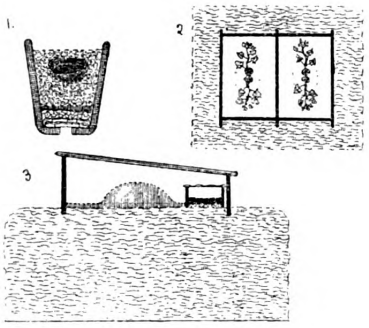
is best for the purpose. Having filled the pots and firmed the soil, make a hole with a setting stick, and put in a little silver sand. Next put in the Cucumber pip, and then more silver sand, so that the pip, being enveloped in sand, is not likely to rot.

The next thing is to fix a handlight, or the frame of a box, in the frame, to put cocoanut fibre in this, and to plunge the pots of seed-



THE CUCUMBER FRAME.

lings, after they have been watered and have drained. Cover the box or handlight with a sheet of glass, and shade with paper until germination takes place. At this stage the sheet of glass should be tilted up, and the paper removed. Later, they may be transferred to the open frame, and gradually worked to a position where they will have the advantage of what air is admitted.

When the rough leaf is formed, the young plants may be advanced to a 3-in. pot, and when this is nicely filled with roots, a further shift to a 5-in. pot will be needed. From this size the plants may be set out when they have made a fair network of roots.

Planting the Cucumbers.

When the plants are sufficiently advanced for setting out, a bushel of soil is set in the middle of the frame. This may consist of two parts loam, one part leaf-soil, and one part Mushroom manure, well mixed together. It is better not to firm the soil, but to leave it for a day to become warm before the Cucumbers are planted. I would advise that two plants be set in each light, and one be trained towards the top, the other towards the bottom. A hole may be made with the hand, and the ball of soil be just covered, but the soil must not be made firm.

After planting, it may be necessary to shade the plants from sunshine. A careful eye should be kept on them to prevent scorching, but the shading should be discontinued as soon as possible. A light dewing over with the syringe when the leaves show a tendency to flag will often bring them upright again, and admit of the shading being dispensed with.

Training the Cucumbers.

There is no great difficulty about the training of Cucumbers. Planted in the centre of the frame, they may have their points pinched out as they approach the top and the bottom. The side growths may be pinched back when about a foot in length, and after that the growths may be stopped at the first or second leaf beyond the fruit. As the growth becomes entangled, and occupies the whole frame, it will be necessary to thin it out, leaving young growths near the centre in preference to others farther away.

Occasional top-dressings of soil similar to that in which they were planted will be needed as the other becomes exhausted, and at no time should the plants be reduced to such an extremity as to flag for want of water. Syringing should be done both morning and evening. The method of ventilating a hotbed frame will be given in a subsequent article.

The Illustrations.

Fig. 1 shows a pip or Cucumber seed put into a 2-in. pot, with the seed surrounded with sand.

In Fig. 2 we have a plan of a frame showing the position of the soil, and the direction in which the plants will be trained.

A section of the frame in Fig. 3 shows again the position and depth of the frame, and the position also of the propagator used for raising the plants. WILLIAM F. ROWLES.

GARDENING EXPERIENCES.

A free subscription for one year (value 6s. 6d.) will be given each week for the most interesting and useful contribution to this page. The contribution must be original, and should, if possible, be descriptive of the writer's gardening practice.

The prizewinner this week is F. P. Mains.

A RARE PLANT IN KILMARNOCK.

A RARE plant in the conservatory at Bellfield Gardens, Kilmarnock, is this summer in flower. This is the Doryanthes, the so-called Century Plant. This is the first time any of the species has been known to attain to maturity in Scotland (so far as I can find out), and probably only the second time in Britain. So recently as 1909 there was one which flowered at the Royal Gardens, Kew, which was exhibited at that time at the Temple Show.

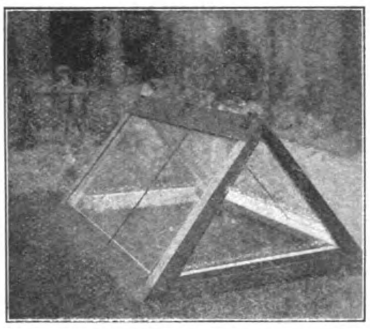


Fig. 1.—A SIMPLE COLD FRAME.

This noble plant is commonly called the Spire-flower, or Queensland Lily, although, strictly speaking, it is not a Lily. It belongs to the natural order Amaryllideæ, and its botanical name is Doryanthes excelsa. It is a native of Australia. The plant does not flower until it reaches maturity, which it may attain in from twenty to forty years, according to treatment.

Striking Proportions.

The flowering stem of the plant is nine feet high, and it bears its flowers in a spike measuring three feet high and seven inches through. The individual flower is an inch and a-half in diameter, with three petals and three sepals, two and a-quarter inches long. These are a dull carmine colour, with a creamy centre. Clusters of from six to nine flowers are borne in the axil of a long, leafy bract, each individual flower being subtended by a smaller brownish bract. The numerous dark-green leaves which form a rosette or tuft at the base of the plant are lance-shaped, about six feet long and six inches wide.—F. P. MAINS.

A NEW GARDEN FRAME.

WE are constantly reading in GARDEN LIFE descriptions of very beautiful flowers, which arouse the enthusiasm of every amateur gardener, who at once has visions of gorgeous additions to his own floral display. Cultural directions are, as a rule, given, and often these words appear: "Seeds must be sown under glass." At this point enthusiasm receives a check, as in many cases amateurs have no available glass. Now the ordinary garden frame, although an excellent addition to a large garden, is somewhat cumbersome and occupies too much space in a very small garden. It also has the drawback of not being portable, and generally has to remain in one spot, which is often anything but the most suitable position in the garden.

Description of a New Frame.

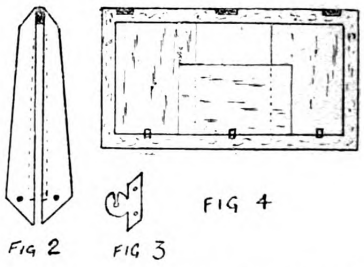
Fig. 1 illustrates a small frame which is portable, and can be easily moved either to a sunny or a shady position as occasion requires. In the winter months there is very little use for a frame in a small garden, and it is often in the way. The great advantage of this frame is that it can be folded up (Fig. 2) when not in use, and put away in the tool shed, or any place out of the way. The pieces forming the base at the two ends are detachable, and the glass is easily removed. The framework then folds over by the three hinges on the top.

It is three feet long, twenty-one inches high, and opens out to twenty-six inches, but can, of course, be made to any dimensions required. The top and bottom rail are three inches by one inch, and the side pieces one and a half inches by two inches, tapering at the top to one and a half inches by one inch.

The top rail has a groove on the underside to receive the glass, and the side and bottom pieces have what a carpenter calls a rabbet, but which to the uninitiated only means a small portion cut out of the framework to take the glass. The two base pieces at the ends are fitted with brass ear plates, bent to fit the angle, with a slot cut in the circular portion (Fig. 3). A screw (not quite driven home) is put into the framework, and this slides into the slot cut in the ear plate. This fitting holds the two pieces firmly together, and allows them to be easily detached.

The glass is kept in position by small wooden buttons, or small pieces of pliable lead, attached by a screw. I prefer the latter, as they can be pressed close to the glass and keep it firm. The disadvantage of lead is that it may break off if moved backwards and forwards many times, but it is really only necessary to move these pieces when fitting the frame together, and consequently they remain intact for several years.

Great care must be exercised in ventilation, as it is most essential if strong seedlings are to be raised that they should get an abundance of air. If the centre piece of glass is removed, and



placed as shown in Fig. 4, this will allow plenty of air to circulate in the frame, and it can, of course, be closed at night or during inclement weather.

The frame described will assist anyone to make interesting experiments in floriculture, and it is especially suitable for small experiments in French gardening, about which we have heard so much during the last two years.—J. H. MORTON.

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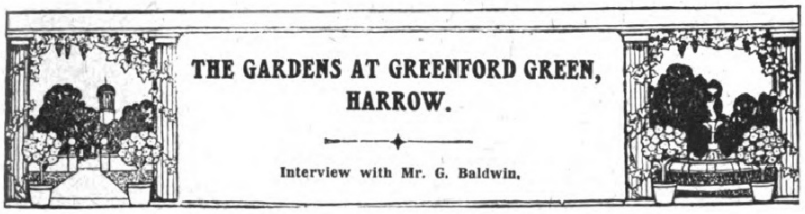

THE GARDENS AT GREENFORD GREEN, HARROW.

Interview with Mr. G. Baldwin.

AT the twelfth exhibition of the National Sweet Pea Society this year, the third prize in the Henry Eckford Memorial class was awarded to Mr. A. W. Perkin, of Greenford Green, Harrow for bright, clear flowers of well-known varieties. The gardener at Greenford Green is Mr. G. Baldwin, and under his auspices I went round the gardens, when the Sweet Peas were giving promise of the signal success they have since achieved. Greenford Green is a great surprise to a stranger, who sees nothing remarkable in the commodious house close to the road, but on entering the gates, quickly obtains a vista of the beautiful and extensive pleasure grounds lying behind. Adjacent to the house is a large conservatory, and here I stayed to admire a fine display of Pelargoniums, which, in the middle of June, had been in flower for five weeks, and gave promise of continued blooms for at least another fortnight.

"The varieties represented," said Mr. Baldwin, "are pink, scarlet, Picotee-edged, and white, but I do not know their names. They were here when I came. I cut them back at the end of August every year, and grow them under the coolest possible conditions. We are never troubled with green-fly. One plant always has pink and white flowers. Facing the Pelargoniums are Ferns, and on the wall behind Streptosolen Jamesonii. There is nothing much in the front, except a few Paul Crampel Geraniums on either side of the house; the Yuccas flowering for the first time, and a good specimen of Cedrus deodara."

"There are some wonderful specimens of Portugal Laurels," I said, as we surveyed the charming prospect from the terrace.

"They date back nearly half a century, the time when the house was built. I always trim them myself. Portugal Laurels are only worth having if they can receive constant attention. The four Golden Yews near them are also considered exceptionally good specimens, both as to colour and shape. The Acer negundo does well."

Combinations of Bedding.

"What is the arrangement of the terrace bedding?"

"Two of the four beds are filled with double white Geraniums; the other two with Geranium Henry Cannell (pink), and dot plants of Abutilon Thompsonii, edged with blue Lobelia Kathleen Mallard, which flowers profusely, On the terrace steps are Agapanthus in tubs, all blue but one. There are twenty spikes of flower in a single tub. The two dozen vases contain Marguerites, Geranium Charles Turner, and Lobelia speciosum."

"The soil must be particularly congenial to Yews."

"Yes, the two table-shaped Yews on the lawn, closely clipped, point to that conclusion, and the Golden Yews supply further evidence. In order to affect a contrast in colour, we have grafted Golden Yews on to the Irish Yews."

"I see that you have a big show of Paul Crampel in the long beds below the terrace."

"They are the groundwork, and the edging is made up of Lobelia Kathleen Mallard and Alyssums. In the centre of the three round beds is another Acer negundo, which is pruned drastically every year to keep it small. Underneath are Alternantheras in variety, and Sedum glaucum. A dash of colour is provided on the tennis-lawn by a Rose, Dorothy Perkins, growing up a stump of a tree twelve feet high."

GREENFORD GREEN, HARROW.

"Speaking of colour, blue and yellow are admirably represented by the Spanish Iris."

"Nothing gives a better return for money than the Spanish Iris. Every bulb throws up a good flower. There are good varieties in the Rhododendron bed, but the very heavy clay soil does not suit Rhododendrons. The soil for them has to be made."

"The lawn is ornamented by some noble Elms."

"The shade underneath them is a favourite spot. Amongst other notable specimens of trees are two Weeping Elms in a flourishing state. There are three more beds on the great lawn, with Geranium Henry Cannell, Maize in quality, and Centaurea ragusina, edged with blue Lobelias."

"The pleasure grounds must occupy a considerable amount of space."

"About six acres. On the left of the lawn are five large arches of climbing Roses, Mrs. Flight and Dorothy Perkins, which do better in that position than any others; and on the right is a border of clipped shrubs. Crimson Rambler affords brilliant cover for two more arches further on; and Dorothy Perkins is useful as a standard in the centre of two beds, with groundwork of Verbena Miss Willmott. Mrs. Perkin likes this combination so much that we have had it for three years in succession."

"There are some nice specimens of Pinus excelsa in a corner of the lawn."

"They are in the best of health now, but, at one time, they were apparently dying. Then I top-dressed them, and they have thriven ever since. I attribute the appearance of the lawns to the fact that they are mown regularly and top-dressed in winter. With the croquet court, there are three lawns, and beyond the third is an addition which we made in 1907. I mean the Rose garden, which was taken out of the paddock."

"A remarkably pretty paddock, by the way."

"Yes, though it intervenes between portions of the pleasure grounds, it does not spoil the effect. In the Rose garden there is one big bed, with two long beds at the side, and four diamond-shaped. The two varieties in the two long beds are Madame Jules Grolez and Hugh Dickson. In the four diamond are respectively The Lyons, Madame Abel Chatenay, Madame Jean Dupuy, and Maman Cochet, with a weeping standard Rose at the end of each. The big bed has three standards in the centre, and contains about sixty bushes. The standards are Caroline Testout, and the others are mixed, chiefly Teas and Hybrid Teas. The only Hybrid Perpetual is Frau Karl Druschki. There are several fruit trees on the grass here. We did not disturb them when we took in a part of the paddock."

The Herbaceous Border.

Proceeding round the paddock, I noticed more Rose beds, including one of Leoni Lamesch, another of Mrs. W. J. Grant; and Climbing La France and Charles Lefebvre were also in evidence. Thorns of all colours, a big clump of Wellingtonias, clipped and pruned shrubs, adorn this section of the shrubbery; and at length we reach a striking herbaceous border, forty yards long.

"This," continued Mr. Baldwin, "used to be a hedge of Aucubas. In making the herbaceous border, I took care to keep the perennials together, and avoided the plan of dotting plants here and there. Among the decorative flowers are Agrostemmas, Achillea, Sweet Williams Scarlet Beauty, Delphiniums, and many others. There are more clipped trees behind, notably two bottle-fashioned Yews."

"Between the herbaceous border and more Rose beds, there is scope for a splendid rockery."

"You mean by the pond with the goldfish? But the rockery has yet to come. The Roses here are Hybrid Perpetuals, purposely planted to give late flowers. Encircled by a Yew hedge is a bed of Pentstemon Newbury Gem."

"That is one of the many surprises of the garden, and the south border beyond is another."

"The double border marks the termination of the pleasure grounds. It is made as gay as possible with Roses, Sweet Peas, Border Carnations, Pæonies, Dahlias, and various

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annuals. Facing these are Iceland Poppies backed by cordon fruit trees. Amongst the Roses are Gustave Regis, Waltham Climber, and Louis von Houtte. But we likewise aim at making the kitchen garden ornamental."

"Beginning with a lovely arch of Roses, and glimpses of glorious Sweet Peas."

The Sweet Peas.

"The Rose is Mrs. Flight. Sweet Peas, as you may judge, are a great speciality. They are so much my hobby, that I cultivate them in my own time and do not allow any one else to touch them. I sow the seeds, and I cut the blooms for showing."

"Are they planted according to colour?"

"Yes, and I think that all shades of colour are represented. The varieties are not numerous, but great care was taken in the selection of them. They are May Campbell, Elfrida Pearson, Mrs. Hugh Dickson, Sunproof Crimson, Mrs. C. W. Breadmore, Elsie Herbert, Lady Knox, Dorothy, Nubian, Mrs. Cuthbertson, Mrs. Heslington, Clara Curtis, Etta Dyke, John Ingman, Marjorie Linzee, Melba, Edrom Beauty, Charles Foster, Thomas Stevenson, and Earl Spencer."

"Can you tell me the length of the stems?"

"Some of them are quite twenty-two inches long, and the haulm is an inch in width. Each row is twenty-eight yards long, and has seven varieties in blocks of one colour. The height is nearly eleven feet. The foliage runs down to the ground, and I attach as much importance to it as to the flowers."

[Mr. Baldwin has since been first at Uxbridge and winner of the silver medal for the best bunch of Sweet Peas in the show.]

"Another delightful feature of the kitchen garden is the Rose walk."

"There are not only Roses, but the centre bed, containing Kochia tricophylla, with angles of Nicotiana affinis and Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall, adds very much to the effect. The two rows, ten yards long each, contain varieties requiring a shaded aspect. The colours are orange and salmon, all on the exhibition principle. Of all the Roses there is none, I think, to surpass Caroline Testout. One plant which I pruned back to three buds for some years, has a head with quite fifty blooms, and as soon as one crop of bloom is over, we get another. There are about a dozen plants of Caroline Testout, and the other varieties are mixed, the whole of the border consisting of Violas. Now, I think, we might take the range of houses, beginning with the Cucumbers. We commenced to cut these on March 6th, and continue to get a crop up till Christmas. For early and late purposes, we grow Blair's Prolific, and for main crop Telegraph. The Melons are the Canteloupe and Sutton's A1. In the stove house the principal plants are Caladiums, Allamanda Hendersonii, Begonia President Carnot, Eucharis, a nice piece of Asplenium nidus, also good Crotons."

"You have been very successful with Grapes," I said, as we entered one of the Vineries.

"Yes, we had the good fortune to win two seconds and a third prize at the International Show this year. The Grapes shown were Foster's Seedling and Black Hamburgh, which are grown in this house. We were second to Lord Salisbury, and, as you know, the gardens at Hatfield are on a very big scale."

"Have you shown Grapes much before?"

"Only locally, but we had been first or second at Ealing, Harrow, Richmond, and Hanwell. I can assure you that the competition at the local show is very keen."

(Mr. Baldwin has since added to his triumphs by taking three prizes with four exhibits, one first and two seconds at Richmond.)

"When does your Grape season begin?"

"For eight years the usual date has been May 18th, and never later than May 20th. For feeding, we rely entirely on farmyard manure and good wood ashes. The other variety in this house is Madresfield Court. In the late house we have Alicante, Buckland's Sweetwater, and Black Hamburgh, just showing colour, and these prolong the Grape season, as a rule, to Christmas. I am starting now to replant Lady Downe's Seedling, Appley Towers, and Lady Hutt. The borders are all inside."

"I see you go in for Gloxinias?"

"That is what I call one of my eight specialities."

Gloxinias and Lantanas.

"And the other seven?"

"Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Cinerarias, Primulas, Schizanthus, under glass; and outside, Sweet Peas, Roses, and Onions. With regard to Gloxinias, these are but the remains. I thought of showing them when they were at their best at the International, when many plants had sixty to seventy blooms on them. Forty is quite a common number. They are chiefly my own hybrids, and the flowers are not only large and bold, but delicate in colouring, with characteristic foliage. Here are some Lantanas, which have a very long-flowering season, lasting from February to November. Ferns are represented by Adiantum concinnum, and Platycerium alcicorne."

MR. G. BALDWIN AND HIS SWEET PEAS.

"Have you more than one Peach house?"

"Yes; two. The one we are entering is the earlier house. The varieties include Nectarine Violette Hative. The Peaches crop well, and here, again, I use no artificial manure. The Peach season lasts until the end of September. We shall come to the late house presently. The next is devoted to Ferns. The varieties are chiefly of the Adiantum section, and we use them largely for table purposes. There is a big tank underneath this house, and in the winter I grow all my bedding stuff there. On the shelves above are my Cinerarias, stellata and single. I have a pan of Sutton's new scarlet Cinerarias, which was sown on June 1st. I make only one sowing, grow one hundred and twenty, aim to get them in flower during February, and to keep them so for a month. The Primulas are chiefly of the stellata type. I sow for the middle of May, and grow them here till they take their second shift. They go out in pits, the lights being kept off all night until September 20th, unless the weather is too cold. In the Rose house, Le Perle de Jardin flowers three or four times in the season; this is the third time."

"How many trees are there in your cool Peach house?"

"Ten. The trees have not been planted many years, and in order to save space, they were planted back to back, with a distance of five feet between. Hale's Early is the only early variety, but Royal George, Barrington, Princess of Wales, Sea Eagle, and Stirling Castle are planted in pairs. Along the front are Tomatoes, Lister's Prolific, the best Tomato ever raised for cropping and shape. I also grow in this house early Lettuce, Cabbage, and Cauliflower, for planting out of doors afterwards. In the Begonia house the plants are all seedlings, singles and doubles, about one hundred and fifty; while on the shelf there are six dozen of the Lorraines. On the stage are also Poinsettias, just potted in 'forty-eights' pots."

"Do you grow many Orchids?"

"Only a mixed lot, such as Lælias, Cattleyas, Cypripediums, Dendrobiums, and three dozen Calanthes Veitchii. Then there is another house full of Geraniums, which are grown for filling up the conservatory; and a house for Tomatoes. The varieties, in addition to Lister's Prolific, are Carter's Sunrise, and Sutton's Satisfaction. Of Tree Carnations we have about one hundred and fifty, the cream of the collection being Rose Dore, Enchantress, Winsor, Harlowarden, Rose-pink Enchantress, Beacon, and Lady Bountiful. We have about two hundred and fifty Chrysanthemums, a hundred for large blooms. They include all the best and latest varieties. Under the Yew hedge just outside the houses we grow Tagetes signata pumila. I sow the seed in boxes during March, and it flowers before July, yielding a wealth of golden bloom. The seed can safely be sown out of doors."

Hardy Fruit.

"You have a good collection of hardy fruit?"

"The fruit in the Orchard consists of old standards, the best varieties being Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, Wellington, Fearn's Pippin, Adam's Pearmain, Lord Burghley, Lemon Pippin, Stirling Castle, and Lord Derby. The Pears are Brockworth Park, Williams's Bon Chretien (extra good), and Louise Bonne of Jersey. On the fence surrounding the orchard are Pears and Apples on cordons. The former are Beurre Rance, Beurre Easter, Beurre d'Amanlis, and Marie Louise; the Apples, Golden Spire, Lady Sudeley, and Sturmer Pippin. We grow several varieties of Plums, namely, Rivers' Early Prolific, Victoria, Kirke's, Coe's Golden Drop, Green Gage, Deniston's Superb, and Monarch."

"What about Strawberries?"

"The only three varieties are Royal Sovereign, Waterloo, and Le Gros Sucre, the best of the three. The Raspberries are Superlative. Until I came, there was none grown here, and last season I picked a bushel off one row. Currants on cordons do well."

"I need hardly ask whether Onions do well, unless their appearance greatly belies them."

"Yes; I always try to make most of my eighth feature. The spring-sown Onions are Ailsa Craig and Sutton's A1. I finish using these in June, and for autumn sowing I use Sutton's White Leviathan. Early Gem, Favourite, and a new Red Intermediate supply a fine bed of Carrots; and last year the Runner Beans were one of the sights of the kitchen garden. They were fifteen feet high, and I could have picked a bushel off one row at any time. The varieties grown are Best of All and Prizewinner."

"You have not mentioned your six rows of Peas?"

"There are five varieties, Early Giant, Sutton's Magnum Bonum, Sutton's Perpetual, Duke of Albany, and Gladstone. We only grow Potatoes sufficient for summer use, but between the Raspberries and Sweet Peas there are three very fine Asparagus beds. A quantity of Seakale is grown for winter forcing."

Mr. Baldwin's Career.

"How long have you been in charge of these gardens, Mr. Baldwin?"

"Since November, 1904. I spent the first seven years of my gardening life in general work near Southampton and Newbury. I was then for two seasons at Harleyford, near

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Marlow; and next I proceeded to North Wales, and was foreman at Penbew Hall. My first appointment as head gardener was at Dane End House, Hertford, and after I had been there two years, I came to Greenford. I have been showing here for six years, and have nearly two hundred prize cards, chiefly for decorative plants, fruit, and Sweet Peas. I have never been beaten at Richmond for Sweet Peas. I take an interest in questions affecting gardeners, and am chairman of the Harrow Gardener's Mutual Improvement Association. I also belong to the Ealing Association, and I am quite sure that it is an advantage for young gardeners to belong to an organisation of this kind."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week we shall publish an interview with Mr. Charles Shea, F.R.H.S., of The Elms, Footscray.

SUMMER PLANS FOR GARDEN IMPROVEMENT.

PLANS are of two kinds—those which exist in the mind only, and those which are drawn out on paper. But the flower-lover who sees that his garden will bear improving would do well to think out the best methods and also sketch them. Vague ideas are of little service; only by accurate knowledge of the garden's measurements in all places, of the play of light and shade, and the warmth or coldness of different aspects, can the finest use be made of a small plot or of a large expanse.

Study the Soil.

Streaks of soil occur very frequently, and make a vast difference to the plants that are set in them. A man will call his garden ground heavy or sandy, as the case may be, but omit to notice that one shady border has a stiff tract of clayish loam running across it, while a sun-scorched bit of bed elsewhere is cracking and hard for the same reason. In the shaded portion pansies would revel, in the sunny one they would dwindle and pine—a mere illustration this of the art of making use of natural opportunities, and avoiding errors.

A map to scale is not so difficult to make as the idea sounds. A tape yard-measure has each inch divided into eight portions, and the size of one of these may be taken to represent a foot. Let the outline of the garden be measured thus, and marked lightly in pencil on a sheet of drawing-paper. Next the curves, bays, passages, paths, lawns, and any sheds or other buildings should be measured and accurately marked off upon the plan. By degrees, with careful work, each little winding walk, every hedge, shrub-group, or Rose tree will be visibly noted down. As soon as the plan is successfully completed as to detail, a sheet of glazed, untearable, transparent paper should be pinned over it, the two held up to a window, and the lines drawn on the outer paper in pencil, then gone over, on the flat, in ink. The rough plan will always be useful to mark alterations upon without risk of injuring the other.

Avoiding Stiffness.

A round flower bed in the middle of a long, narrow lawn, quite takes off the stiff angular look of a small garden. An edging of Pinks will look well all the year round, and the gray of their foliage will form a pleasingly distinct line between turf and other plants. A fine standard Rose tree makes the best centre-piece, unless there is space for a pillar Rose, and further height is desired. If there is a belt of Violas inside the Pink edge, it will be advisable to leave the rest of the bed to fill with bulbs for spring, then with summer bedders, as, by this means, the gayest effects are gained.

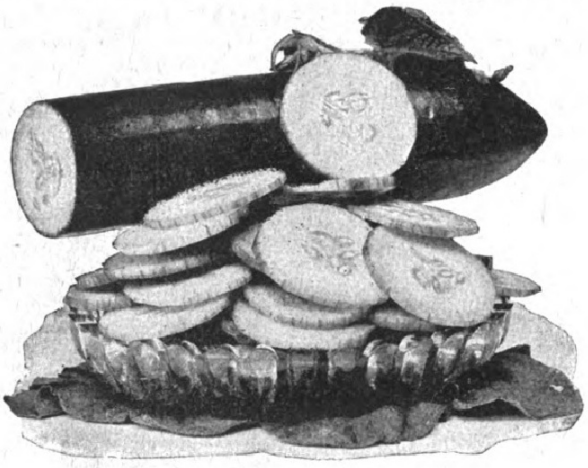
Long, straight borders have a way of looking dreary after summer droughts have stopped the blossoming of the earlier perennials. Note should be made of the especially bare portions, and groups towards the foreground can be thought out for adding in October. These should be of some persistent blooming herbaceous subjects, such as Snapdragons or Gaillardias, or else of varieties of Michaelmas Daisy, or early Chrysanthemums that are advertised as beginning at the requisite season.

Flowers for August.

Beautiful August colour results from a combination of Eryngiums of steely blue and silver and orange-vermilion Montbretias, which bloom together invariably. Phloxes, too, are especially valuable for brightening gardens. They will flourish in full sun, although so admirable in shade, if given deeply dug, rich soil, and mulches of old cow manure, with water when necessary.

Waste portions of shady walls or palings should not be left unadorned. They will show up now as bare stretches among the gorgeous flower and foliage show of summer, so are easily noticed. Suitable subjects to plant against them in two or three months' time are Loganberries, or any of the cultivated Blackberries, which are so beautiful in blossom, as well as fair and palatable as to fruit. Virginian Creeper, the Common Hop, or Ivies can be chosen if preferred.

HOBBY GARDENER.



A COOLING DISH FOR HOT DAYS.

By permission of Messrs. Webb & Sons, Wordsley, Stourbridge.

FRAME CUCUMBERS.

MANY amateurs utilise the spare garden frame from April onwards for the production of home-grown Cucumbers, but although old stagers usually get results which fully compensate them for the initial outlay on plants and manure, it is an open question if the ordinary amateur gets anything near the number of good fruit a plant is capable of producing, and invariably does produce, when well managed.

The trouble with many is that the supply is fast and furious for a time, but there suddenly comes a lull, and the handsome fruits of early June are no longer forthcoming. Indeed, if there, we get short, stubby specimens, more often than not in the shape of a horseshoe, while others, which try to grow straight, start off fairly well, but finish up very badly, the last two or three inches of growth being thin, and out of all comparison to the tail, and, in appearance, are more suggestive of pot-hooks than Cucumbers—specimens which no self-respecting amateur can possibly find pleasure either in giving away or using at his own table.

Rejuvenating the Plants.

It does not follow that plants such as these are beyond all hope, for with a little patience, care, and watching, together with a couple of pecks of fresh soil and a small tin of one of the advertised manures, these same plants may be rejuvenated, and a few weeks hence be as productive as they were before the "close time" set in.

First remove every old, yellow, or scorched leaf, also any of the smaller ones infected with fly, spider, or thrip. Having done this, trace all the old, worn-out shoots to their base, and cut them clean away, reserving only the new growths, and these to be as near the stem as possible. Now spread the peck of fresh soil thinly over the surface, and scatter a little manure on top of it. Peg the shoots down to this, and give the bed a thorough watering through a fine-rosed can, using warm water.

Keep the atmosphere of the frame constantly charged with moisture, by syringing overhead three or four times a day. Do not give any ventilation, but shade from strong sunshine, using old fish netting or other light material.

When new growth has well begun, give a little more soil, also a little more fertiliser, pressing it very firmly upon the bed.

Pinching-out the Shoots.

Growth will now be very rapid, and a large number of the new shoots will be showing two or more small fruits. Inexperienced growers are tempted to allow all these to remain, but it will be found sound policy to remove the two last, and pinch out the point of the shoot at the leaf beyond the fruit allowed to remain. This will not only cause the fruit to swell more rapidly, but will ensure other breaks, or laterals, from the same shoot, which in turn will produce and perfect a fruit each.

Give an abundance of liquid manure (twice each week being none too much), and instead of allowing a well-grown fruit of good size to remain on the Vine to become yellow and worthless, cut all as soon as ready. If not wanted for immediate use, stand the necks in jars containing a little water, and store in a cool place. Here they will keep in good condition for a week or more.

F. R. CASTLE.

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Letters for Publication, *as well as specimens and plants for naming, should be addressed to the* **EDITOR, 41, Wellington Street, Covent Garden, London.** *Communications should be* WRITTEN ON ONE SIDE ONLY OF THE PAPER, *sent as early in the week as possible and duly signed by the writer. If desired, the signature will not be printed, but kept as a guarantee of good faith.*

Special Notice to Correspondents.—*The Editor does not undertake to pay for any contributions or illustrations, or to return unused communications or illustrations, unless by special arrangement. The Editor does not hold himself responsible for any opinions expressed by his correspondents.*

Illustrations.—*The Editor will be glad to receive and to select photographs or drawings, suitable for reproduction, of gardens, or of remarkable plants, flowers, trees, &c., but he cannot be responsible for loss or injury.*

Newspapers.—*Correspondents sending newspapers should be careful to mark the paragraphs they wish the Editor to see.*

Local News.—*Correspondents will greatly oblige by sending to the Editor early intelligence of local events likely to be of interest to our readers, or of any matters which it is desirable to bring under the notice of horticulturists.*

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14—Newton Mearns Fl. Sh.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16—
Nat. Chrys. Soc. Floral Com. meet.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17—
Roy. Hort. Soc. Coms. meet.
Brit. Gard. Assoc. Ex. Council meet.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21—German Gard. Soc. meet.

AVERAGE MEAN TEMPERATURE for the ensuing week, deduced from observations during the last Fifty Years at Greenwich—56·8°.

ACTUAL TEMPERATURES:—

LONDON.—*Wednesday, September* 11 (6 P.M.): Max. 73°; Min. 47°.

Gardeners' Chronicle Office, 41, Wellington Street, Covent Garden, London.—*Thursday, September* 12 (10 A.M.): Bar., 30·1; Temp., 63°; *Weather*—Overcast.

PROVINCES.—*Wednesday, September* 11 (6 P.M.): Max. 67°, Dover; Min. 57°, Scotland E.

SALES FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

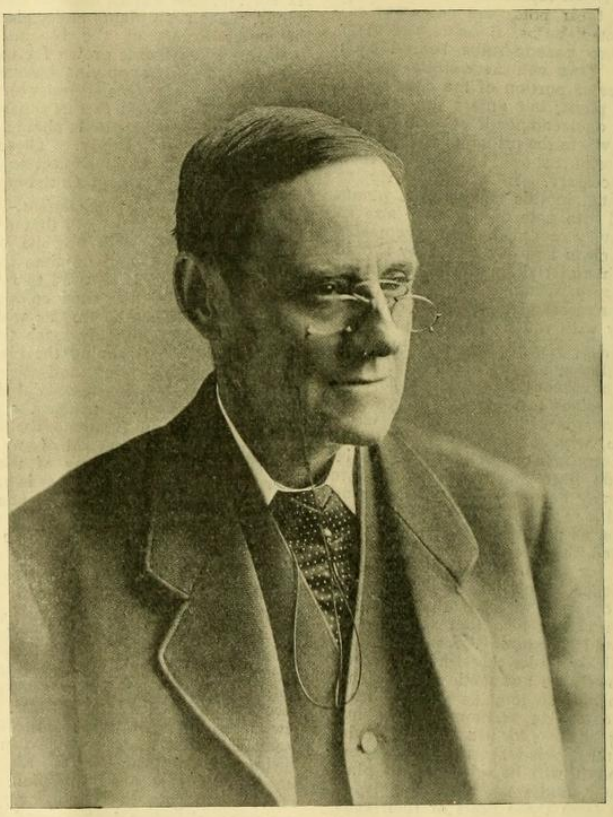
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY—
Sale of Dutch Bulbs, &c., at Stevens' Rooms, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY—
Dutch Bulbs, at 67 & 68, Cheapside, E.C., by Protheroe & Morris, at 10.30.

Victoria Medalists. We have received information from the Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society that, at the last meeting of the Council, three new names were added to the list of Victoria Medalists of Honour. The vacancies were caused by the deaths of Sir Thomas Hanbury, Bart., Sir Michael Foster, and Mr. Harry Turner, and their places have now been filled by the election of Sir John T. D. Llewelyn, Bart., Mr. George Dickson, and Mr. Henry Ballantine.

SIR JOHN T. D. LLEWELYN, BART., is a well-known personality in the horticultural world. In 1891 he was elected a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Council, but retired in the following year. Upon re-election in 1893 he continued to serve in the position until 1902, when he again retired from the Council, and was elected a Vice-President. He is a member of the Scientific Committee, and in many other directions has assisted in helping forward the Society's interests, and the interests of horticulture generally. As President of the Horticultural Club, Sir John Llewelyn has consistently shown such enthusiasm and geniality that have endeared him to all who have been in the least associated with the Club's doings, and his devotion to the duties of his office have repeatedly necessitated special journeys to London from his residence in South Wales in order to attend important meetings. The Horticultural Club has been encouraged to take its part in developing horticultural interests, and as recently as last year it was mainly due to Sir John Llewelyn that the Club was in a position to entertain the foreign visitors and others on the occasion of the holding of the Conference on hybridisation or genetics. The success of that gathering is one of the incidents in the history of the Club that will be recalled with pleasure by all those who are interested in its welfare. Sir John Llewelyn, however, has filled so many positions, and helped in so many movements, that we can only recall some of them. He has been President of the National Potato Society since its establishment, and as Vice-President of the National Chrysanthemum and National Carnation and Picotee Societies, and patron of the National Dahlia Society, Sir John Llewelyn has been brought into many circles of horticultural work, in all of which he has greatly assisted the efforts of those with whom he has been associated.

In another direction Sir John Llewelyn's devotion to horticulture may be seen in the gardens at Penllergaer near Swansea, where practical gardening of the best type has been carried out for many years past. The specialities at Penllergaer include hardy Rhododendrons and Azaleas, Bamboos, and the flowering trees and shrubs. Whilst evincing great interest in the magnificent Rhododendron hybrids that have been raised in recent years, Sir John Llewelyn has nevertheless maintained undiminished his appreciation for the true hybrids. The favourable climate at Penllergaer has enabled many of the Himalayan species to develop into such magnificent specimens as are seldom seen in this country, and their beauty, even when not in flowers, can scarcely be estimated by those who have not seen the plants. In a paper on the Himalayan species, read at a meeting of the Horticultural Club in June, 1904 (see report in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, June 18, 1904, p. 399), Sir John Llewelyn related some of his experiences in their cultivation, and, in addition, showed himself to be a keen critic of the points the hybrid Rhododendrons should possess when judged as florists' flowers.



SIR JOHN T. D. LLEWELYN, BART., V.M.H.

MR. HENRY BALLANTINE has been for many years head gardener to Baron Sir H. Schröder, The Dell, Egham. The Dell gardens are among the most beautiful and best maintained establishments in this country. They are especially famous for the rich collection of Orchids they contain. Many important species and varieties have been shown from this collection at the Royal Horticultural Society's meetings, and may be found in the list of plants which have received first-class certificates. It is interesting to recall some of the fine plants which Mr. Ballantine has first presented from The Dell gardens. Taking, for example, the spotted forms of Odontoglossom crispum, which are among the greatest favourites at the present day, there is a very fine collection at The Dell, and this collection contains specimens from the earlier introductions, which are still some

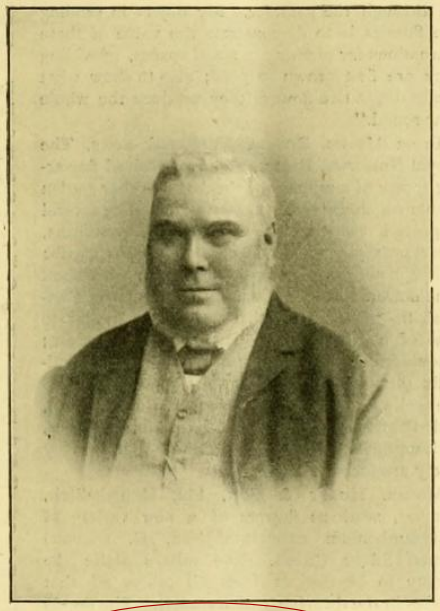
of the best plants to be seen, notwithstanding they have been under cultivation for long periods. First-class certificates have been obtained by O. crispum Ballantinei, O. c. flaveolum, O. c. Dellense, and O. c. Veitchianum in 1884; O. c. Schroderianum and O. c. Sanderianum in 1885; for O. c. apiatum, which was the sensational Orchid of its day, in 1886, and for O. c. Baroness Schroder, O. c. nobilior, and other grand forms at more recent dates.

Turning to the blotched forms of O. Pescatorei, the record is equally remarkable, The Dell collection still retaining in splendid health the beautiful O. Pescatorei Veitchii (F.C.C., 1882) and O. P. Schröderianum, both of which plants are still unmatched, despite the thousands of specimens of this species which have been imported since that year. Mr. Ballantine had the good fortune to present the first Odontoglossum Wilckeanum on March 10, 1885, and its variety Godefroyæ on the same day. First-class certificates were awarded for both plants. In most of the other sections of Odontoglossum early honours were secured by representatives from this collection. From 1891, when The Dell specimen of Cypripedium insigne Sanderæ secured a first-class certificate, it was for some years, and probably still is, one of the best plants of its kind; and many other cases might be cited where Baron Schröder's liberality in securing the best varieties and Mr. Ballantine's skill in cultivating them to the highest standard have brought credit to the gardens in which they both take such delight.

Although the Orchids have played the most important part in spreading the fame of The Dell gardens, other branches of gardening have been equally well carried out. It would be well for horticulture if the types of owner represented by Baron Schröder and of gardeners by Mr. H. Ballantine were the general rule.

MR. GEORGE DICKSON is the head of the firm of Messrs. Alex. Dickson & Sons, Newtownards, Ireland, and his election to the list of Victoria Medalists very appropriately fills the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Harry Turner. Messrs. Alex. Dickson & Sons have secured an enviable reputation for raising new seedling Roses, and most of the varieties they have introduced to commerce are now in general cultivation. As showing how much the Newtownards seedlings are appreciated by Rosarians, we may mention that in the National Rose Society's *Official Catalogue of Exhibition and Garden Roses* for 1903, out of the 33 exhibition varieties included in it which were ten or fewer years old, as many as 18, or more than half that number, were raised at Newtownards. Some of the best-known Roses raised at Newtownards include the varieties Dean Hole, Hugh Watson, Irish Harmony (single), Rev. David R. Williamson, Ards Rover, Helen Keller, Hugh Dickson, Margaret Dickson, Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford, Ulster, Ards Pillar, Alice Grahame, Bessie Brown, Countess of Caledon, Killarney, Liberty, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Mildred Grant, Lady Mary Fitzwilliam, Florence Pemberton, Ethel Brownlow, Mrs. Ed. Mawley, J. B. Clark, Muriel Grahame Irish Beauty (single), Irish Glory (single), Bettie, Countess Annesley, Countess of Derby, Dorothy Page Roberts, and Lady Rossmore. At the Royal Horticultural Society's exhibition at Holland House in July last no fewer than four new Roses shown by Messrs. Dickson were granted Awards of Merit. The Gold Medal of the National Rose Society was awarded Messrs. Dickson's new Hybrid Tea Rose Lady Helen Vincent at its Metropolitan exhibition this year.

Victor Lemoine. Gardeners are so much indebted to M. Victor Lemoine, of the Nancy Nurseries, France, for the numerous plants he has raised and introduced into commerce, that we are pleased to see in a recent issue of *Möller's Deutsche Gärtner-Zeitung* an appreciative notice of his work as a hybridiser. The notice is so full and exhaustive that it fills the entire issue of that journal. M. Victor Lemoine, of whom we published a portrait in our issue for July 15, 1899, has been engaged in the cross-breeding of plants since 1852, and



HENRY BALLANTINE, V.M.H

his efforts have been attended with unusual success.

He was born on October 21, 1823, at Delme, in Lorraine, his father being a gardener. He studied at the College of Vic-sur-Seille, and after travelling for several years he took service with various nurserymen in Germany, Belgium, and France, finally starting in business for himself at Nancy in 1850. In 1885 he became Knight of the Legion of Honour and Officer in 1894. He was honorary vice-president of the Central Horticultural Society of Nancy, and honorary member of the National Horticultural Society of France, and of several other societies in various countries.

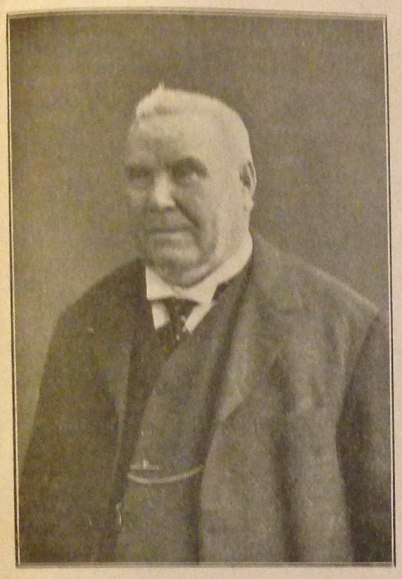
The first of his improved plants was a double-flowered Portulaca (1852), the first of its race. Then came four or five hybrid Streptocarpus, obtained by crossing S. biflorus with S. polyanthus. At that time the new species which have been so greatly improved by Mr. W. Watson, Kew, Messrs. Jas. Veitch & Sons, Chelsea, and others were unknown. In 1862, M. Lemoine introduced Spiræa callosa alba, and some hybrids that he obtained from Monochætum, among others M. Lemoinianum and M. sericeum multiflorum; also Clematis lanuginosa candida, a cross between C. lanuginosa and C. patens. In subsequent years his finer crosses and hybrids included many double Pyrethrums, which are common plants in gardens to-day, Spiræa syringæflora, and S. intermedia. In 1866 came the first true double-flowered Zonal Pelargonium, "Gloire de Nancy," the forerunner of the double varieties now grown. In 1869 he raised Abutilon vexillarium variegatum; he also raised several hybrids between Begonia Pearcei and B. subpeltata In 1871 Lemoine introduced the double-flowered Clematis Lucie Lemoine into commerce. In 1872 he surprised the gardening world with the first double-flowered tuberous Begonia, B. Lemoinei, from which in subsequent years B. Gloire de Nancy and a number of double varieties were obtained. The year 1878 saw the double-flowered Zonal Pelargonium F. V. Raspail and the large-flowered varieties Mme. Thibaut and Lucie Lemoine. In the same year M. Lemoine showed three novelties at Paris which enjoy great favour at the present time, viz., Syringa Lemoinei, the first double-flowered Lilac, Gladiolus Lemoinei and G. Marie Lemoine, the progenitors of the large spotted varieties. The year 1879 saw the hybrids Philadelphus multiflorus plenus, Weigela Emile Gallé, Ceanothus aerostat, and C. Phare. In 1882 Fuchsia Boliviana rosea, Pelargonium peltatum Jean d'Arc, P. p. La Rosiere, and Liliac Mathieu de Dombasle were raised. The following year Philadelphus rosæflorus plenus, Fuchsia Boliviana nivea, Clematis viticella venosa violacea, C. v. Kermesina, and Gladiolus Masque de Fer were raised. Between 1882 and 1900, M. Lemoine distributed many new hybrids and cross-bred varieties of Clematis, Syringa (Lilac), Montbretia, Philadelphus, Gladiolus Nanceanus, Deutzia, Spiræa, Zonal Pelargonium (Paul Crampel and others), Phlox, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine (1893, a cross between B. Dregei and B. socotrana), Astilbe, Diplacus, Gazania, Crassula hybrida rosea (C. jasminea × Rochea falcata), Anemone japonica, Pæonia, Hydrangea, &c.

Among M. Lemoine's later novelties, perhaps the hybrid Deutzias, Montbretias, Gladiolus and Syringas are the most generally cultivated in English gardens.

Apart from his beautiful hybrids and crosses, M. Lemoine has introduced a large number of rare and new species of plants to European gardens, but the mere list of these introductions is more than we can print in these columns.

OUR SUPPLEMENTARY ILLUSTRATION.—Senecios form one of the largest genera amongst flowering plants, and the enumeration of the species and their synonyms occupies more than 13 pages in the *Index Kewensis*. Generally the plants are herbaceous, though not always, and the species exhibit such marked differences as seldom occur in a single genus. In the house devoted to succulent plants at Kew may be found Senecios which might be mistaken for cactaceous plants. Their construction, however, is of quite a different type to the common garden weed Senecio vulgaris—the Groundsel—which attains a height of a few inches only, and to Senecio Wilsonianus, which is one of the giants of the race, for the

the envelope is so hard that it would not be readily dissolved or softened, it can be split into two parts, and here, again, the digestive process would help. The roots from which medicinal preparations are made may not owe their properties directly to birds, but indirectly they do to a large extent. For it is their



Mr. Henry Ballantine, V.M.H.

function to collect the materials required by the leaves for the elaboration of the sap, out of which the various parts of the plant, including the fruit, are formed, and they must, therefore, have their share of the same properties. This may often be detected by the nose alone, the roots and flowers of many plants having the same smell, though, perhaps, not in the same degree, notably in the case of Violets. No doubt, however, roots have acquired medicinal properties of their own. They are generally more or less astringent, as a defence against the insects which would otherwise destroy them.

The Shrubby Spiræas.

December 6th.—Among the Spiræas, while some of the herbaceous perennials are grown by the hundred thousand, the shrubby section is, for some reason or other, comparatively neglected. Yet it contains many handsome species. S. ariæfolia, or, more correctly, S. discolor ariæfolia, shown in the illustration, is one of the tallest, from six to ten feet in height, but not one of the most ornamental, for the white of the flowers is rather dingy. A native of North America, it is perfectly hardy in this country. Both S. Lindleyana and S. Douglasii are much superior to it for garden purposes. The latter bears rose-coloured flowers in August, and the former white flowers in September, and the lateness of their flowering periods makes them additionally attractive. But perhaps the two finest species in the whole group are S. cantoniensis (especially its double-flowered variety), and S. prunifolia flore pleno, which also has double white flowers. The former is an evergreen, and as it seldom exceeds four feet in height, it is an excellent plant for the edge of the shrubbery.

Cutting-down Perennials.

December 7th.—There is no general agreement as to the time for cutting-down herbaceous perennials. In some gardens they are cut down as soon as they begin to look untidy; in others, after they wither; in others, again, the whim or convenience of the gardener seems to be the chief consideration. There cannot be much doubt, however, that the withering should be more or less complete before the operation is performed. In the leaves and stems of herbaceous perennials, just as in the foliage of trees, certain valuable materials are stored, and the gradual change in colour is a sign that these materials are receding down the stems and into the crowns, where they remain until they can be used again when growth begins in the following spring. If, as sometimes happens, the tops are cut away while they are still quite green, the whole of these materials are lost, and must be elaborated afresh—a great waste of energy. The waste is less, of course, when the change of colour has commenced, but it cannot be entirely eliminated until the change is complete. If possible, therefore, herbaceous perennials should not be cut down before the foliage is withered.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 272.—MR. HENRY BALLANTINE, V.M.H., AT THE DELL GARDENS, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

There is only one garden in the United Kingdom of which it can be said that the head gardener shares with the owner the coveted possession of the Victoria Medal of Honour. It is some time ago since this honour was conferred upon Baron Sir H. Schroder, whose gardens at The Dell are famous for their beauty and for the high standard of cultivation maintained; and in September this year Mr. Henry Ballantine was awarded the same distinction. Mr. Ballantine, who is one of the best known and most respected of gardeners in the country, both as an Orchid-grower and for his good work generally in the horticultural world, has among his possessions two gifts which he specially values, one being a pin presented to him by Queen Victoria, and the other a similar memento by the Empress Frederick William of Germany. But he does not at all like to talk about himself, and, on the occasion of my visit to the Dell gardens, towards the end of September, he asked me to say as little as possible about him.

"As to the gardens," he said, "instead of attempting to deal generally with them, I suggest that you should refer to some of the Orchids and plants you see in bloom now, concerning which I shall be glad to give you any information I can."

"So long as the special features of the gardens are mentioned, I think we could not do better than proceed according to your plan," I rejoined.

"Then, first of all, we will look round some of the houses, of which there are about fifty."

The Orchid Houses.

Proceeding to the Orchid houses, we were joined by the Orchid foreman, Mr. Clarke, who has been with Mr. Ballantine as chief assistant for a number of years. The whole of the houses are of the most modern character, equipped with every requisite for the culture of the plants in which Baron Schroder has all his life taken such a keen interest. We started with a cool one, containing a number of Odontoglossums.

"There are very few in flower now," observed Mr. Ballantine. "May and June are the best months to see Odontoglossums in flower, but there are some blooms of O. C. Leopoldianum. Of course, ordinary Odontoglossums are easy to cultivate, but the more valuable ones—several are very costly—require very careful treatment."

"Are Nepenthes difficult to cultivate?" I asked, as we passed into a house devoted to a collection of specimens of the Pitcher plant.

"Fairly so. This collection includes the

The Dell, Englefield Green.

best varieties obtainable, amongst them being Hookerii intermedia, Rafflesiana, and Mastersiana."

"Cattleyas, I see, you have in great force?"

"The two Cattleya houses which we are now entering were formerly one, and were divided as a matter of convenience. I will name some of the hybrids of the aurea species—the richest in cultivation—now in flower. They include crosses with C. luminosa, C. Skinneri, C. Mantinii, C. Hardyana, and C. Queen Empress."

"Was Queen-Empress named after Queen Victoria?"

"Yes, and it was raised about eight years ago. Here is another hybrid—C. Mendelli—raised at Marseilles, about 1890. You might note, also, two specimens of the Swan Orchid, very strongly scented, with separate male and female flowers. There are a number of hybrids on the roof."

"How many plants are there in these two divisions?"

"Between fourteen and fifteen hundred. They are all Cattleyas and Lælias. One of the latter now in flower is L. tenebrosa, the Walton Grange variety. The petals are different in colour from other varieties. The small house adjoining is also full of Cattleyas and Lælias, all seedlings, and unflowered."

"Do you devote an entire house to Cœlogyne cristata?"

A Notable Seedling.

"Practically; but it contains a notable seedling, Dendrobium Hillii, a very old variety, not crossed, which ripened in Australia, and was sent here. There is a Lycaste Balliæ in flower in this house. The Cœlogyne cristata alba is very floriferous. I have had plants bearing five hundred blooms. The principal feature in the next house is the Miltonias."

"Which are the more notable varieties?"

"Vexillariums are numerous. There is one plant of Leopoldianum which has had every flower double. We have just one plant of Vexillarium In Memoriam G. D. Owen, which was obtained from the late Sir Francis Wigan's collection. Here are two Lælias worth mentioning, one a hybrid, Baroness Schroder, which we raised twenty years ago, and the other Lælia præstans alba, an exceedingly good and rare variety."

"Now," continued Mr. Ballantine, "we come to an intermediate house, containing Cypripediums and Masdevallias, including a plant of chimæra, with very remarkable flowers, all dissimilar."

Valuable Odontoglossums.

"And more Odontoglossums?"

"Yes, and one of these is Odontoglossum Princess Christian. It is an imported plant, which we obtained twenty years ago, and I have had it with branches of thirty-five blooms. The flower is singularly clean-looking. O. C. Regal is noticeable for the excellent shape of its flowers. But here is the most valuable Orchid in cultivation."

"What is the name?"

"O. Pescatorei Veitchii. It is now nearly twenty-six years since we bought it, and there is probably not another of the same age in this country. They usually die out much sooner. This is the most beautiful specimen of its kind, white ground, with deep purple blotches, and it has large, branching spikes. Another old piece of a special variety is O. Crispum Veitchianum, bought many years ago."

"The plants in this house must be worth a very large sum of money?"

"One little corner of it represents several thousand pounds. The plant of O. Pescatorei Veitchii, for which we paid £50, is now worth quite £2,000. Then there are several very rare Crispums. We gave 1,150 guineas for Pittiana, at Mr. Pitt's sale. There is a specimen of O. C. Brittanica worth five or six hundred guineas; O. C. Sanderianum, O. C. Rex (large, blotched forms), O. C. Fearneberg, and O. C. Graviana are other rare varieties."

Certificated Varieties.

"Are there many in this house for which you have been awarded certificates?"

"Here is one of the unique Ballantinei, remarkable as a blotched form, and the collection includes plants of O. C. flaveolum, O. C. dellense, O. C. Veitchianum, O. C. Schroderianum, O. C. apiatum, O. C. Baroness Schroder, and O. C. nobilior, for which we received certificates. Then there is the original Odontoglossum Excellency, a natural hybrid from triumphans and Pescatorei, which has been here for two and twenty years. Next only in merit to O. Pescatorei Veitchii is O. P. Schroderianum. And now, I think, if you add Oncidium Violasin album, a very pretty white, and O. Crispum Linderii and O. C. Lucanium, you have the names of the cream of the rare Orchids in this house. If you also note Lælia anceps Williamsiana and its varieties, especially Arides, which we have had for twenty-two years, we might finish the Orchids with the Cypripediums."

"Have you many of your own seedlings in the Cypripedium house?"

"Several, and some which have not been flowered yet. C. Olivia is a pretty hybrid, and so is C. Maude. The most rare of the Cypripediums is Stonei platytœnium. Sir Trevor Lawrence is the only other collector who possesses this. The flower originated with an importation of Stonei by Mr. Day, of Tottenham. Another hybrid, marked the same as Maude, is Callosum Sanderæ. The Cypripediums in flower include James H. Veitch, and longifolium. We bought the last forty years ago at Wandsworth, and started hybridising with it. Speaking of hybrids, you might mention Dendrobium Illustrée, one of Veitch's hybrids, the first break from the ordinary Dendrobium."

"What about Calanthes?"

"Oh, we have still to see that house, which includes the finest Calanthe in cultivation, Baron Schroder, raised fifteen years ago. A fine early Calanthe is Harrisii, and the darkest is C. Baron Schroderi superba.

The Cultivation of Anthuriums.

"You have some fine specimens of Ferns."

"There is one particularly of Davallia fijiensis, one of the original plants sent from Fiji to this country; it is eight feet through on the stage. Another original plant in this house is Anthurium Andreanum, and other varieties include the white variety, Lawrenceanum, and Madame Pynaert, white, with a pink spadix. We have a batch of seedlings between the white and the scarlet, and they come in all colours. Moisture is absolutely indispensable in the treatment, and heat also. We have to cut these Anthuriums down every year, as there is almost any number of plants at the bottom."

"What are the features of your stove?"

"Perhaps the most wonderful specimen is the Vanilla plant, which keeps rooting round as it grows. The specimen of Gloriosa superba, which is a fine decorative plant for the table, has been here thirty-five years, and keeps on flowering for three months. There are two fine specimens of Dracæna Victoria in pots. After they have flowered, we cut them down."

"I see that you go in for Nerines?"

"We bought the first bulb forty years ago. Last year we had from seven to eight hundred spikes; some had fifty bulbs in a pot. Nerines should be kept dry for three months, and ripened off about the beginning of June; they last in flower for a fortnight, and glitter in the sun. It is important to remember that Nerines rarely flower after the leaves begin to grow. They are, as you know, of South African origin, and this variety is Fothergilli major."

"With respect to other houses," continued Mr. Ballantine, "you might say that, in the greenhouse, Rochea falcata, one of the Cactus tribe, has big trusses of flower. I mention it because Rochea will grow well in a cottage window, and will keep alive for a month, even if people forget to water it."

Fruit Under Glass.

"Now we might take the fruit houses."

"In the Vineries we grow Muscat of Alexandria, Madresfield Court, Alicante, Lady Downe's Seedling, Appley Towers, and Lady Hastings. We have both outside and inside borders. Peaches, Figs, and Plums are grown

The Gardener's Cottage at the Dell, Englefield Green.

in cases, the Peach case being a hundred and fifty feet long, and the Fig and Plum case a hundred feet. The cases run the whole length of the kitchen garden. The varieties include all the best known, and we have had some particularly fine fruit of Sea Eagle and Princess of Wales Peaches. The kitchen garden itself is about two acres in extent, and is devoted entirely to fruit and superior vegetables. No flowers are grown in it, and Potatoes, Cabbages, and French Beans are grown in two or three acres outside, which are appropriated to that purpose. There have been some fine crops of Plums, Morella Cherries, and Pears, on the wall, and one Pear tree (Souvenir du Congres) has yielded an enormous quantity of fruit."

"Your flowers outside the houses include, I observe, a number of very healthy-looking Fuchsias."

"They not only look, but are healthy. They all stand under the early Peach-house through the winter, with a little straw for protection. The varieties are Rose of Castile Improved, Swanley Gem, and Phenomenal."

"Do you grow many Chrysanthemums?"

"Nearly two thousand bush plants. We have as many as sixteen hundred in the large house. Winter-flowering Begonias are also largely grown. One of the best is Ensign, and the other good varieties are Winter Cheer, Julius, Mrs. Heal, and Winter Perfection. We also grow Begonias, Gloire de Lorraine, Turnford Hall, Gloire de Sceaux, and other sections."

The Pleasure Gardens.

From the house and kitchen garden we proceeded under the subway in the main road to the flower garden and lawns surrounding the mansion. All this was done under the auspices of Mr. Ballantine, during the forty-three years he has been in charge of The Dell, and it would not be easy to exaggerate the beauty of the place. Mr. Ballantine, it is true, said that I ought to see it in the spring, when the Rhododendrons are in flower, and I can quite imagine that then it looks its brightest and best. But at all periods it has many charms. The foliage of the Rhododendrons themselves constitutes one attraction, and, commenting on their growth, I asked Mr. Ballantine to tell me the names of some of the varieties.

"There are all the best hybrids, and, while many of the beds are mixed, there are also numerous beds containing one variety. The latter include The Queen, Pink Pearl, Whitworth, Kate Waterer, Baron Schroder, and Baroness Schroder. The growth of the Rhododendrons is so remarkable that we have to move some of the inferior plants to give space for the better."

"Then, on the lawns, your Yews and Cedars are a great feature."

"The grand old Cedar which is chained up is more than a hundred years old. It has grown considerably since the time it was moved in 1878. One of the Cedars came up in my time, and another, now a tremendous tree, was planted in 1865. In addition to the Yews (Golden and Irish), there are several specimens of Weeping Hollies and Weeping Wellingtonias. In the drive to the front door are masses of golden Yews, golden Hollies, and Retinosporas, all of which were replanted by me."

Bedding on the Terrace.

At this part, Mr. Ballantine conducted me to the north balcony, which looks straight across the Windsor Great Park, a prospect which could not fail to afford satisfaction to the most fastidious critics of natural scenery. This is really the dell, from which the place takes its name, and from the rising ground there is a splendid view of Windsor Castle on the right, Eton College on the left, and the Bucks Hills beyond. Returning to the lawn, I enquired how the bedding on the south front was made up, and Mr. Ballantine replied:—

"The scheme embraces thirty beds, and the plants consist of Begonias, Ivy-leaf Geraniums, Heliotropes, Coleus, Lobelias, and Iresine. In the vases on the terrace are American Aloes, and Geraniums—Her Majesty, Mrs. Pollock, and Shrubland Pet."

"Have you any difficulty in regard to soil?"

"The land is all poor, and we have to use large quantities of manure and peat, to produce anything approaching good results. The only other feature is the rockery, in which, as you see, there are not many plants in flower just now. But there are a few, including Japanese Anemones, Veronicas, Phloxes, Saxifrages, Cyclamen, and Camellias. Now, I think you have a very fair idea of The Dell gardens, though I doubt whether you can have any notion of what the pleasure grounds looked like at the time I commenced the conversion of a field into what now forms the greater part of the lawn."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 279.—WEEDS, INSECTS, AND CANNAS.

DEAR KATE,—"Weeds! What an unpleasant subject this week," I hear you say. Yet it is one which we all have to consider, if we care for our gardens, for nothing is more disastrous than a crop of weeds, which quickly exhaust the soil and choke less hardy things out of existence. If only our flowers and vegetables would grow so easily, how little trouble we should have! But it is of no use wishing that.

Amongst the worst weeds are those which have seeds which are winged, or have a little parachute to fly about with, such as Dandelions, Groundsel, Hawkweeds, etc. They all have a plan of rushing up, flowering, and ripening seed before you can look round, and woe be to your garden if you don't destroy them before they can do this, for every one of them will propagate his kind, with the help of the wind, by the hundred if not the thousand, and you will have your work cut out for the season to get even with them. Even in the best-regulated garden, however, some weeds will appear, although it is possible to bring down their numbers to a few only, which are then more easily dealt with.

Fortunately, the birds (even the much-abused sparrows) do their best in winter to help us, by eating the seeds of many weeds, Groundsel, Chickweed, Shepherd's Purse, Plantain, etc., being favourite food, on which they live, to some extent, when other fare is scarce. If it were not for this help, we should probably be overwhelmed with weeds, and gardening would become a hopeless task; but, as it is, we have quite enough to do to keep the weeds down.

Work for the Winter.

During the winter, however, we may make a start by clearing away every visible weed, and either burying the whole of them, or (if they have been allowed to come to seed) burning them. All the empty spaces in the kitchen garden can now be rough-dug with much advantage, for in this way it becomes possible for the coming snow and frost to penetrate it deeply, carrying their fertilising and cleansing properties with them, and the birds are enabled to pick out from amongst the clods many grubs and insects which would otherwise be safe from their sharp eyes and long beaks. Blackbirds will spend the winter hunting for slugs, thrushes for snails, and robins for all kinds of smaller insects; but they cannot do their work well in a weedy garden. Just watch them for a few minutes at work on newly-turned soil, or even on a bed which has been loosened with a Dutch hoe, and you will soon see how they enjoy such a dinner table, and what a feast you have provided for them.

The Dutch hoe is one of the garden tools which should be always in use, both to destroy all weeds whilst they are too young to stand being upset by it, and to keep the surface open for the rain, the sunshine, and the dew in summer, to penetrate the soil; and I think it

SOME OF THE SUMMER BEDDING AT THE DELL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

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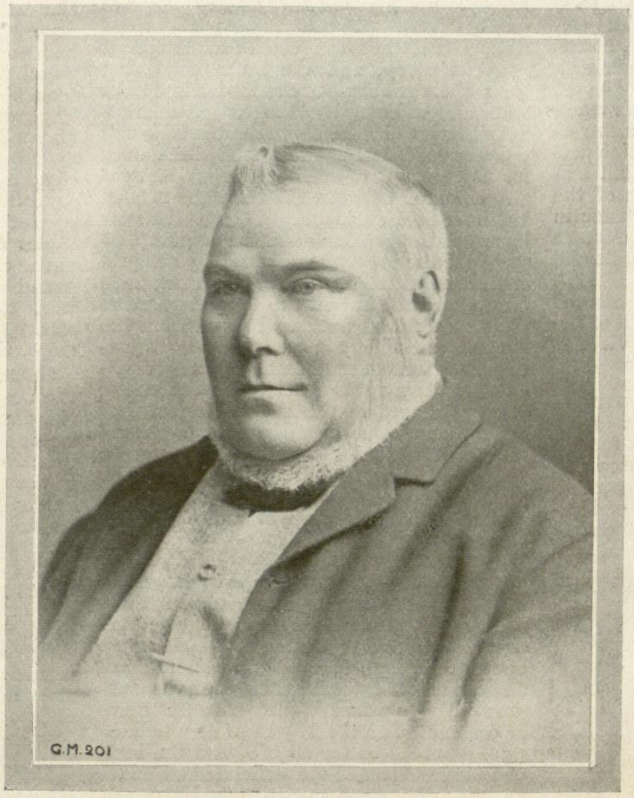
THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Nickerson Prizes for Roses.

It will be remembered by those who take an active interest in roses that last year Mr. W. E. Nickerson, an enthusiastic rosarian resident at Boston, U.S.A., presented three silver cups to the National Rose Society, to be awarded to the raisers of the best hybrid perpetual, the best hybrid tea, and the best tea-scented variety introduced within a prescribed period. The award of these cups was entrusted to a specially appointed committee, and in the result the raisers of Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Jules Gravereaux, and Dean Hole, were adjudged the winners. As these roses are of German, French, and Irish origin no one could well suggest that in the making of their awards the members of the committee were influenced by insular prejudice. Their selection has been questioned by some, but this has been largely due to the fact that the time limit has been overlooked. Mr. Nickerson was so well satisfied with the results that this year he has placed twelve cups at the disposal of the society for honouring the best dwarf and climbing roses, without any stipulation as to the year of introduction. He suggests that four cups should be awarded for bush roses, four for climbers blooming in trusses, and four for climbers with flowers not in trusses, the cups in each group to be awarded to the best red, the best pink, the best white, and the best yellow variety. All colours are to be admissible and to be arranged under the head to which they approach most nearly. For example, all reddish shades deeper than deep pink are to be classed as red; salmony, etc., shades to be classed as pink; canary, buff, orange, etc., shades to be classed as yellow, and all very light tints or shadings to go with the whites. These suggestions are of much value, and will, we have no doubt, be acted upon, but it is not difficult to foresee that the preparation of a scheme for giving practical effect to Mr. Nickerson's views will require much care and thought; and this we know will be ungrudgingly given by the executive of the National Rose Society. The climbers flowering in trusses are such varieties as Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, and Lady Gay; and the climbers producing their flowers singly or at most a few in a cluster are best represented by Aimée Vibert, Gloire de Dijon, and Madame Berard. Believing that the only method by which anyone can obtain a really complete and accurate idea of the value of a variety, Mr. Nickerson recommends that the lists sent to those taking part in the election should contain a scheme of marking by points. For example, one hundred points would constitute a perfect variety, one in which the flower is faultless in form, colour, opening, keeping qualities, fragrance, etc.; the foliage, growth, hardiness, resistance to blight and pests of the highest order, while the plant should bloom continuously. It is suggested that each of the following qualities should be covered by five points each, and in putting this into practice on Frau Karl Druschki, Mr. Nickerson obtained the following result: The flower—Form, 3; size, 4; substance, 4; colour, 5; permanence of colour, 5; distinctiveness, 4; flower stem, 4; fragrance, 0; opening, 4; keeping, 3; total, 36. The bush—manner of growth, 3; vigour of growth, 4; constitution and healthiness, 4; adaptability to situation, 4; colour and brightness of foliage, 3; form and arrangement of foliage, 3; hardiness to cold, 4; resistence to mildew, 3; freedom of bloom, 3; continuity of bloom, 3; total, 34; or a grand total of 70. It is believed that if some such plan as is here briefly explained could be adopted and clearly set forth in the circular letter accompanying the voting list, much useful information would be brought out about the qualities of the roses voted upon as they appear from different points of view, and in different localities. On the other hand, it is feared that without a point marking scheme many taking part in the election will vote without the proper amount of detailed and definite thought, giving mere impressions which they may have, and in any case it would not be known on what grounds their opinions were based. Recognising the fact that under the scheme only twelve roses will be honoured out of the scores entitled to distinction, Mr. Nickerson very generously offers to place a sum of money at the disposal of the National Rose Society for the purpose of having a suitable diploma prepared, so that the second and third most popular roses in each section may receive proper recognition. In addition he suggests that all roses receiving a certain percentage of the votes be named in the published account of the contest, it being thought that in this way probably the most popular hundred roses or thereabouts will become known to the rose world as such. Mr. Nickerson's suggestions for ascertaining which are the most popular roses are so new in character and comprehensive in scope that the election can hardly fail to prove of immense interest to rosarians, and the results of much value to all who grow roses. The preparation of the scheme, and the carrying out of the details will be not the least important of the work included in



MR. H. BALLANTINE, V.M.H.

the programme of the National Rose Society for the current year, and the display of the winning varieties will, unless we are much mistaken, be not the least attractive of the many features of its metropolitan exhibition in July next.

Mr. H. Ballantine, V.M.H., whose portrait we have the pleasure of giving herewith, is one of the best known of gardeners, and is held in high esteem both for his great cultural skill and geniality of disposition. Exactly how many years Mr. Ballantine has had charge of the gardens of The Dell, the charming residence of Sir Henry Schroder, Bart., at Englefield Green, we are not now able to say. We are, however, able to state that he has occupied his position for a very long time, and that throughout the period the gardens have been regarded, and properly so, one of the most noteworthy horticultural establishments in the country. The Dell gardens have become the most famous for their collection of orchids, and having regard to the extent of the collection, the great value of large numbers of the varietal forms, and the splendid development of many of the specimens, this is in no way surprising. The collection of orchids is unique, but the gardens contain many features, each one of which is sufficient to make them famous. The collection of choice rhododendrons is extensive, and the condition of the plants such as to evince cultural skill of the highest class, while the rock garden with its many beautiful alpines presents many charms to lovers of hardy flowers. Mr. Ballantine possesses in an eminent degree the skill and judgment essential to an orchidist of the highest class, but he is equally at home in all other departments of the garden, as proved to demonstration by the splendid results that are annually obtained. Last year Mr. Ballantine had the well-deserved honour of receiving from the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society the Victoria Medal of Honour in Horticulture.

Gardens Around Horsham.—We would remind our readers that in the issues of the Gardeners' Magazine for the 8th and 15th inst. we shall describe and illustrate some of the most notable gardens in the district of which the town of Horsham is the centre. This is one of the most important gardening centres in Sussex, both as regards the number of important gardens and the great interest that is associated with them. Both issues will be profusely illustrated with finely executed reproductions of photographs specially taken for the purpose.

New Flowers at Vincent Square.—We learn with very great pleasure that on and after February 11, all plants and flowers to which a first-class certificate or award of merit are granted by the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society must be staged on a table in front of one of the annexes in the hall, instead of being returned to a group that the exhibitor may have arranged. As a rule, after the committee rises, the certificated plants become distributed through the exhibition and are therefore most difficult to find. We have on previous occasions urged that all new plants and flowers receiving official recognition should be set up in a special position together, because of the greater convenience such an arrangement offers to the general public, and because such a proceeding is in accordance with the original intention of the fortnightly meetings. We hope the other committees will follow the example of the Floral Committee in this matter.

The Chester Paxton Society's programme for the second half of the winter session commenced on January 18 with a lecture by Mr. J. W. Siddall on "Springtime in the Undercliff District of the Isle of Wight." The other lectures are on February 1, "The Common House Fly," by Mr. R. Newstead, A.L.S.; February 15, "The Flora of India and Ceylon," by Mr. Joseph Thompson; and February 29, "Herbaceous and Alpine Plants," by Mr. W. S. Sharp.

Brassica Hybrids.—At the meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society on Tuesday an important paper was read by Mr. Arthur Sutton, V.M.H., on Brassica hybrids. The meeting was on this occasion held in the lecture room, which was well filled. The comprehensive experiments on which Mr. Sutton's paper was based were commenced in 1905, and were conducted with a view to determine the extent to which the several kinds will intercross. In the course of the experiments it was proved to demonstration that the brassicas which had originated from the wild cabbage readily intercrossed with each other, but would not enter into union with the rapes, turnips, or kohl rabi. As the result of the intercrossing of the descendants of the wild cabbage, two distinct forms of much value for culinary purposes was obtained. One of these was derived from a cross between the Brussels sprout and the savoy, and the other originated from a cross between the Brussels sprout and an ordinary cabbage. Numerous hybrids were obtained between the rape and the thousand-headed kale, but these were for the most part sterile. Hybrids were also obtained between the thousand-headed kale and kohl rabi, and between the kale known as Ragged Jack and the swedes. The first year the progeny was of a very mongrel character, as might, Mr. Sutton said, have been expected, but in the following season the plants raised from seed saved from the hybrids resembled, in well-defined proportions, the forms used in making the original crosses. There was a brief but interesting discussion, and in the course thereof Mr. Sutton, in answer to an inquiry, expressed the opinion that it would probably not be possible to bring the hybrids obtained to the same high degree of perfection as the parents within the course of an average lifetime.

Preservation of Ludshott Common.—An appeal is being made by the Ludshott Common Preservation Committee for the funds necessary for the purchase of Ludshott Common, which forms one of the group of commons at Hindhead and the tract of woodland between the common and Waggoner Wells. The 542 acres of common, and the 17½ acres of woodland can be purchased for £1,675, and the legal and other expenses are estimated at £125. Towards the £1,800 thus required £700 has already been subscribed. It is proposed if the purchase is effected to vest the land in the National Trust for places of Natural Beauty. Mrs. Lyndon, of Grayshott, is the honorary secretary of the committee.

R.H.S. Guild.—The movement on foot for the promotion of a guild of old Chiswick students and officers, and old and present Wisley employees of the Royal Horticultural Society is receiving the attention it merits. To put the whole matter on a definite basis and to decide the title, rules, etc., a meeting of those eligible to join the guild will be held in No. 3 Committee Room, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, on Tuesday, February 11, at the conclusion of the R.H.S. annual meeting. It is hoped that all old Chiswick and Wisley men will do their best to attend.

Field Botany Excursion.—An interesting experiment in field botany has been conducted for three successive seasons by Prof. F. W. Oliver, F.R.S., of London University College. A large area of salt marsh at Erquy, in Brittany, was selected, and this it was proposed to inspect for many successive years for the purpose of noting the distribution of plants, migration, differences of plants in varying degrees of salinity of soil, alteration of conditions and plants, and other similar and useful questions. Upwards of twenty students have joined each year in this most interesting study, and they have spent a most enjoyable as well as profitable time at Erquy.

Fall of a Giant Poplar.—During the December gales a very noble specimen of Populus deltoides was blown down in Christ Church Meadows, Oxford, a few yards west of the Oxford Botanic Garden. This tree had attracted the attention of many persons interested in aboriculture. When divested of lop and top its trunk measured 55 feet in length; girth, twelve feet from base, 16 feet; it contained 1,056 cubic feet of timber, and weighed 20 tons. Last year G. Claridge Druce, Esq., collected leaves of it for distribution to the members of the Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles, in order to contrast it with the foliage of another giant black poplar growing close by. The specimen under note had very large clusters of mistletoe, supposed to have been brought by the birds from the Botanic Garden, where there is a large display of this parasite. This form of poplar grows rapidly in the Midlands, and though its wood is soft it is tough. To remove the tree, which fell across the west arm of the river Cherwell, was a task of considerable difficulty, for chains and steel cables attached to it snapped like cotton under the strain of a powerful Burrell compound engine. However, after two days' work the log began to roll, it was drawn ashore, cut in half, and conveyed to Littlemore, three miles distant.

Rose Culture at Bristol.—Under the auspices of the St. Martin's Branch of the Church of England Men's Society, a series of lectures has been arranged for the winter session. The January lecture, given in the schoolroom by Mr. T. P. Elkes, head gardener at St. Agnes' Home, Knowle, Bristol, deserved a larger audience than it received. The subject, "Roses and their Culture," was ably dealt with by the lecturer, who, dealing first with the historical side of the national flower, led his audience by easy stages through the different phases of successful rose culture, illustrating his remarks on pruning by practical demonstrations on varieties he had specially selected and potted for the purpose.

The Horticultural Club Annual Dinner will take place on Tuesday, February 11, at 6 p.m., at the Hotel Windsor, Victoria Street, Westminster. After dinner there will be music under the direction of Mr. F. Morrison. Those desirous of attending this function, to which ladies are especially invited, should notify the Secretary, Mr. E. T. Cook, not later than February 16, as accommodation is limited.

Scottish Horticultural Association.—The Right Hon. Lord Elphinstone has been elected hon. president of this association for 1908; Mr. James Whytock is president; Messrs. D. Kidd, W. H. Massie, and M. Todd, vice-presidents; and Mr. A. D. Richardson, secretary and treasurer. The retiring president, Mr. D. W. Thomson, was presented on January 4 with a finely illuminated address in appreciation of his services to the association, whose membership is now 1,306.

spot within so short a distance of the heart of the Black Country. Kinver Edge has now been presented by the family of the late Mr. Thomas Grosvenor Lee, of Birmingham, to the National Trust, to be held for the use of the public. This munificent gift comprises some two hundred acres of heathery moor, which will be much appreciated, and will serve to keep green the memory of the famous naturalist. At a public celebration of the gift on September 28, Canon Rawnsley, the chairman of the Trust, formally accepted the gift, and Lord Dartmouth and the Mayor of Stourbridge made speeches congratulating the Trust on the acquisition of its first piece of property in the heart of the Midlands.

Four Veteran Gardeners.—We reproduce in fig. 51 an interesting photograph of four veteran gardeners, Messrs. H. Ballantine, T. Robinson, J. Jemmett, and A. Sinclair, taken recently in the garden of Mr. Ballantine at Westwood, Egham, where he now resides. Each of these four gardeners is over eighty years of age, and their combined ages amount to 336 years. Mr. Ballantine was born in 1833, and began his gardening career in Scotland. While still a young man he was appointed gardener and bailiff at "The Dell," Baron Schröder's residence at Englefield Green. Here he stayed for nearly half a century, and the late Baron, who esteemed him very highly, on his death left Ballantine a legacy of one thousand pounds. He was a keen and successful Orchid grower, and was for twenty-five years a member of the R.H.S. Orchid Committee. In 1907 he was presented with the Victoria Medal of Honour, and in 1911 he retired from "The Dell" appointment. Some particulars of his career, and a portrait, were published in *Gard. Chron.*, Sept. 14, 1907, and his retirement is mentioned in the issue for April 1, 1911. Mr. T. Robinson was born in 1835. His experience was chiefly gained in the south of England, but his first post as head gardener was at Maryborough Park, Cork. Later he was for twenty-nine years gardener and bailiff at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, and retired in 1899. Mr. J. Jemmett is the eldest of the little group, having been born in 1831. He is still in harness and has never been absent from work for a day through illness, being hale and hearty. For the last fifty-six years he has held the post of gardener at Milton Park, Egham, where he has served three generations of Barons de Worms. Mr. A. Sinclair is two years younger than Mr. Jemmett. He began work at nine years of age, and has had a very varied experience, having served in gardens as far north as Banff. His last position was that of head gardener to R. Charington, Esq., at Hunsdon House, Ware, where he remained for fifteen years, retiring in 1909.

Potato Grower Fined £300.—At Wisbech Police Court recently George Tansley, a Potato grower, was fined £300 on twelve counts of having sold seed Potatos at prices above the maximum. The excess profit was £211. He pleaded that the Government had commandeered 167 tons of his Potatos at £8 a ton, while his neighbours had obtained £11 a ton on the market.

Medlar Seeds as Poultry Food.—It is not generally known (states the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*) that the seeds of the Japanese Medlar (Eriobotrya japonica), a tree which is grown for its fruit on the French Riviera, can be used for feeding poultry, rabbits, and other domestic animals. They can also be used for distilling a spirit resembling Kirschwasser. Food for poultry can be prepared by simply boiling the fresh or dried seeds in water for thirty to forty-five minutes, and then crushing them or using them whole, as may be desired; or, instead of being boiled, they may be roasted like coffee. Another plan, which has the advantage of not requiring heat, is to crush the seeds, then moisten them with sufficient water, and allow them to remain in this state for twelve hours. The mass is spread out in a thin layer to dry in the sun, in order to remove any traces of the bitter flavour. This poultry food can be used dry or wet as preferred.

Soil Bacteria.—During the past eight years Mr. H. Joel Conn has been engaged in the very difficult and important work of studying the bacterial flora of the soil.* Our knowledge of the bacterial content of the soil progresses very slowly, and this because of the fact that it is a new branch of science. The organisms have to be isolated and cultivated. Many of them are new and not easy of cultivation under artificial conditions. The soil bacteria are of two types: those which form spores and those which do not. The former are relatively few in number, and are probably not of agricultural importance, since they appear to occur in the soil only in their spore—or resting—stage. The non-sporers, on the other hand, occur in great number and variety, increase amazingly when the soil is manured, and also when it is aërated. Some of them are known to be ammoniafiers—that is, producers of ammonia. As an example of the effect of aëration on the bacterial population of the soil, Mr. Conn mentions that whereas 1 gram (about 15 grains) of dry soil yielded about 16 million colonies, a similar amount of the same soil yielded after aëration about 28 million colonies. It will evidently be a long while before we shall be able to purchase soil fertility bacterial starters, which, added to soil, will infallibly set going those beneficent processes of corruption—and those only—whereby the food and stimulant necessary for perfect vegetable growth are produced. Yet it does not require much vision to see the agriculture and horticulture of the future employing the bacteria of the soil in as sure and beneficent a manner as the dairyman now employs cultures of micro-organisms to act as starters in producing the kind of cheese he wants.

* *Soil Flora Studies.* Bulls. No. 57, 58, and 59, New York Agric. Exp. Station, Geneva, N.Y.

HISTORIC FIRM.

With some notable exceptions British seed firms have been more or less short-lived. They have flourished for periods of varying brevity, but few have continued successful for more than a century. That being the case, it is cheering to find an exception in the case of a firm which is known, not only throughout Scotland, but also throughout the whole of the United Kingdom—that of Messrs. Austin and McAslan, of Glasgow. The bicentenary of the firm was celebrated on the 28th ult. by a dinner in the Trades Hall, Glassford Street, Glasgow, at which a numerous and representative company was present. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alexander N. Hunter, the present head of the firm, and the guests numbered about one hundred and fifty. The Lord Provost and other important townspeople were present, and Sir Robert Wright, the chairman of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland. Representing the staff of Messrs. Austin and McAslan were Messrs. John Cairns, R. M. Young, S. G. Smith and J. J. Robertson. The following represented the garden and agricultural seed trade and nursery trade: W. Cuthbertson (Dobbie and Co., Edinburgh), J. M. Bridgeford (Watkins and Simpson, Ltd., London), A. W. Johnson (Hurst and Son, London), Andrew Aitken (Chas. Sharpe and Co., Ltd., Sleaford), T. S. Findlay (Findlay Bros., Baillieston), Joseph Dobson (Wm. Leighton, Glasgow), T. B. B. Kerr (Kerr and Co., Glasgow), James Gray (Glasgow), W. P. Maltman (Alex. Cross and Sons, Glasgow), James McKenzie (Glasgow), Andrew Motherwell (Glasgow), T. C. Meldrum (Smith and Meldrum, Forfar), John Sutherland (Lenzie), John Smellie (Busby), Thos. Jeffrey (Edinburgh), Chas. Young (Kennishead), Thos. Thomson (John Donaldson and Co., Edinburgh), J. D. Alexander (Pringle and Alexander, Glasgow), R. W. Todd (Dunlop and Todd, Glasgow), Robt. Howie (Glasgow), W. Gilchrist (W. Gilchrist and Sons, Glasgow), P. M. Hamilton (Arch. Hamilton and Sons,

Fig. 51.—Four Veteran Gardeners.

Reading from left to right:—H. Ballantine, T. Robinson, J. Jemmett, and A. Sinclair.

BALLANCE Ben Fryer of 7 Field-end Halton **Leeds** died 25 February 1929 Administration **Wakefield** 3 May to James Ballance auditor. Effects £753 16.

BALLANCE Hannah of Hill View Valley End Chobham **Surrey** widow died 30 August 1929 Probate **London** 21 September to George Chester Ballance tram driver and Edith Ballance spinster. Effects £134 12s. 10d.

BALLANCE Rebecca Rhoades of Morton Lodge Morton Grange county **Durham** (wife of James Ballance) died 28 October 1929 at Sunderland Administration **Durham** 16 December to the said James Ballance head gardener. Effects £654 15s.

BALLANCE Thomas of 30 Clarendon-place Hyde **Cheshire** died 17 March 1929 at The Union Workhouse Shaw Heath Stockport Cheshire Administration **Manchester** 29 May to Fanny Ballance widow. Effects £671 7s.

BALLANGER Maria Louisa of 39 Russell-road Tilbury **Essex** spinster died 7 March 1929 Probate **London** 11 June to Isabel May Skinner (wife of Samuel John Skinner) and Bertram Gordon Ballanger carpenter. Effects £3624 16s. 8d.

BALLANTINE Agnes Mary of 39 Marchmont-road **Edinburgh** spinster died 9 November 1928 at Melville Drive Edinburgh Confirmation of John Ballantine retired marine engineer. Sealed **London** 16 March.

BALLANTINE Henry of Westwood Egham Hill Egham **Surrey** died 27 June 1929 Probate **London** 10 August to Henry Balltine auctioneer and George Gray surveyor. Effects £4978 14s. 8d.

BALLANTINE Matthew of Dullatur House **Dullatur** died 15 July 1929 at Dunblane Confirmation of Arthur Ballantine Robert Stanley Ballantine David Allan Hay chartered accountant and John Donald MacDonald writer. Sealed **London** 21 October.

BALLANTYNE Annie of Lowood Hawick **Roxburghshire** spinster died 1 January 1929 Confirmation of William Grieve and Robert Grieve coachbuilders. Sealed **London** 12 February.

BALLANTYNE Jessie Young of 12 Dudley Gardens Leith **Edinburgh** spinster died 10 August 1929 Confirmation of George Purvis-Russell-Balfour-Kinnear writer to the Signet and Thomas Wilson. Sealed **London** 7 November.

BALLARD Alfred John of 34 Selby-road Plaistow **Essex** died 11 January 1929 Administration **London** 14 February to Emma Ballard widow. Effects £574 5s. 1d.

BALLARD Alice of 6 Irving-road West Southbourne **Hampshire** widow died 4 February 1929 at Jermyn-terrace Oakham Rutlandshire Probate **London** 6 April to Oswald Arthur Ballard salesman and Dorothy Edith Keeping widow. Effects £3798 13s. 9d.

BALLARD Alice of Old Farm North Littleton **Worcestershire** (wife of John Ballard) died 26 June 1929 Probate **London** 22 August to Alice Georgina Ballard spinster. Effects £312 10s. 3d.

BALLARD Arthur Thomas of 31 Ernest-street West Norwood **Surrey** died 29 July 1929 at Lambeth Hospital Lambeth Surrey Probate **London** 28 August to James Edmund Ballard retired labourer. Effects £104 7s. 7d.

BALLARD Doris Alice of 29 Cissbury-road Tottenham **Middlesex** (wife of Albert William Ballard) died 10 February 1929 at North Middlesex Hospital Edmonton Middlesex Administration **London** 12 December to the said Albert William Ballard draughtsman. Effects £223 18s. 5d.

BALLARD Edward George of Hollow Barn Kingston near **Lewes** died 7 November 1928 Probate **Lewes** 21 March to Robert Ballard doctor of medicine and Catherine Eugenie Ballard widow. Effects £2335 15s.

BALLARD Emily of 27 Reginald-road Bexhill **Sussex** spinster died 20 July 1929 at Deerhurst Nursing Home Amherst Road Bexhill Sussex Administration **London** 25 November to Oswald Arthur Ballard merchant. Effects £100.

BALLARD Emma of Hawthorne Canterbury-road Farnborough **Hampshire** spinster died 19 April 1929 Probate **London** 4 May to John Theodore Coggins solicitor. Effects £213 15s. 4d.

BALLARD Emma of The Homend Ledbury **Herefordshire** widow died 30 June 1929 at Ledbury Probate **Oxford** 27 August to John Edy Ballard schoolmaster. Effects £1887 7s. 1d.

BALLARD Francis Percy of 26 Neville-road Kingston **Surrey** died 24 May 1929 at Surbiton Hospital Surbiton Surrey Probate **Lewes** 25 July to Charles Goodeve Ballard ironmonger and George Osborn Ballard auctioneer. Effects £3478 15s. 11d.

BALLARD Frederick George of Ellsley Chaulden-lane Boxmoor **Hertfordshire** died 25 November 1928 at West Hertfordshire Hospital Hemel Hempstead Administration **London** 16 January to John Samuel Ballard of no occupation. Effects £556 10s. 9d.

BALLARD Frederick Walter of 32 Spencer-avenue Palmers Green **Middlesex** died 21 October 1928 Probate **London** 19 January to Kate May Ballard spinster and Alfred Stanley Ballard stockbroker. Effects £3615 12s. 6d.

BALLARD Janet of 1 Bright-street South Shore **Blackpool** spinster died 27 October 1928 Administration (with Will) **Lancaster** 26 January to Sarah Jane McPhee (wife of Oliver McPhee). Effects £202 13s. 5d.

BALLARD Leonard Davis of Grasmere Seldown Poole **Dorsetshire** died 23 April 1929 Probate **London** 26 June to William Hardy Ballard gentleman and the reverend Henry Lawrence Phillips clerk. Effects £35749 17s. 3d.

BALLARD Mary of The Winnings Colwall **Hereford** spinster died 14 September 1929 Probate **London** 14 November to Ada Ballard spinster and Beatrice Mary Ballard (wife of Fred Ballard). Effects £13046 16s. 11d.

BALLARD Mary Ann of 32a Talbot-road Bayswater **Middlesex** spinster died 24 February 1929 at 285 Harrow-road Paddington Middlesex Probate **London** 26 April to Victor Wynn secretary. Effects £242 8s. 2d.

BALLARD Mary Isabel of Grasmere Seldown Poole **Dorsetshire** (wife of Leonard Davis Ballard) died 25 March 1929 Administration **London** 11 May to Ethel Mary Ballard spinster. Effects £2285 10s. 1d.

BALLARD Sarah Elizabeth of 11 Ashley Hill **Bristol** widow died 2 June 1929 Administration (with Will) **Bristol** 20 June to George Clapp motor garage proprietor. Effects £3612 11s.

BALLARD Thomas Martin of The Hollies 8 The Village Flixton **Lancashire** died 15 December 1928 at Salford Royal Hospital Salford Administration **Manchester** 16 May to Frances Amy Ballard spinster. Effects £117 9s. 9d.

BALLARD William of Nelsons-lane Haddenham **Cambridgeshire** died 9 March 1929 at The Infirmary Ely Cambridgeshire Probate **London** 7 May to Walter Ivatt joiner. Effects £654 8s. 10d.

BALLARD William of 44 Browning-street **Leicester** died 5 July 1929 Probate **Leicester** 29 October to Ada Florence Ballard widow. Effects £147 8s. 1d.

BALLAUFF Henry John William of Elm Lodge 63 Oakington-avenue Wembley Park **Middlesex** died 3 November 1929 at 50 Weymouth-street Marylebone Middlesex Administration (with Will) **London** 19 December to Adrienne Ballauff. Effects £16747 7s. 11d.

BALLEINE the reverend Adolphus Orange of La Folie Millbrook St. Lawrence **Jersey** died 7 June 1929 at The Firs Nursing Home Millbrook Probate **London** 13 August to Ada Balleine widow. Effects £3578 15s.

BALLHAM Ann of 11 Bath-street **Stoke-on-Trent** widow died 2 March 1929 Probate **London** 23 April to Francis Ballham labourer and Thomas Harrison draughtsman. Effects £1329 13s. 4d.

Thomas Bannerman

Gardeners' Chronicle 1877, n.s. 8

The subject of our present note was born in 1840, in Golspie Tower, Sutherlandshire, a village near Dunrobin Castle, the seat of the Duke of Sutherland. At the age of 13 he entered Dunrobin Gardens under Mr. McDonald, and was there for some time employed in the flower and kitchen gardens, after which he was moved to the houses to look after the fires, &c. While at Dunrobin he had a good opportunity of acquiring a sound knowledge of outdoor gardening, under the able superintendence of Mr. McDonald, who always took great interest in imparting instruction to his juniors. He remained there until November, 1857, when he was recommended by Mr. McDonald to the late Mr. Fleming of Trentham, which gardens he entered in the beginning of 1858. Here, after working a few weeks in the kitchen garden, he was moved to the Melon and frame ground, where pot Vines, succession Pines, Melons, and Cucumbers, &c., were largely grown. Mr. Fleming considered this one of the best charges for a young man, and Mr. Bannerman was entrusted with it for eighteen months, and was then moved to the late vineries, and soon after took charge of the early ones also. “I took a great interest in this department, and there were some very fine fruit grown under the management of Mr. Henderson, who was head gardener at Trentham at that time."

In 1861 he was recommended by Mr. Fleming and Mr. Henderson to Lord Bagot, and he went to Blithefield on October 14 of that year. Here the vineries were in such a state that it was found useless to attempt to grow Grapes until the borders were renewed, notwithstanding that his employers were anxious to have a supply of good Grapes. The early vinery was necessarily forced, owing to the obligation to force many plants for cut flowers, and a very poor lot of Grapes was the result.

"I cut the last bunch," he writes, "out of the early house on June 8, and at once commenced to make my first Vine border. I had the house well shaded with mats, as the Vines were quite green in leaf. I took them up, made new drainage, and replanted them in a new border, of which 3 feet was inside and 3 feet outside. I kept the house for ten weeks afterwards at about 65º at night, with a moist atmosphere; the Vines soon commenced to make growth, and by the autumn the border was filled with fresh roots, and the following year we had a very fine house of Grapes ripe at the end of May. My employers were so satisfied with the result, that they had three new vineries put up that autumn, and gave me permission to renew all the other houses. The following year I had them all reheated and new borders made, and the result has been so satisfactory that his lordship has since put up two other ranges of forcing-houses."

Of the success he has had in fruit growing Mr. Bannerman remarks that the gardening public will be the better judges. Suffice it to say that during the thirteen years he has been an exhibitor he has taken over 600 prizes for fruit at the London and local shows.

"I have much," he adds, "to be grateful for in respect to the confidence reposed in me and the kindness shown to me by both Lord and Lady Bagot, by whose desire we are always adding to and improving the gardens."

ENGELMANN; who was also 2nd prize winner with Blush, a charming variety; 3rd, Messrs. S. LOW AND CO., with White Pearl. For twenty-five blooms of a white Carnation; Mr. ENGELMANN was placed 1st with Crystal White, in fine form; 2nd, NEWPORT CARNATION NURSERIES, with White Wonder. For a rose-pink variety, Mr. ENGELMANN again led, with Delice; 2nd, NEWPORT CARNATION NURSERIES. The best salmon-pink variety, 25 blooms, was Laddie, finely shown by Mr. ENGELMANN; 2nd, Mr. G. WEST; 3rd, NEWPORT CARNATION NURSERIES. For a crimson variety, similar conditions, E. WORMALD, Esq., led with Carola; 2nd, Mr. ENGLEMANN; 3rd, Mr. A. G. POINTING, Bulpham, Sussex. In the class for a scarlet variety, Mr. ENGELMANN led with Thor; 2nd, Lt.-Col. Sir R. BAKER (gr. Mr. Usher), Ranston Blandford; 3rd, Mr. A. J. POINTING.

Mrs. A. LIPPMAN SYMONS was awarded the first prize for a basket of Carnations, consisting of Carola, associated with Asparagus, Ivy and Berberis foliage; 2nd, Messrs. R. F. FELTON AND SON, Hanover Square, with a bold and handsome arrangement of Mrs. Walter Hemus. Messrs. FELTON secured 1st prize for a bouquet of Carnations.

AMATEURS' CLASSES.

First prize for a group of Carnations in pots, was won by C. A. CAIN, Esq. (gr. Mr. T. Pateman), The Node, Welwyn, with plants carrying numerous blooms; 2nd, Mrs. A. LIPPMAN SYMONS, Marden, Kent.

In other classes for plants in pots Mrs. E. PALMER, Sherfield-on-Lodden, and E. WORMALD, Esq. (gr. Mr. R. Lay), Potters Bar, were the leading prize-winners.

Sir RANDOLF BAKER led in the class for a collection of cut Carnations, with a handsome group in which Saffron, Circe and White Wonder were conspicuous; 2nd Mrs. W. RAPHAEL; 3rd Mrs. E. PALMER.

Competition was quite good in the amateurs' classes where three flowers of a variety were required. Sir R. BAKER led for a white sort with White Wonder; Mrs. A. LIPPMAN SYMONS, for a salmon-pink variety with Salmon Enchantress; Sir R. BAKER for a pink variety with magnificent blooms of Pink Sensation; Mrs. LIPPMAN SYMONS for a crimson, with Carola; Msr. W. RAPHAEL for a scarlet, with Brilliant; Sir R. BAKER for a yellow, with Saffron; and for a fancy variety, with Benora.

In other classes, for amateurs only, the leading prize-winners were Mr. E. W. BISHOP, St. Leonard Road, Windsor; Mr. J. W. DRAKE, Shaftesbury, Mr. W. G. OAKLEY, Luton; and Mr. H. BLAKE, Alverstoke.

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS.

Many of the groups shown at the R.H.S. meeting of the previous day were left over for this occasion and they added very materially to the extent, beauty and interest of the exhibition. As these were described in our R.H.S. report (see p. 280) we have now only to give the names of the exhibitors. Awards were made only in favour of exhibits of Carnations.

Mr. C. ENGELMANN, Saffron Walden, Carnations. (Large Gold Medal.) Messrs. ALLWOOD BROS., Haywards Heath, Carnations. (Large Gold Medal.) Messrs. WM. CUTBUSH BROS., Highgate, Carnations. (Silver Medal.) Messrs. STUART LOW AND CO., Enfield, Carnations and Orchids. (Silver Gilt Medal.)

Messrs. SWEET AND SON, Whetstone, Heaths and Cinerarias; Messrs. W. WELLS AND CO., Merstham, Chrysanthemums. Messrs. KEITH LUXFORD AND CO., Sheering, Harlow, Chrysanthemums. Messrs. W. J. GODFREY AND SON, Exmouth, Chrysanthemums.

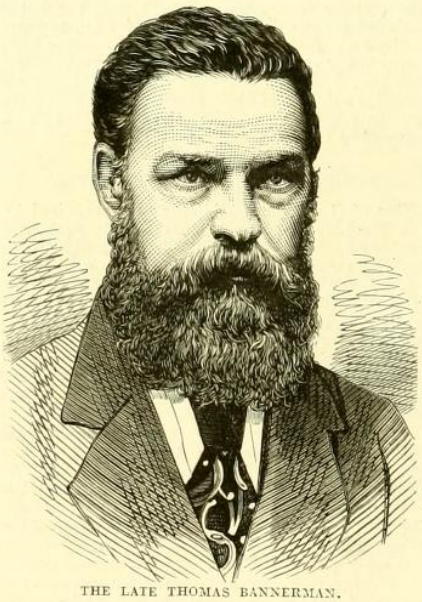
TRADE NOTES.

BY the terms of an order recently made by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, which came into operation on the 15th ult., no Potatos may be imported into Ireland from any country except under licence to be obtained by the consignee in Ireland. Every consignment of Potatos imported must be accompanied by a declaration of the sender in a prescribed form. Forms of application for licences and forms of declaration can be obtained on application to the Department at Upper Merrion Street, Dublin.

THE catalogue of Messrs. Haage and Schmidt, of Erfurt, among other novelties, describes a new race of hybrid Pentstemons (P. hybridus Graciella), of varied flower, colour and graceful habit. The advantage claimed for this new race is its late flowering, which only ceases with the autumnal frosts. Plants raised from seed in gentle heat in February or March flower in September of the same year, and others wintered in the open begin to blossom in June and continue throughout the whole season

Obituary.

Thomas Bannerman.—It is with deep regret we learn of the death of Mr. Thomas Bannerman, who for over sixty years was gardener to Lord Bagot, Blithfield Hall, Rugeley, Staffordshire. Mr. Bannerman was a clever cultivator of Grapes, and for a long series of years he was a successful exhibitor of these fruits throughout the Midlands. He served his apprenticeship at Dunrobin Castle, and afterwards worked at Trentham Hall under the late Mr. Fleming. He was only 21 years of age



THE LATE THOMAS BANNERMAN.

when he went to Blithfield. Mr. Bannerman was a first rate all-round gardener, and an account of the work he had accomplished at Blithfield appeared in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, July 14, 1877, accompanied by the portrait now reproduced. It is of interest to record that the previous gardener at Blithfield occupied the position for over 50 years, and the fact that there have been but two head gardeners at Blithfield during a period of 110 years would appear to establish a record.

George Brooks.—The funeral took place on the 19th ult., of George Brooks, aged 86, who was employed on the Cliveden estate for seventy-four years under four owners, the last being Viscount Astor. He occupied the same cottage for sixty-three years, and worked up to a day or so before he died. Viscountess Astor sent a wreath inscribed, "With greatest respect for our faithful employee."

John Gray.—We learn that Mr. John Gray, who was gardener to Mr. and Mrs. John W. McConnel, at Wellbank, Prestwick, Manchester, for 35 years, died suddenly of heart failure on the 20th ult.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

GARDENERS AND UNEMPLOYMENT ACT: *A. S. and W. J. W.* We understand that workers engaged in horticulture and farming, as well as other branches of husbandry, do not come within the scope of the Unemployment Act, which came into force on the 8th ult. You can obtain a copy of the Act from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Kingsway, W.C.2.

GRUBS ATTACKING CYCLAMENS. *T. S.* The grub attacking your Cyclamen corms is the larvae of beetle-like weevil; it is impossible to identify the adult from the larva. Presumably the attacked plants are grown in pots. If so, they should be repotted, if culturally possible, and the grubs picked out. A watch should be kept in the spring of the year for weevils on the foliage of plants inside the house. Their host plants should then be sprayed with lead arsenate to prevent egg laying for the following season.

HORTICULTURAL BOOKSELLER: *G. E. W.* We are of opinion that it would not be possible for you to build up a satisfactory business solely by the sale of horticultural books. Anyone starting such a business would need a large amount of capital and a vast amount of experience of horticultural and botanical books.

NAMES OF PLANTS: *W. C.* Salvia Horminum. *Country Cottage.* Cotoneaster Simonsii. This shrub may be raised easily from seeds sown in the spring, or by means of cuttings inserted in sandy soil out of doors during the autumn. Layers also root readily, and offer an easy means of propagation if only a few plants are required.—*J. R.* Lactuca sp.; the species cannot be determined in the absence of flowers. It is probably an introduced weed.

NAMES OF FRUITS.—*J. T. M.* Orange Pippin.—*E. M. S.* 1, Hambledon Deux Ans; 2, Calville St. Sauveur.—*W. H. S.* Pine Apple Russet.—*G. R.* 1, Lane's Prince Albert; 2, Fair Maid of Taunton; 3, Sam Young; 4, Nancy Jackson; 5, Round Winter Nonsuch; 6, Lady's Finger of Lancaster; 7, Bess Pool; 8, Duke of Devonshire; 9, Beurré de Jonghe.—*C. G.* Scarlet Golden Pippin.

NARCISSUS PSEUDO-NARCISSUS: *R. D. T.* If reference is made to the typical plant rather than to its many varieties it is probable that overcrowding and lack of moisture are the chief causes of non-success. If this deduction is correct no application of "food"—by which we assume you mean organic manures or other stimulants—is likely to prove of benefit. In nature the plant revels in cool moist soils, and in gardens is rarely happy for long if these conditions are absent. If your soil conditions approximate to these then overcrowding is responsible for the non-flowering of the plants. If this be so a further decline is inevitable. The remedy in such case lies in lifting, separating and replanting the bulbs singly. This could best be done at the time of the maturing of the growth, in June or early July. The best fertiliser to apply now would be liquid manure; drainings from a stable or cowshed. Copious applications of this twice weekly from now till March would assist growth materially.

SCOTS FIR ATTACKED BY INSECTS: *T. S.* The Scots Fir is affected with the Aphid Chermes pini. It is a fairly common pest of Pines which are not in a satisfactory cultural condition. They also attack this Pine in nurseries when the plants are unhealthy. Spraying could be resorted to in the case of young plants, but all that can be done with old trees is to see that the cultural conditions are satisfactory, *e.g*, that they are not unduly crowded by neighbours.

Communications Received.—J. B.—S. A.—H. Y.—C. W. W.—A. B.—B. T.—J. K. B.—C. J. W.—R. T.—A. S.—E. T. E.—J. C.—C. H. P.—J. H. W.—W. R. A.—H. D.—E. S.

BANNERMAN Cicely of 1 Queen's-road **Tunbridge Wells** widow died 17 September 1921 at Royton House Mount Sion Tunbridge Wells Administration **London** 17 October to George Henry Maclean Bannerman electrical engineer. Effects £308 17s. 1d.

BANNERMAN Jane of 54 Warrington-road Harrow **Middlesex** died 16 December 1920 Probate **London** 11 February to Percy John Tree shipping manager. Effects £947 18s. 11d.

BANNERMAN or **LOWRIE** Johann of Balnatink **Dunbeath** died 10 January 1921 Confirmation of George Grant crofter. Sealed **London** 22 April.

BANNERMAN Thomas of Blithfield-gardens **Staffordshire** died 15 November 1920 Probate **London** 18 January to Edith Bannerman spinster. Effects £3091 13s. 3d.

BANNING Alice Susannah Hulme of 33 Devonshire-road Heaton Moor **Lancashire** widow died 30 April 1921 Probate **London** 28 July to Samuel Bradburn Boyd yarn agent. Effects £742 17s. 5d.

BANNING Ann of Sledmere House 270 St. George's-road **Kingston-upon-Hull** (wife of Charles William Banning) died 17 November 1921 Administration **London** 15 December to the said Charles William Banning engine driver. Effects £1540 9s.

BANNISTER Alexander of Stonebridge Cottage Dorking **Surrey** died 24 September 1921 Administration **London** 19 October to Mary Ann Bannister widow. Effects £223 10s.

BANNISTER Andrew of Dorchester **Oxfordshire** retired butcher died 23 September 1921 Probate **Oxford** 21 October to Lucy Maria Tame (wife of Frederick James Tame) and Beatrice Stokes widow. Effects £4008 4s. 8d.

BANNISTER Annie Jessie of Holmleigh 64 Russell-terrace **Leamington** spinster died 18 July 1921 Probate **London** 19 August to Sarah Eliza Bannister widow. Effects £732 16s. 6d.

BANNISTER Edward of 39 Slyne-road **Lancaster** retired post office clerk died 27 November 1920 Probate **Lancaster** 8 January to Matilda Bannister widow and Edith Maud Bannister spinster. Effects £1997 2s. 11d.

BANNISTER Elizabeth of Hill Side Royston **Hertfordshire** widow died 17 April 1897 Administration **London** 16 November to Frederick Bannister solicitor. Effects £320 13s. 7d.

BANNISTER Ellen Lang of Eastwood Newby Bridge **Lancashire** spinster died 6 January 1921 Probate **Lancaster** 22 March to Frederick Bannister solicitor and Constance Stockbridge spinster. Effects £11593 17s. 2d.

BANNISTER Frederick of 30 Church-street Kington **Herefordshire** died 24 June 1921 Probate **Hereford** 27 July to Mary Ann Bannister widow. Effects £3108 2s. 9d.

BANNISTER Frederick of 48 Rose Hill-street **Derby** commission agent died 25 May 1921 at 1 Colyear-street Derby Probate **Derby** 27 July to Frederick George Bannister commission agent. Effects £7737 15s. 4d.

BANNISTER Henry Luke of 152 Bow-road Bow **Middlesex** died 30 October 1921 Administration (with Will) **London** 24 November to Albina Bannister widow. Effects £44 13s. 6d.

BANNISTER Henry Watkinson of 95 Keighley-road Colne **Lancashire** died 12 March 1921 Probate **London** 14 October to Elizabeth Bannister widow Rennie Bannister cotton manufacturer and Joseph Smith fellmonger and woolstapler. Effects £31651 11s. 1d.

BANNISTER James of 27 St. Cecilia-street Great Harwood **Lancashire** died 28 May 1921 Probate **Lancaster** 15 August to Esther Jane Bannister spinster. Effects £352 4s.

BANNISTER James William of 74 Athens-street Stockport **Cheshire** died 18 November 1920 Probate **London** 7 February to Matilda Whittaker (wife of Peter Edward Whittaker). Effects £461 8s. 8d.

BANNISTER Joseph of 2 Woodliffe-street Stretford **Lancashire** tape weaver died 26 July 1904 Administration **Manchester** 3 September to Maud Julia Blinkhorn (wife of John Blinkhorn). Effects £8 3s. 3d.

BANNISTER Mary Ann of 202 Mile End-road Stepney **Middlesex** (wife of Elias Bannister) died 11 March 1921 Administration **London** 23 April to the said Elias Bannister licensed victualler. Effects £147 3s. 7d.

BANNISTER Mary Grace of Dunloe Bramley Hill Croydon **Surrey** (wife of William Bannister) died 1 May 1921 Administration **Dublin** to the said William Bannister chairman of public company. Effects £676 7s. 4d. in England. Sealed **London** 11 November.

BANNISTER William of 45 Upper Brockley-road New Cross **Kent** died 27 July 1921 Administration **London** 16 September to Ellen Bannister widow. Effects £144 19s. 11d.

BANNISTER William Charles of Belle Vue House Stroud **Gloucestershire** died 15 March 1921 Probate **London** 6 December to Emily Bannister widow and Frederick William Bannister ship broker. Effects £12591 14s. 10d.

BANNISTER William Charles Wagenknecht otherwise **WAGENKNECHT** William Charles of Broken Hill New South Wales **Australia** died 11 November 1916 in France Administration (with Will limited) **London** 17 June to Thomas Woodcock solicitor the attorney of the Public Trustee of New South Wales. Effects £119 4s. 11d.

BANNISTER William John of 55 Chadwick-street **Belfast** died 25 January 1921 at the Mater Infirmorum Hospital Belfast Administration **Belfast** to Alice Mary Maud Bannister widow. Effects £98 2s. 6d. in England. Sealed **London** 2 March.

BANT Edward of Rose Cottage Helstone Lanteglos by Camelford **Cornwall** quarryman died 20 December 1920 Probate **Bodmin** 17 February to Elizabeth Ann Bant spinster. Effects £1556 8s. 5d.

BANTING Eliza of 5 Grove-road **Folkestone** widow died 13 March 1921 Probate **London** 14 April to William Banting bootmaker. Effects £248 3s. 4d.

BANTOCK Harriet Caroline of Bardwell **Suffolk** widow died 13 April 1917 Probate **Bury St. Edmunds** 29 July to Ada Harriet Osborne spinster. Effects £63 16s. 11d.

BANTOFT Hugh Lawrence of 8 Westerfield-road **Ipswich** law student died 21 May 1921 Probate **Ipswich** 2 July to Gerald William Turner engineering apprentice and Hugh Roberts Wolton merchant's clerk. Effects £2153 13s.

BANTON Emma of 12 Abinger-road Bedford Park **Middlesex** widow died 18 June 1921 Probate **London** 14 July to John Wheeler Williams director of company and Gordon Newland auditor. Effects £4135 10s. 5d.

BANWELL George of 47 Atlas-road **Cardiff** died 7 May 1921 Administration **London** 29 June to Florence Jane Banwell widow. Effects £1222 5s. 11d.

BANWELL William of 1 Darwin-street Gainsborough **Lincolnshire** died 11 October 1921 at Hardwick Lincolnshire Administration **London** 10 November to Ann Banwell widow. Effects £877 11s. 3d.

James Barnes

Gardeners' Chronicle 1874, n.s. 2

The subject of our present memoir, familiarly known amongst horticulturists as Barnes of Bicton, was born at Farnham, in Surrey, in the year 1806. His father was at that time gardener at Willey House, but he left Willey soon afterwards, and entered the service of the Rev. Mr. Onslow, Ripley, Surrey, and remained at Ripley till 1810. At this date the elder Barnes was engaged as manager to Mr. Lassam, who had established an extensive nursery at Witley, in Surrey, but the memorable severe winter which set in on Christmas eve, 1813, led to his removal from thence in this way: — The frost succeeded a mild wet autumn, and was ushered in by a terrible fog, which lasted from the 19th to the 24th of December, and was so thick and dense that many persons were lost by falling over chalk and stone quarries, or by walking into water. The intense frost lasted about fourteen weeks, and no other fuel was obtainable for the greenhouse furnaces but peat, which was got at with much difficulty, owing to the bad roads being blocked with snow (for it snowed some twenty-six days in the month of February, 1814), and, what was worse, the supply was soon exhausted. During all this time, owing, to the badly constructed flues and stokeholes, it was a terrible job to keep the fires going; and when the fuel was used up, nothing remained but to cover up the houses with straw, fern and snow. The plants were thus kept so long in this state that, what with freezing, dampness, and darkness, scarcely one was left alive in May. The severe losses, both indoors and out — for the frost was not out of the ground till late in May, and snow lay on north aspects and in dells the whole summer, so that there was no chance of planting that season after Christmas — compelled Mr. Lassam to retrench, and among other things Barnes' services were dispensed with.

Mr. Barnes' father now entered, in 1814, the service of Henry Gill, Esq., of Eashing House, Godalming, Surrey, as gardener. The boy, James, who had previously from about five years of age been chiefly employed in weeding walks and nursery seed-beds, and in bird scaring, was now fully employed in Mr. Gill's garden. Mr. Gill was at this time over 80 years of age and infirm, and his only daughter and heiress was married to Mr. Frankland, who resided with his father-in-law; but shortly after Mr. Gill died. Previous to this, however, plans had been prepared for Mr. Frankland with a view to the general renovation of the place; and the work, which had been commenced, was now carried on vigorously, the mansion being enlarged, and entirely new gardens, with pleasure-grounds, shrubberies, and plantations formed, and also a new park from the adjacent farm lands – the gardening portion of the work being executed under the superintendence of Barnes senior.

Mr. James Barnes, the immediate subject of our memoir, and whose portrait we subjoin, was from the first fully employed in and amongst these extensive works until 1818, when, wishing to go to London, to see the gardening wonders he had heard of as being carried out there, he walked off early one cold frosty morning in February, passing through several snow-storms in the course of his march, and arriving soon after noon in Chelsea, in time to seek for work, was engaged for the next day by Mr. Moore, of the King's Road, then a florist in an extensive way of business and cultivator of a host of herbaceous plants, and, at one of his grounds, of vegetables, salads, and fruits, including Pine-apples, Grapes, Melons, and Cucumbers for Covent Garden Market. Mr. Moore's home florist's grounds adjoined those of Mr. Davey, a noted Geranium, Tulip, Carnation, and Pink grower. On these grounds Downing's floor-cloth factory, which has since twice burnt down, was erected. Mr. Davey's grounds lay between those of Mr. James Colville and Mr. Moore; indeed, at that time the whole of the land right and left from Sloane Square to Fulham was occupied by florists, nurserymen, and market gardeners. Barnes lived with Mr. Moore until the death of the latter, and managed the business one year after for the widow. He then engaged himself to Mr. Stone, of Peckham, an extensive Pine-apple, Grape, and Mushroom cultivator, and who also grew salads very extensively, and forced Asparagus, Seakale, and new Potatos. Mr. Stone had a fine walled-in garden,

well stocked with fruit trees; also a nice extent of fine holding loam, for growing fruits, vegetables, and summer salads.

After a few years' practice with Mr. Stone, James Barnes undertook the superintendence of the forcing department for an extensive market gardener at Bermondsey, then called the Jamaica Level. After two seasons he made a new engagement with another market gardener at Greenwich to superintend the whole business, consisting of about 40 acres of garden ground, some 2000 lights of framing, 5000 handglasses for Lettuces, Cucumbers, Cauliflowers, with Asparagus forcing, Seakale, Mushroom, and small salad culture, and extensive crops of all outdoor vegetables in season, the land being variable, from stiff clay on the marsh side, to hot, light, gravelly soil, high and dry, on the other. His employer was an irritable, intemperate man, so after staying through two forcing seasons, Barnes left, and went to superintend the extensive work of forming the New Spa grounds at Norwood, Surrey, That finished, he was engaged by Mr. Hall Dare, Cranford House, Great Ilford, Essex, to succeed Mr. George Mills, who was then leaving for Gunnersbury. About four years later, on the death of Mr. Hall Dare, Barnes was engaged by the late Sir Herbert Jenner, Chislehurst, Kent, with whom he lived for four or five years. From thence he was engaged by the late Lord Rolle, of Bicton, in 1839, to succeed Mr. Robert Glendinning, and after the decease of Lord Rolle he continued to serve Lady Rolle until May, 1869, having thus had charge of this noble establishment for nearly thirty years. The treatment he received from Lady Rolle in the midst of severe affliction, brought on by over-exertion and unremitting labour, and which treatment led him to resign his appointment, is matter of legal history. But for this, he tells us, he should never have thought of leaving his favourite pursuits, which were so amply provided at Bicton.

We learn from Mr. Barnes, that throughout his long, practical, and somewhat varied career, he was never out of employment, but had always a situation ready for him to enter on the same day on which he left his former one; and, further, during the whole time he was blessed with vigorous health and strength, until he broke down only a short time before resigning his charge at Bicton, through excessive work, amounting to from 18 to 20 hours daily, sudden exposure to many varying temperatures, and constant changes from agricultural duties to every branch of horticultural practice, including floriculture, arboriculture, &c.

As reminiscences of his horticultural career, Mr. Barnes states that from 1818 to 1828 Cucumbers were extensively grown by the market-gardeners about London, both under frame-lights and under hand-lights. As fast as the Cauliflowers and Lettuces, which had been sheltered during winter in the frames, could be planted out in the spring, so that the frames could be spared, hotbeds were prepared, and Cucumber plants were ready to turn out under the lights.

“The same with all other lights, as they could be spared from forcing Asparagus, Seakale, early Potatos, Mint, Tarragon, Sweet Basil, Sweet Marjoram, or, in fact, as any lights became vacant, not a day was lost — hot well-worked London dung and plants and soil being ready; so that by May-day I have had under my charge from 1000 to 1600 frame-lights covering frame Cucumbers, and 6000— yes, 6000— hand and bell-glasses, all covering Cucumber plants on the ridging-out system. The Cucumbers grew luxuriantly, and bore abundance of fine healthy fruit almost on any kind of rich soil or situation in those days, and was very little subject to disease or vermin. Under the above system we began to cut about the middle of April in the frames, and about the beginning of June from the handglass ridges, some seasons ten days earlier. Thus, with the assistance of eight or ten men and women to collect and convey to the packing-shed, I have had above 8 tons of Cucumbers cut in one day. In those days the Gherkin Cucumber was extensively grown in the Fulham and Battersea fields, being sown down and hoed out on well prepared soil. From 1824 to 1828 I was very successful in growing early frame

Cucumbers, cutting good fruit by the end or middle of January, and with these I took many 1st prizes at the Chelsea, Battersea, Tottenham, Windsor, and other Cucumber clubs or shows, as they were then called, and which held meetings from about February 25 until March 8 or 10 each spring; There was in those days no other means but the use of fermenting materials by which to produce early Cucumbers, and with the appliances then available there must be neither neglect nor lack of practical knowledge if the grower wished to succeed.

I was very successful in crossing and producing improved varieties of Cucumbers. One, the handsomest and best quality Cucumber I ever saw, took. I believe, almost or quite every 1st class prize offered at all the shows at that time held about London. It was named at the Horticultural Society's Garden at Turnham Green, the Man of Kent, and was awarded a medal. I also raised at Bicton some good varieties of Strawberries, amongst them a beautiful white variety, named by Dr. Lindley at the Horticultural Society's meeting the Bicton pine; it is still largely in cultivation as a favourite, fine-flavoured fruit. The stock of plants of this Strawberry Lady Rolle sold to Messrs. Knight & Perry, then at the Royal Exotic Nurseries, King's Road, Chelsea, and took out the value in various plants for her establishment.

I also raised at Bicton that very extraordinary plant which Dr. Lindley named Colletaa bictonensis, a shrub which is at once a great curiosity and one of considerable value, as during the whole of the winter it is covered with its pretty white flowers, which in shape and size resemble those of the Lily of the Valley, and are just as sweet, so that when the sun shines out they perfume the atmosphere for a considerable distance. The whole stock of this plant Lady Rolle disposed of, in consideration £100 worth of plants in variety, to the late Messrs. Veitch & Son, of the Exeter Nurseries. Such was the encouragement I received from my employer for my perseverance and attention in raising new and improved fruits and plants.

I planted the noble avenue of Araucaria imbricata in Bicton Park. The first plant of Araucaria that produced female cones at Bicton grew in the flower garden, and was induced to do so on account of my root-pruning it, to prepare it for removal the next year into the arboretum— that is about thirty or thirty-two years ago. The sickly stunted plant it was to replace in the arboretum was removed with a large ball of earth to a well prepared situation in the new American garden, where it recovered and grew away most healthily and luxuriantly, and the second year proved to be a male plant and produced a quantity of male catkins. Some of them I lost no time in taking to the female cones, to fertilise them— a process which succeeded admirably. I also fertilised another batch of cones then on another fine plant at the head of the lake, and both succeeded well. Some of these cones, which were exhibited at the Regent's Park, weighed from 7 lb. to 8 lb. each. At the same time and place I exhibited a collection of about 100 species and varieties of Conifers which were coning in the Bicton arboretum. Araucaria seed was first saved by me at Bicton, and was sown, and plants raised from it; and there are now growing, or were when I left, plants from the first batch of seed large enough to bear cons and catkins, and thus produce grandchildren, as many of the splendid Conifers that I first raised and planted out have done. Thousands of these are to be found in the various plantations and around the parks, and hundreds of acres of the waste common and moorland could have been covered with them had there been any encouragement afforded to do so. It is easy to calculate the great value to which such now useless land would have reached in time. There are now to be seen about Bicton some of my first raised seedlings, quite timber-like trees, of Abies Douglasii and taxifolia, a noble and distinct variety, one of the very best, from 50 to 80 feet or more in height; also Picea cephalonica, large numbers of most splendid trees of my first seedlings; Picea nobilis, a grand lot, of various sizes and ages; Picea Nordmanniana, a splendid lot of fine healthy trees from my first batch of seed, and thousands in succession. I raised many of the

better species of Pinus, and Abies, Picea, Thuja, Cupressus, and various other rare and useful trees and shrubs; and I left the nursery well stocked with plants of all sizes, besides the seed-beds crowded with healthy seedlings.

In my time I have been a most successful cultivator of a great variety of plants, trees, vegetables and fruits; also a successful exhibitor at the shows of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick, at the Royal Botanic Society, the Egyptian Hall, Cremorne Gardens, Vauxhall Gardens, the Bromley and West Kent Society, and many others, with collections of stove and greenhouse plants, New Holland plants. Ericas, Geraniums or Pelargoniums, and of various new and well- cultivated plants — likewise of Peaches and Nectarines, Figs, Grapes, Melons and Pine-apples. I have grown the Providence to the weight of 14½ lb.; the Queen, but once, to 8¼ lb, but hundreds of Queens from 5 to 7 lb. each; the Enville to above 11 lb., the various kinds of Sugarloaf from 6 to 9 lb., the Smooth Cayenne from 8 to 11 lb., the Prickly Cayenne (a bad keeper) to 9 lb., the Montserratt from 7 to 9 lb., the Old Globe to 10½ lb., the Russian Globe to above 10 lb., and the Antigua, Jamaica, and several other varieties equally well swelled. I have also succeeded in raising some seedling Pines, crossed between the Enville and Black Jamaica, some of them not showing much improvement; but one, that turned more after the Jamaica, though longer or higher in pips, was a splendid winter-swelling and fine-flavoured variety".

Mr. Barnes claims to have established the first, or about the first, cottagers' and cottage garden exhibition in the county of Kent, nearly forty years ago. He procured some good garden seeds, which were given to the cottagers, with information how to sow them, and how to grow fruits, flowers, and vegetables. "It was truly astonishing," he remarks, "how attentive and industrious the cottagers became, and what splendid things they produced. Everything about the locality became improved, and the local nobility and gentry soon saw the improvement, and subscribed to support the society, while the exhibition day became quite an enjoyable holiday, as well as affording a profitable sight. On first entering Bicton I stated these facts to Lord and Lady Rolle, and offered to give assistance in every possible way to start such a society for the improvement of the poor, wretchedly-managed households and gardens of the surrounding dilapidated, neglected-looking villages; but to my great astonishment I received a flat denial, with the intimation that these folks knew too much already.

I was the eldest of five brothers, all of whom followed the horticultural profession, being first trained as boys under my father in succession; and then, being the eldest, and living in the vicinity of London, I took them all in rotation, and gave them a start in the world. All have filled good situations, but have been now for some years dead. I think I have entered and started in the world more young men as good practical gardeners than any other gardener in the United Kingdom. Mr. J. Taplin, who followed Sir J. Paxton at Chatsworth, began with me; also Mr. R. Westcott at the Duke of Cleveland's, Raby Castle; Mr. J. Snow, at Lord Morley's, Saltram; Mr. W. Bennett, at Mr. Bass's, Rangemore; but I need not enumerate the many scores I have started — all that are living are, I hope, doing well." Mr. J. Barnes was, we believe, one of the first to discover the Potato disease, and his pen has been a singularly fertile one. He has written a treatise on the growth and cultivation of the Pine-apple four times for various gardening works within these forty years, besides many calendars of general horticultural work, hundreds of natural history articles for various publications, and many papers on improved agriculture. He now lives in retirement at Exmouth.

HARDY FLOWERS IN LONDON GARDENS.

Vegetation in all its forms this spring is more backward than in previous years when the winters have been more severe, and even now near the end of May outdoor flowers are comparatively scarce, especially on badly-drained, stiff soils. In many of the small gardens near London may, nevertheless, be seen in good bloom such plants as Scilla nutans and S. campanulata, various kinds of Iris, Daisies, and other easily-grown plants. Amongst Tulips T. præcox, persica, and fulgens are attractive, as are also the scarlet-tipped, yellow-petalled flowers of T. cornuta, and the pale yellow blossoms of T. retroflexa. Iris susiana is now throwing up fine spikes of flower; some plants of it that have had the protection of a cold house have produced immense blooms; the beautiful blue-flowered

Presl's Catchfly (Lychnis Presli).

Annual Lupine (Lupinus bicolor elegans).

Gentiana verna is just now in great beauty, and the dwarf Phloxes, P. subulata, P. setacea atro-purpurea, and the white-flowered P. Nelsoni, are completely covered with bloom; the purplish flowers of Lychnis Presli, too, are opening in abundance, and the Alpine Lychnis (A. alpina) is densely covered with rosy-pink blossoms. American Cowslips are likewise in a forward state, especially Dodecatheon Jeffrayanum. On the Scarlet Geum (G. coccineum) quantities of blossoms may now be seen, and Saxifraga peltata is also flowering freely. Amongst the Globe-flowers, too, which are just now at their best, may be noticed the rich golden-flowered, dwarf-habited Trollius Fortunei. Several varieties of the Rock

Early Dwarf Pentstemon (P. confertus).

Limnanthes Douglasi.

Cistus are also flowering freely. Blooms of Narcissus juncifolius may still be gathered in good condition, as may also those of the White Wood Lily (Trillium grandiflorum). Ranunculus amplexicaulis is still in good bloom, and the small, double, pure white blossoms of R. aconitifolius are likewise abundant and highly valued by those who have small bouquets to make. Some of the hardy Lady's-slippers are well furnished with bloom-buds, while those of Cypripedium pubescens are already open. Polemonium reptans is flowering freely, as are also the yellow Lasthenias and the blue and white Nemophilas. Uvularia grandiflora is graced with drooping yellow blossoms, and several kinds of Fritillaria and the White Thrift (Armeria cephalotes alba) are likewise in flower. Primula erosa, too, is still attractive, as are also Ornithogalum umbellatum and O. balticum, both of which are bearing large clusters of white flowers. At Kew, the tall flower-spikes of Camassia Leichtlini are very attractive, being thickly beset with large, creamy-yellow blossoms. Pæonias are now very attractive, especially P. anomala and P. tenuiflora and its varieties. Aquilegias, too, are flowering freely at Kew, as is also the dwarf, sulphur-coloured Platystemon californicus. Large beds of a dwarf yellow Wallflower, named Ware's Tom Thumb, are very showy. For border edgings, for banks, or for pot culture, this Wallflower is worth growing, on account of its remarkably dwarf habit and floriferous character. S.

DEATH OF JAMES BARNES.

All acquainted with the best of what we are now beginning to call the old school of British gardeners, will hear with regret of the death of James Barnes, which took place on the 23rd inst. at Exmouth, at the age of 71. He has lived there in retirement since giving up the charge of the famous gardens at Bicton. Of these he had the management for nearly thirty years, and, as many of our readers know, under his charge they were among the most richly-stored and best-managed gardens in the country, the arboretum being probably the richest, and the kitchen garden one of the best cultivated in England. James Barnes, when young, had much experience in the best London market gardens, and evidence of this was seen in the thoroughness of much of his work. Beginning life with very few educational advantages, he took an intense interest in the literature of his work, and was a constant contributor of readable practical articles to the press, including The Garden, to which he gave his hearty support from the commencement. For a man who had no early advantage of travel to free him from prejudices, he to the end showed a singular freedom of mind in his determination to see anybody's practice likely to be suggestive, no matter where or by whom it was done. Thus, only a few years ago he made a long excursion round Paris, and examined the market and fruit gardens there with the greatest zest and interest. He was a close and constant observer of natural history, as shown in the lives of the birds and animals in the gardens and woods under his care, and contributed many instructive and interesting notes on those subjects to the "Field" and various other journals. It was interesting to those who had the pleasure of walking round the arboretum with him to notice that not a small bird showed itself on the boughs of the highest trees that he did not seem to instantly take notice of. So it was in the case of every other creature about the gardens or woods. Probably few of our readers will require to be told that he was the brother of William Barnes, who for many a day was considered the best plant grower about London. Like his brother, he was in early life blessed with a fine physique, and the story of his intelligence and energy was written in a fine face, like that of the stoutest type of Saxon, but lit up with a clear eye and the brightest intelligence. His success as a gardener, charm of manner, and pleasant writing are easily traceable to an inexhaustible stock of what, by an odd perversion of language, we are obliged to call common sense. The sad fact is that both the type of man (whose loss we now regret) and the sense are rare. James Barnes had gifts which, cultivated and exercised in other ways, would probably have made him famous far beyond what is possible in the walk to which his life was so conscientiously devoted. W. R.

Lime Juice and the Arctic Failure.—The failure of the Arctic Expedition is not due to any ignorance on the part of medical authorities of the main conditions essential to success, but to the deliberate disregard of such conditions by the commander of the expedition. The committee attribute the early outbreak of scurvy in the spring sledging parties of the expedition to the absence of Lime juice from the sledge dietaries. The committee find that the provision made by the Admiralty in the way of food, medicines, and medical comforts was in every respect adequate for the performance of the special service in which the expedition was engaged, and was more complete than had been made for any previous Arctic Expedition. The means, in short, were all at hand for obviating the disease which is the great enemy of all such enterprises; but, by a lamentable failure of judgment, they were not used. Sir George Nares took upon himself to neglect the positive advice of the highest medical authorities of the Navy, even when it had been officially recommended to his attention; and his reputation and the health of his crews paid the penalty.—"Times," May 19.

— We also record with deep regret the death of Mr. JAMES BARNES, so well-known as "Barnes of Bicton," who died at Exmouth on May 23, aged 71. Mr. Barnes was born at Farnham, Surrey, in 1806. How he laboured with his father in various gardens in Surrey; how he came to London when about twelve years of age, and was employed by Mr. Moore, a florist of that time residing in Chelsea; how he engaged afterwards in the service of Mr. Stone, of Peckham, a great Grape and Mushroom grower, and subsequently took the superintendence of a market garden at Bermondsey; then successively took charge of the gardens of Crawford House, Ilford, and of those of Sir Herbert Jenner at Chislehurst, from whence he entered the service of Lord Rolle, at Bicton, in 1839, is told by himself in the account of his life, furnished by his own pen, to accompany his portrait which was published in our series of British Gardeners, in 1874 (vol. ii. n.s., p. 655). Mr. Barnes continued to manage the gardens at Bicton with great credit to himself, and to the edification of his brethren of the horticultural fraternity by the detailed accounts of his practice which he published from time to time in the periodicals of the day, up to 1869, when he was compelled to resign his appointment under circumstances which attained a painful notoriety at the time. Since leaving Bicton, where his unremitting attention to his duties, early and late, seriously undermined his health, Mr. Barnes has lived in retirement at Exmouth, but was from time to time a great sufferer from a bronchial affection.

BARNES James.
Effects under £200.

16 March. The Will of James Barnes late of Hamilton-street Heaton Norris in the County of **Lancaster** Salesman who died 21 February 1877 at Hamilton-street was proved at **Manchester** by Anne Barnes of 29 Hamilton-street Spinster the Daughter the sole Executrix.

BARNES James.
Effects under £1,500.

10 July. The Will of James Barnes late of Exmouth in the County of **Devon** Horticulturist who died 23 May 1877 at Exmouth was proved at **Exeter** by Charles Edwin Ware of the City of Exeter Surveyor and John Vanstone of Cleave in the Parish of St. Thomas-the-Apostle near Exeter in the said County Nurseryman the Executors.

BARNES James.
Effects under £100.

19 September. Administration of the effects of James Barnes late of 35 Bottomgate Blackburn in the County of **Lancaster** Fish Hawker a Bachelor who died 2 September 1877 at Morecambe in the said County was granted at **Lancaster** to Nancy Barnes of the "Pack Horse" Inn Blakey-street Blackburn Spinster the Sister.

BARNES James.
Effects under £200.

5 October. Administration of the effects of James Barnes late of 4 Osborne-terrace Southsea in the County of **Southampton** Pensioner Master-at-Arms Royal Navy who died 13 September 1877 at 4 Osborne-terrace was granted at **Winchester** to Elizabeth Barnes of 4 Osborne-terrace Widow the Relict.

BARNES James.
Effects under £100.

23 November. The Will of James Barnes late of Dinton in the County of **Wilts** Shopkeeper who died 15 July 1877 at Dinton was proved at **Salisbury** by Mary Barnes of Dinton Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

BARNES Jane.
Effects under £300.

3 August. The Will of Jane Barnes late of Radnor-street Southsea in the Parish of Portsea in the County of **Southampton** Widow who died 22 June 1877 at 20 Radnor-street was proved at **Winchester** by Frances Tomes of 10 Radnor-street Widow and David Evans of 21 Froddington-road Southsea Shipwright the Executors.

BARNES Jane.
Effects under £800.

14 August. The Will of Jane Barnes late of 7 Rochester-terrace Camden New Town in the County of **Middlesex** Widow who died 9 July 1877 at Lucan near Dublin in Ireland was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Robert Mansel Brown of 9 Lime-street in the City of London Merchant and the Reverend Richard Galbraith of Carrickmacross in the County of Monaghan in Ireland Clerk the Executors.

BARNES John.
Effects under £1,500.

10 January. The Will of John Barnes late of Cornwell in the County of **Oxford** Farmer who died 2 December 1876 at Cornwell was proved at **Oxford** by William Henry Goffe of Radford near Enstone in the said County Farmer and George Henry Saunders of Chipping Norton in the said County Solicitor the Executors.

THE GARDENS AT THE PRIORY, DUDLEY.

Interview with Mr. Walter Barnes.

BY the courtesy of Mr. G. H. Claughton, I had the opportunity of visiting Dudley Priory, once the home of the monks of the Cluniac Order. Founded in the year 1116 by Gervase Paganel, "the Monastery of St. James of Dudley," as it was originally called, has a past full of interest. It was dissolved early in the sixteenth century, and in the year 1540 it was granted, by Henry VIII., to Sir John Dudley, afterwards Duke of Northumberland. Following the attainder and forfeiture of the Duke of Northumberland, the greater part of the possessions was bestowed by Queen Mary upon Sir Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley; and from that time since it has been the property of the Earl of Dudley. The present noble-looking house, in which Mr. Claughton, agent of the Dudley Collieries, resides, is called Priory Hall; and Dudley Castle being, of course, in ruins, it is the only dwelling-place on the historic ground. I did not go to Dudley to see the remains of the celebrated castle, but it was impossible to visit the gardens at Priory Hall without a glance at the portions of the ancient Priory which are enclosed in the pleasure grounds. In fact, on my arrival, Mr. Walter Barnes, the gardener, naturally suggested that I should first see the ruins which, with those of Dudley Castle, attract thousands of people from all parts of the world during the year. It is almost but not quite needless to say that no attempt has been made to embellish them. They have simply been preserved, at any rate in recent years, as they were generations ago. Walking down the Castle Drive, which faces the Castle, we speedily reached the ruins, of which the old chapel of ease is conspicuous. On a wall of the main fabric is a fine piece of carving; the beautiful Gothic east window, with a niche and canopy for an image on one side of it, is still in existence; and stone coffins, one with a lid, are amongst the memorials of a dead past. The pools which were formerly adjacent to the ruins were drained when the Priory Hall was erected.

The Treatment of Rhododendrons.

"What are the principal trees in the vicinity of the ruins?" I asked.

"Wych Elms. As to shrubs, the most notable along the carriage drive are, as you see, Rhododendrons. The natural soil is clay at the bottom, and loam on the top; but I made the soil for the Rhododendrons. It consists of peat, loam, and leaf-mould. I plant them in holes four feet square and two feet deep. They are all choice hybrids, and they flower well, but do not come into flower until quite the end of May."

"Ivy appears to do well."

"Yes; we have no difficulty with it, and the large Ivy bed under the trees merely wants keeping trim. Hollies, you will observe, also thrive on the south side of the Hall, which is nearest the drive; and in this locality are a few Beeches and Limes."

"Do you naturalise Daffodils in the borders under the hedge of shrubs?"

"Largely. At present there are the remains of the summer bedding, which consists of Calceolarias and Marguerites, edged with Violas Countess of Hopetoun and Councillor Waters on one side; and Stocks Beauty of Nice, mixed seedling Verbenas, and Petunias on the other. Herbaceous plants are also used in the border, with Pentstemons in variety. I grow Pentstemons from packets of seed, and select the cuttings from the best flowers."

"How often do you mow your great lawns?"

"Once a week. They are always kept in good order. You may like to know that in August and September the Priory gardens are open on Wednesday afternoons to the public."

MR. WALTER BARNES.

A Border facing East.

"How do you fill the long border on the other side of the Hall in spring?"

"Entirely with Wallflowers, Blood-red, with the result that we get a splendid mass of colour. In summer the border contains, in front, Geraniums John Gibbons, Jacoby, Raspail—some are still in flower—and Calceolaria floribunda, with Lobelia Lustrous in front. The Lobelias are grown from seed. Behind them are Phlox, Heleniums, and Michaelmas Daisies in variety. You can imagine that there are difficulties with this border, which not only faces east, but is constantly wind-swept."

"There is little in the way of creepers on the house?"

"Only Ampelopsis Veitchi on the south side. There are some vases in front, which we fill with Geranium John Gibbons, and Petunias, edged with Lobelia Lustrous. Petunias stand well."

"Is there a conservatory?" I enquired, as we proceeded to the frame yards.

"No. All the flowers are grown for decorating the rooms in the house. We have a few Arum Lilies, and in the frames just now are winter-flowering Geraniums, Paul Crampel, Jacoby, and John Gibbons. Cinerarias, the large-flowering, and stellata, some in 8-in. and others in 7-in. pots, are grown."

"And Primula obconica, which are looking exceptionally healthy?"

"Some of the Primulas are my own seedlings, and others I bought. Though I constantly handle the plants, I never suffer from the poison which affects some people. There are a few plants of P. kewensis."

Late-flowering Chrysanthemums.

"With regard to our Chrysanthemums," continued Mr. Barnes, as we entered the early Vinery, which was gay with blooms, "we keep them back as much as possible, so that they may come on when other flowers are scarce. For this purpose the best varieties are Mrs. Thirkell, Queen Alexandra, Mrs. Barclay, Raphael, Mrs. Cadbury, W. Duckham, Mrs. George Mileham, Florence Penfold, Mrs. Walter Wright, Madame P. Radaelli, F. S. Vallis, Madame G. Rivol, F. W. Vallis, Madame Oberthur, and Dorothy Pywell."

"How long have the Vines in this house been planted?"

"Probably half a century. The varieties are Black Hamburgh and Alicante. One of the Black Hamburgh bears fruit earlier than the other. There are inside and outside borders. I always top-dress the beginning of December, before I bring the Chrysanthemums into the house."

Ferns for Cutting.

"Ferns seem to be one of your features?"

"Mr. Claughton is interested in Ferns. He brought home from Greece four plants of one variety. The plants in the Fernery are chiefly Adiantums, which are specially useful for cutting. Of Begonias, I like the Rothschild variety better than Gloire de Lorraine."

"Can you give me any idea of the age of the Hibiscus in the stove?"

"The original plant is about ten years old. It came in a pot from the gardens of Mr. Claughton's villa at Cannes. The variety is H. rubra flore pleno. In the stove, also, are Palms, which we use for the house, and on the roof is Allamanda Hendersonii."

"Do you ripen the Banana?"

"Although the leaves look so healthy, I cannot get fruit from it. The Caladiums, especially bicolor, do well; and Crotons, with a few Orchids, chiefly Lælia-Cattleya and Dendrobium nobile, give us a good supply for the tables. But we do not make a feature of stove plants."

"You grow Cucumbers in the frames?"

"Yes, Telegraph and Lockie's Perfection, cutting about the beginning of April. Also in frames we have Potato Duke of York, ready in May; Carrots, Early Gem; and Lettuces, Tom Thumb and All the Year Round. I have grown these for several years on practically the much-vaunted principle of so-called French cultivation."

"How do you treat your Hedychiums in the late Vinery?"

"The most important point is to give them

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plenty of water when they have four inches of growth. They are grown in pots, and the variety is H. Gardnerianum. It flowers in July and August, throwing out spikes of yellow bloom, with a fragrant perfume. The Hoya carnosa on the wall flowers in July, and it is quite clear that the shade of the Vines suits it. The Geraniums in flower are Raspail, all spring cuttings, and at the bottom Virginia, single white, and Cygnet, double white. The Vines are Buckland's Sweetwater, Black Hamburgh, and Alicante. We begin cutting Grapes in June, and go on until the end of November. Tomatoes are grown at the end of this Vinery. They will not do outside, and in this bleak country we have to turn the glass to the best account we can. The Tomatoes are Ideal and Holmes' Supreme. There are plenty of bunches with a dozen fruits."

Brilliant Begonias.

We next inspected the greenhouse, and here I expressed my admiration for the fine show of Begonias.

"Some of these plants," said Mr. Barnes, "I have had for seventeen years, as, for instance, the golden flower, Empress of India, Pink Perfection, and the orange Sir Blundell Maple. Nearly all these are my own seedlings."

"How many plants are there altogether?"

"Including the Frilled Begonias, about a hundred and fifty. I start them in March, and keep them dry in pots or boxes all the winter under the stage in the late Vinery. When the bulbs are large, I divide them. I have tried them three times out of doors, but they will not do. We have a good show in the house during August and September."

"You have a fine plant of Heliotrope in the greenhouse?"

"We get masses of flowers from it for months. I do not know the variety or the age, but the roots show that it is quite a quarter of a century old. But now, I think, we had better look at the flowers outside in the kitchen garden. Chrysanthemums do fairly well, the varieties being chiefly Ralph Curtis, Horace Martin, O. J. Quintus, Mrs. Thompson, Lillie, Pride of Keston, Clara, Goacher's Crimson, Madame C. Perier, Esperanto, Harry, and Carrie."

"I observe that you grow Chrysanthemums on wires."

"Yes, running from post to post. If we did not, they would be blown to pieces by the south-west wind. They stand on trellises six feet long, and the air passes under the pots. Under the trellises is a flat piece of wood to keep them in place."

Sweet Peas and Dahlias.

"How do you arrange your Sweet Peas?"

"Some in clumps and some in rows. We grow a number behind the Dahlias, and get them nine feet high. These varieties are King Edward VII., Lady Grisel Hamilton, and Dorothy Eckford. Other varieties, including Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, and many of the most popular, are grown elsewhere. The Dahlias are all the Cactus section, and include several seedlings. Perhaps the best named varieties are Major Atkins, Florence Stredwick, Matchless, Mrs. A. Part, and H. J. Jones. We cut all the Dahlias for use at the harvest festivals."

"I should like to know how you treat your Antirrhinums, which are still flowering bravely."

"For late flowering they are sown in April. I treat them as an annual, because they will not stand as a biennial. The white variety in front of the border is The Bride, the crimson in the middle is Crimson King, and the yellow at the back, Yellow Queen."

"The soil also seems to be appreciated by Violas."

"The Violas are all grown from cuttings. The best yellow for edging is, I think, Bullion; a very fine mauve is John Quarton; White Lady and Seagull are good whites; and Mrs. Chichester a very fine blue and white. The breadth of Asters chiefly consists of Victoria; the Stocks of Beauty of Nice and the Ten-week, the former being much the better; Mignonette is grown in quantity, also seedling Verbenas. Pentstemons, still in flower, are much appreciated for cutting."

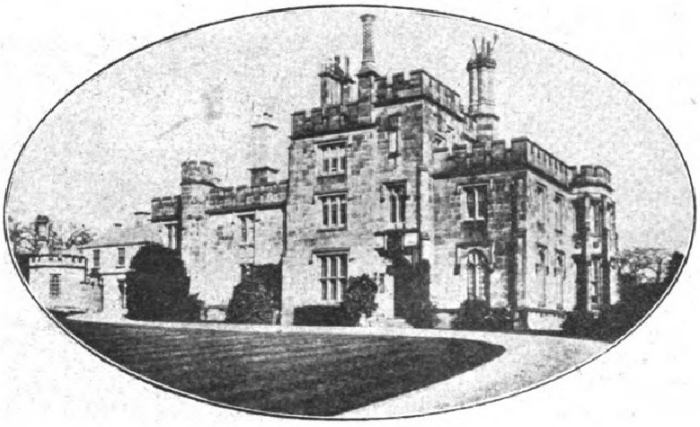
Failure of Fruit Crops.

"What about fruit and vegetables?"

"So far as crops are concerned, I can only say that the frost has spoilt our fruit crops. Both Apples and Pears are grown on cordons on the walls, a system by means of which you get more fruit and larger. The best varieties of Apples, we find, are Golden Spire, King of the Pippins, Duchess of Oldenburg, Lord Derby, Newton Wonder, Cellini, Stirling Castle, Cox's Pomona, and Cox's Orange Pippin. As to Pears, perhaps the three best are Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, and Pitmaston Duchess."

"How late can you pick Peas?"

"Up to the middle of October. Our latest variety is Gladstone. We also grow in succession, Harbinger, Pioneer, The Pilot, Eureka, Daisy, Duchess of Albany, and The Clipper. We pick Scarlet Runners up to the end of October, unless the frost intervenes, the varieties being Hackwood Park and Empress. As far as possible we ripen our crop of Onions in the sun. The varieties are Ailsa Craig and Bedfordshire Champion. We have more vegetables in the Rose garden, which still remains to be seen."



PRIORY HALL, DUDLEY.

Roses in the Black Country.

We accordingly left the kitchen garden, crossing the road and a meadow in order to reach the piece of land which was acquired seventeen years ago under the shelter of the Wren's Nest, a south-west hill. The land is wired in order to keep out the hares, but there is one thing which apparently nothing can keep out. The wind is almost over-powering, and I was not in the least surprised when Mr. Barnes informed me that he was about to put up a fence in the hope of breaking its force."

"What sections," I asked, "are represented in the Rose garden?"

"Chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas, a number of Ramblers being grown on poles. This open field was only utilised for Roses after I had made several attempts to grow them in the wall garden without success. In 1905 I planted the first Roses here, and I was quite satisfied with the results."

"How did you make your beds?"

"I took out a trench two feet wide, and one foot deep. I then dug up the bottom, subsequently placing over the beds some good rotten horse manure. The top soil is a stiff, greasy loam, and the bottom a marly sand, which sets like stone if placed on the top. With regard to further preparation, I take out a hole one foot deep, and one foot six inches wide, so that the roots can be well spread out. Then I put in six inches of half-decayed leaf-mould, place the plant in the centre of the hole, add six inches more leaf-mould, fill in with soil, add a handful of bonemeal, tread firmly if the ground is not sticky, stake each plant, and cut long shoots down to about two feet six inches, trimming all the leaves off."

"What is your distance from plant to plant?"

"Two feet; and four feet between the rows. I find that the best month to plant is in November. For protection in winter, I place four inches of straw litter round the plants. I begin pruning in April, and go on according to the weather, pruning each variety as the strength of growth requires, the primary object being to obtain as many flowers for house decoration as I can."

"What about feeding?"

"I use one of the patent manures in February, and again in May; also after the summer bloom. I ought to have mentioned that after the ground has been made for Hybrid Teas, I fork in leaf-mould, sand, and bonemeal. In December I dress with soot to keep away mildew; and in March I spray with Abol, and dress with fresh slack lime, which I hoe in. The ground is hoed every fortnight, and as it is not more than twelve inches deep, I am raising it to two feet six inches. I think by this plan I shall get better flowers."

The Best Varieties.

"As so many people scarcely believe that Roses can be grown in the Black Country, it would be interesting to know the names of your varieties, especially as the plants look so remarkably healthy."

"The Hybrid Perpetuals include Abel Grand, Neige, Dr. Andry, Duke of Edinburgh, Dupuy Jamain, Etienne Levet, E. Y. Teas, Heinrich Schultheis, John Stuart Mill, Lady Helen Stewart, Magna Charta, Rev. Alan Cheales, and Suzanne Marie Rodocanachi. Of Hybrid Teas the best are Betty, Dean Hole, Duchess of Albany, Ecarlate, Edith d'Ombrain, Gruss an Teplitz, Gustave Regis, Kœnigin Carola, Lady Ashtown, Lady Battersea, Liberty, Madame Jules Grolez, Madame Melanie Soupert, Marquise of Salisbury, Mamie, Mrs. G. W. Kershaw, William Shean, and Warrior."

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"How large is this piece of land?"

"Two acres and a half. We utilise it further for vegetables chiefly, but Border Carnations, the Shasta Daisy, Chrysanthemums, Weigelas (for cutting), and a number of seedling Hollyhocks are also grown here. I hope the last will flower next year."

"In addition to your vegetables, you have also Strawberries. What are the varieties?"

"Royal Sovereign and Givon's Late Prolific are the two best, but I am also trying Bedfordshire Champion, Progress, Laxton's Latest of All, and Waterloo. The vegetables include a few more Peas, such as Webbs' Scimitar and Glory of Devon; Parsnip, Hollow Crown; Cabbages in variety; Broccoli, Leamington, Safeguard, Late Queen, and Snow's Winter White; Savoys, Drumhead, Dwarf Blue, and Ormskirk; Kale, New Heart; Brussels Sprouts, Wroxton and White Sprouting; Cauliflowers, Autumn Giant, Veitch's Self-protecting, Sutton's Mammoth, and Early London; Celery, Standard-bearer, White Gem, and Pink Gem; and Potatoes, which were planted on July 7th, and are now being got up."

Difficulties of Cultivation.

"I think I need not ask you whether the smoke of the district affects your Roses; but I suppose it does sometimes constitute a difficulty?"

"Unquestionably the sulphur in the air is a drawback in outdoor cultivation, if only because it takes all the colour out of the white flowers. Then, of course, a good deal of soil has to be imported. For example, when I made the border in the kitchen garden, where the fruit is planted, I took out all the old soil and put in its place loam brought from Himley Park, four miles the other side of Dudley. Before I came here I was foreman at Himley Hall Gardens."

"How long have you been at Priory Hall, Mr. Barnes?"

"Seventeen years; but I have been with the family forty years, practically all my life. For some years I have done a good deal of judging. This year a new departure was made by the North-Western Railway Company (of which Mr. Claughton will be chairman next year), who are giving prizes for the best-kept and planned station garden. Through Mr. Claughton, I have judged the flowers at Gailey, Prince's End, Ockter Hill, Great Barr, Menton Road, Gravelly Hill, Erdington, Haukbury Lane, Dunchurch, Marton, and Berkswell, and have found the work very interesting."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week, "Garden Seed Adulteration" will be dealt with in the course of an interview with Mr. Edward Owen Greening.

Ornamental Trees.

FRONT gardens are generally planted with at least a few ornamental trees, but the choice made is sadly monotonous, the same species appearing in most cases, while admirable kinds remain almost unknown. For these reasons the maker of a new garden, large or small, or the renovator of an old one, should select some novel or neglected trees. Obtain these of a fair size to start, and there will then be ample reward for the money spent.

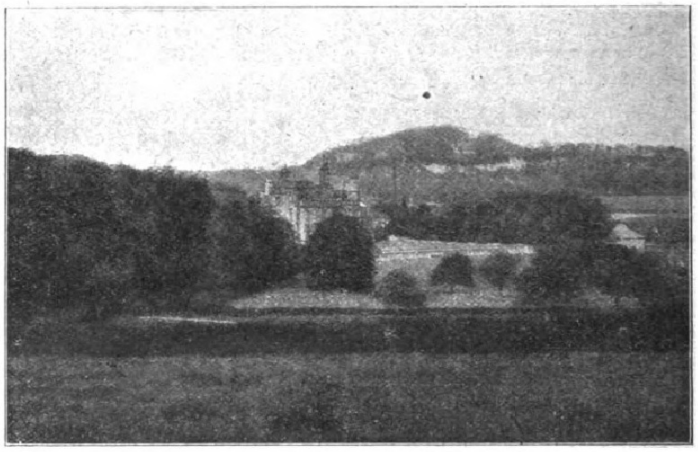
The Golden Maple, Acer negundo californica aurea, is a magnificent golden subject, of strong, vigorous growth, too. It can be purchased six feet high, and cannot be too much commended. It is related to the silver, trembling shrub, Acer negundo variegata, that is rather less robust, but very beautiful, also. The Maple that flushes scarlet and gold in autumn, and has tinted leaves in its young spring robes, is Acer colchicum rubrum.

The Weeping Ash, Fraxinus excelsior pendula, was more planted by our grandfathers than by us, yet it gives an original beauty when placed on a lawn, or close to an entrance gate, and specimens eight feet tall can be safely moved, so a quick effect is gained. The yellow-berried Mountain Ash, Pyrus aucuparia fructis aurea, is a decided novelty. The Chinese Cherry, Cerasus serrulata alba fl. pl., carries its double white blossoms in spring in pendant clusters, which distinguishes it in effect from more familiar members of its family.

Golden Elms are good for forming hedges, when clipped to the required height, or may be recommended as specimen trees on large lawns. The finest-coloured variety is Ulmus campestris van Houtte; Ulmus americana aurea is, perhaps, a quicker grower, so more suited to the first purpose. There is also an attractive silver-margined Elm. The scarlet American Oak makes a showy front garden ornament, as it has gigantic leaves, coloured with rich crimson. This, too, can be obtained as an 8-ft. specimen. The scarlet-berried Elder, Sambucus racemosa, may well be planted next to its brother, the Golden Elder, which has now, fortunately, become a familiar feature of front gardens in town and country suburbs. The Cut-leaved Birch is of wondrously elegant appearance, yet remarkably strong, so suited to exposed positions.

Purple-flowering Laburnum invariably attracts admiration, yet a 10-ft. specimen costs only half-a-crown, and would flourish in any ordinary front garden with a south aspect. It is an excellent plan to pair it, against the gateway, with the common Laburnum, as an example of how species differ. In some damp gardens, especially near water, whether natural or artificial, a group, or even a single specimen of the Golden Willow, will have a beautiful appearance in sunlight.

HOBBY GARDENER.



ANOTHER VIEW OF PRIORY HALL, DUDLEY.

On Pruning.

A GREAT deal has been, is, and will be, written on this subject, and elaborate rules have from time to time been laid down regarding the methods to be pursued in pruning different kinds of trees, in order to obtain the very best results. Broadly speaking, pruning is a very simple business. It needs only to be done with due consideration to the objects in view. These may be various, but the principal are pruning for fruit, and pruning for foliage. Some trees fruit on the first, and some on the second year's growth, but this is soon observed by the attentive grower, and will make little or no difference to the broad principles to be considered in pruning.

Pruning for Fruit.

The chief consideration in pruning for fruit is to so train the tree as to get the greatest possible amount of air and light to every part. Where do we get the best fruit? First—On single cordons or one-stemmed trees; second—on ordinary cordons, or what may be called wall trees trained on wires in the open; third—wall trees; fourth—bush and standards. In each of the first two cases they have the maximum amount of light and air; in the second two cases they are more sheltered, though the wall trees get more than the bushes.

Now, when we wish to prune any of these trees, we must ask ourselves the question: "What must be done to give this tree the maximum of light and air?" We shall find that the answer comes: "Take out any branches that are crossing or crowding the tree in any way." But, whatever is done, do not make the mistake of cutting off the tip of every branch. This tends to growth and crowding, but not to fruitfulness. Some men go regularly round their trees about this time, neatly cutting the tips off in a beautifully even manner, so that when they have finished, the trees resemble an example of topiary work. The result of this is to cause two branches to come out of each one below the cut, besides greatly tending towards more coming out below. This is exactly the opposite of what we want, and will produce in the end merely a tangle of growth, or, if we cut out again, it involves an enormous waste of strength to the tree; but it shows us that we can easily fill up a vacant space in any tree by cutting a branch back hard, and training the offshoots into the bare spot.

To sum up—the two things to remember are to thin out well, and not to cut the ends off the branches.

Pruning for Foliage.

This is almost the reverse of the last, as we want all the strength of the shoot we can get, so we must prune hard, thus making the growth come more. The weaker the nature of the plant, the harder must we prune it. This is the method to pursue with Roses and such-like plants, where we are anxious to get good, big blooms on the end of long stems. Every sort of tree differs on different soil, and will need slightly more or less pruning; but, in the main, the above treatment will result in the best all-round results.

S. N. W. T.

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take any food from the others, so if that were the only consideration it would not matter when they were cut out; but they intercept a certain amount of light and air, and for that reason it is best to remove them as soon as they have ceased to serve a useful purpose—that is, as soon as the crop has been gathered. The young canes, of course, require different treatment. Of those that grow up in the rows some can be seen at once to be too thin to be of any value. If they are allowed to remain they will be using up food all the summer, and as they must be removed in autumn or winter, the plants will have been wasting their energies on the production of useless material. Obviously, then, the sooner they are cut out the better. A number of other canes, sometimes very strong ones, always spring up between the rows. They are situated on the roots, between the tips which gather in the supplies and the canes in the rows which those supplies should reach, and from their position they are able to take a heavy toll of the food which is passing along the lines of communication.

MOSS ON PATHS.

June 7th.—Though moss on paths is not out of place in certain parts of the grounds, in the more remote shrubberies and under trees, it is certainly objectionable near the house, as it gives an appearance of damp and neglect. Unfortunately, it is not so easily got rid of as ordinary weeds. A weed-killer will kill it, no doubt, but the brown cushions of dead moss which remain are no improvement on the live green moss. These cushions are firmly attached to the ground, but can be worn away in time by brushing with the stump of a broom; if that is too slow a process, the ground must be turned. This is best avoided in summer, because if the weather happens to be dry the gravel may remain loose for a long time, but a heavy shower or two will allow of its being rolled down firmly if it is of a binding nature—that is to say, if it contains an admixture of clay.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

ARALIA SIEBOLDII.

This very popular room plant, often called the Fig-leaved Palm, and by botanists known as Fatsia japonica, sometimes gets into bad condition through neglect and carelessness in watering. In summer, when it is making its growth, and putting forward its handsome, glossy, bright green leaves, it should be well supplied with water, but the soil must never be allowed to become sodden. The leaves, too, if the plant is kept indoors, should be regularly sponged over, using tepid water. This improves their health, and freshens their colour.

This plant has a tendency to go leggy, the leaves falling from the lower part of the stem, which thus looks bare and unsightly. This cannot be prevented with pot plants, and the only remedy is to take off the top, insert it in sandy soil, and strike it in gentle bottom heat, when it will soon emit roots, and can be potted up and grown in the usual way.

Where a greenhouse is not available, and bottom heat cannot be provided, the plant can be reduced in height quite easily at this season by the process known as stem-rooting, which may be carried out in a sunny window. Cut half-way through the stem in an upward direction, forming a tongue, and insert a small stone to keep the cut open. Then surround the part with moss, which must be kept uniformly moist. In a little while roots will have formed, and the plant can be potted up. Instead of moss, a small flower pot can be cut vertically in half, and secured to the stem, being filled with very sandy soil, and kept moist until roots are formed.

This graceful plant can be grown out of doors in sheltered places, and will take no harm in winter. Even if cut down by frost it will break up from the base.

FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

BEDFORDS, HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER, ROMFORD.—Interview with Mr. A. J. Barrett.

TO carry on a large garden with a greatly reduced staff has been the experience of most gardeners during the past four or five years; but to Mr. A. J. Barrett, who is in charge of the gardens at Bedfords, Havering-atte-Bower, it also fell that he himself was called up when the age limit was extended to include the older men. How the gardens have fared, what things have been done, and what left undone, Mr. Barrett explained to me when I called on him at the beginning of April, shortly after he had been demobilised.

Havering-atte-Bower is a pretty village three miles from the old market town of Romford, in Essex. At one time it was a place of considerable importance, and remains are pointed out which, tradition asserts, once formed part of the palace of Edward the Confessor. Bedfords (the name is said to have been originally Belfonts, from the number of its springs) is the residence of Sir Montagu C. Turner, and stands in a park of nearly one hundred acres. Situated on high ground, giving views across the Thames to the hills of Kent, with a vast panorama in between, it is exposed to all the winds that blow, and fully tests the hardiness of the trees and outdoor plants. A public footpath runs through the park, and this, on the occasion of my visit, was gay with Daffodils just coming into bloom.

MR. A. J. BARRETT.

LADIES HELP.

"The ordinary staff consists of eight or nine men," said Mr. Barrett; "but during the war this dwindled down until, at last, there remained only myself and an old man. Then, last summer, I was called up, and during the winter the sole survivor was ill for a long time, and finally left. Of course, nearly everything except the kitchen garden and orchard had had to go."

"How did the gardens get on after you went?" I asked.

"My wife and boy did all they could to keep things going, and the ladies of the house gave help as well—in fact, they helped before I went away. Luckily, I was stationed in London, and so whenever I could get week-end leave I ran down and did what I could. I have now been home for a little while, and as we have managed to get a couple of our men back, we are making headway with the necessary work."

Evidence was quickly forthcoming of Mrs. Barrett's able assistance, for in the first house we entered was a nice batch of young Malmaison Carnations, of which she had struck the cuttings.

"We used to have a nice stock of these," said Mr. Barrett; "but lost most of them. In the next house, which was the Cucumber house, we now have Chrysanthemums coming on. Among the varieties are many Decoratives, Singles, and large-flowered Japanese. Queen Mary is one of Sir Montagu's favourites. The Caprice family, Mensa, Nellie Pockett, Phyllis Broughton, and Roupell Beauty are others liked; but all the varieties are good."

On the wall of what used to be the Melon house I noticed a lot of healthy-looking Kalosanthes, and of these, I was told, a large number were formerly grown.

ORCHIDS HAVE TO GO.

The next house told a further story of the losses arising from shortage of fuel, the Orchids which were once its chief occupants having suffered severely.

"The Vandas and Dendrobiums were very choice, but it was not possible to save them, and they are gone altogether, through our having no fire here. The Cypripediums were not so badly affected, and I have no doubt they will recover. We have now a little heat on, just sufficient to keep the Ferns alive—they were brought in here to save them. We have not been without flowers, however, for Primula obconica has been very fine. We have a splendid strain of this."

"You have also a good batch of Tomatoes?"

"Yes; it is really for them that we have had a little fire heat. The varieties are Sunrise and Golden Sunrise."

"Is the golden variety liked as much as the other?"

"Quite; and the colour makes a pleasing change. It is as free as the scarlet, but is not, perhaps, so seeded."

Outside, in frames, plenty of Cauliflowers, raised and just pricked out by Mrs. Barrett, indicated that there will be no scarcity of that vegetable. The variety, I was informed, was Magnum Bonum, "one of the finest in appearance and quality."

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

In vegetables and fruit Mr. Barrett has made a name for himself in the short time—under four years—that he has been at Bedfords. He has exhibited at the Royal Horticultural Society's great shows of vegetables and of British-grown fruit, and has been successful in several classes, particularly with Apples and Pears. It was, therefore, with especial interest that I listened as he explained some of the methods while we walked round the kitchen garden, into which we next turned. This occupies a space of two acres inside the walls, and there are several large areas outside. The walls, by the way, belong to a period when greenhouse heating was on primitive lines, for

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they are three feet through, with a stone coping, but are hollow, and formerly carried the flues which heated the old Vinery.

A glance round showed that here no effort had been spared to make up for lost time. A large plot had been trenched, and another was in hand.

"I like to trench the ground every year," Mr. Barrett explained; "but, of course, last winter this was out of the question. However, since I have been back, and we have got more labour, I have trenched a portion. The soil is cold and heavy, and we work in plenty of leaves, and any manure we can get."

"You have a large amount of ground for greenstuffs?"

"Yes; of one sort and another we grow three thousand five hundred Brassicas. We had two hundred and forty Broccoli, but frost has cut down what were left. We rely largely on Savoy New Year, which we can cut till March. Celery is much liked, and we have had five hundred heads—some are still left. Onions are also wanted in quantity, and we had twenty-five bushels last year."

"What varieties do you chiefly grow?"

"Sutton's A1 is one of our best; it is a large, flat Onion, that keeps excellently. James' Long-keeping, Bedfordshire Champion, Cranston's Excelsior, and Improved Bedding are others."

POTATOES FOR HEAVY SOIL.

"And Potatoes?"

"This is a very important crop with us. The ground just trenched will be planted with them, and we shall have a lot outside. Then I always have a special trial plot, where the newer sorts are tried. This year we are trying Dobbie's Majestic and King George. One that does very well indeed with us is British Queen. Last year, off one plot of nine rods, we lifted forty-six bushels. Stirling Castle, one of Sutton's new strains, is a lovely thing for shape, quality, and cropping. Dobbie's Prolific, Kerr's Pink, and King Edward are also very good with us. All seed is sprouted, and I usually leave about four sprouts on. As a rule I plant the sets whole, and only cut them when they are very large. The ladies of the house helped with the Potatoes, dropping them in when the ground was prepared."

"Do you save your own seed?"

"Only to the second year. We buy some seed every year, and plant it separately, so that there is no risk of getting it mixed."

"Have you any trouble with disease?"

"Very little indeed. I am a great believer in spraying, and do it three or four times during the season. Then, before putting the seed away for the winter, I lime it well as a precaution."

"I see your early Peas are coming on nicely on this sunny border."

"They were sown in December. The variety is Improved Pilot, and I do not believe there is a better one in cultivation for early work. Farther round, on the border outside the Peach house, there are two other good early Peas, Pioneer and Duchess of York."

An iron, curved top pergola, one hundred and twenty yards long, and covered with Roses, spans the principal path in the kitchen garden, and running transversely to this is a broad border, planted with some of the newest Hybrid Teas, in groups of one colour. The bright scarlet-crimson single Roses, Red Letter Day and Princess Mary, are especially liked.

KEEPING FRUIT TREES CLEAN.

The fruit trees here are mostly in the form of espaliers, bushes, and pyramids. They were remarkably clean in appearance, and although not yet in blossom, were promising well. The grease-bands had not been removed from all of them, and the numbers of dead insects proved the efficacy of this method. Not that this is the only precaution taken, for on my asking Mr. Barrett whether he did anything else, he replied:

"I believe as strongly in spraying fruit trees as I do Potatoes. These are sprayed in the winter to clean them, and they will be sprayed again when the blossoms open, and later when they fall and the fruit is just forming. There is no other way of keeping down insects, especially as there has been a great scarcity of birds this last two years. It is a mistake to destroy the birds and their eggs; indeed, they ought to be encouraged, as they destroy so many caterpillars."

"What fruits do best here?"

"Apples are our heaviest and best crops. Pears do not bear well till they get old; while the soil is too cold for Plums, although those on the walls bear nicely. As to bush fruits, we have a nice collection of Gooseberries in all the leading varieties; and Raspberries and Currants are very satisfactory. Our best Strawberries are King George, Royal Sovereign, The Earl, and Bedford Champion, with British Queen, which is one of the best you can have for jam."

"What sort of fruit season did you have last year?"

"It was not so bad here as in some other places. Altogether we had about a ton of fruit."

"From how many trees?"

"About five hundred of all sorts. Besides those here and outside the walls, we have an orchard of one and a half acres, with one hundred and fifty standards and half-standards."

THE BEST APPLES.

"The varieties are, of course, all of the best?"

"Yes; perhaps some do better than others on this soil. One thing we cannot get as a rule is colour, the gardens being so much enclosed by tall trees to cut off the force of the wind. But we have nothing to complain of as to quality. Here are two good rows of Bismarck, which is a variety I would not be without. It has never failed with me, and the fruit keeps well, though some people say they cannot get it to keep. This gridiron-trained tree is James Grieve, a lovely Apple and a good bearer. Beauty of Kent ought to be grown more than it is, for it is a beautiful fruit, of excellent flavour. Unfortunately, this soil is a bit too cold for it, and it gets a little scab. Annie Elizabeth, Allington Pippin, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Rival, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Grenadier are others we grow a lot of; and one I very much like is Lane's Prince Albert, which is always a sure bearer."

"These Wellingtons also look very healthy."

"That is another variety that grows well here. You sometimes hear complaints about it, but with us it is very satisfactory. We never see any signs of canker."

"How about Pears?"

"These do not get on as cordons, but do better as espaliers. Pitmaston Duchess never fails; and Fondante d'Automne gives us some nice fruits, and so does Doyenné du Comice."

"You have Peaches and Apricots on the walls?"

"Yes; and they are very successful. There are seven Apricots, and last year they gave us over a hundred pounds of fruit. The varieties are Moor Park, Shipley, and Powell's Late, which is a very beautiful fruit."

"Who has done all the pruning?" I asked, as we now turned into the Vinery, after noticing the broad herbaceous borders.

"For the past three years I have done everything myself," was the answer. Then, directing my attention to the Vines, Mr. Barrett went on:

A GOOD CROP OF GRAPES.

"We have had no heat here for three years, but we managed to cut three hundred good bunches from the Vines in these three divisions. The borders are outside, and this suits some of the varieties, like Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, Alicante, and Muscat of Alexandria; but Princess of Wales wants an inside border."

From the Vinery we next went to the Peach house, where the trees are planted transversely. In the three sections into which the house is divided there are six varieties, Princess of Wales, Violette Hâtive, Waterloo, Lord Napier, Humboldt, and Boursault.

Outside the kitchen garden there are many trained trees against the walls. Here, too, are the fruit and Potato rooms, where there were still a few grand specimens of Wellington, Bismarck, Lane's Prince Albert, and Bramley's Seedling Apples; quantities of Kerr's Pink and British Queen Potatoes (these were lifted in August), as good as when first put into store; and strings of Onions A1 and James' Long-keeping.

Near by is a large clearing, which two years ago was a wood, but is now an extension of the kitchen garden.

The pleasure grounds are handicapped by the public footpath which runs through them, making it impossible to plant as freely as otherwise would be done.

"Sir Montagu had the sides of the paths planted with Daffodils, so that all might enjoy them," said Mr. Barrett, "and was going to have Scillas, Trilliums, and many other flowers by the thousand, but unfortunately people passing through plucked the flowers as they grew, and even lifted the bulbs as well, so he did not go on with his idea. Even the Rhododendrons and other plants growing a long way back are damaged at times."

In the herbaceous borders away off the paths there is a good selection of hardy perennials, of which, at the time of my visit, the large clumps of Pæonies and Irises looked most imposing.

VEGETABLES IN FLOWER BEDS.

Passing now to the front of the house, where there are many beds cut in the grass, Mr. Barrett remarked:

"The lawns are about three and a half acres, and they have not been touched for three years, except to take the hay off them. As to the beds, these used to be filled with Geranium Paul Crampel, Ageratums, Heliotropes, and other summer-bedders; but last year we grew vegetables in them, and are doing so again this season. The Ash tree you are admiring is over a hundred feet high."

A walk through a lovely Beech wood, with trees of majestic height, and coloured Primroses, Daffodils, and other early flowers peeping forth at their feet, brought us to the orchard, where healthy, clean growth betokened the care that had been lavished on the trees. Bismarck, Wellington, Bramley's Seedling, Newton Wonder, Worcester Pearmain, and Cox's Orange Pippin, I was told, do better here than in the kitchen garden.

"Do you give the trees any special treatment?" I asked.

"No, beyond spraying to keep them clean. In the autumn I give four or five ounces of basic slag to each tree, and find they do better for it. Last season, owing to being so short-handed, I was not able to take measures against caterpillars, but this season I am going to spray with arsenate of lead. The grass is growing close up to the tree trunks now, but as soon as I can I shall get the ground clear for a space of four to six feet round each. When I came I intended to take up all the grass, and cultivate Gooseberries and Currants between the trees, but lack of labour stood in the way. However, in some places we managed to grow vegetables."

Among the fine trees we passed on our way back from the orchard were some well-grown Hollies and a row of stately Sweet Chestnuts, which bear freely every year. Then, with a glance at the frames, where a nice little lot of Chrysanthemums were coming on, I bade good-bye to Mr. Barrett, congratulating him on the results he has achieved with so little help. It may be interesting to mention that last year he was first in the county class for Apples, and for single dishes of Bismarck and Wellington, also of Pear Fondante d'Automne.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: The gardens of **Ottershaw Park**, Surrey. Interview with Mr. G. Scragg.

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are not referred to in any cookery-book that I have yet met with. Proof of what I assert is open to every one. You have only to deprive yourself at your breakfast to-morrow morning of a dozen heads out of your dish of watercresses. Before you begin, put half-a-dozen heads upon a plate, and over them sprinkle some salt; put the other half-dozen upon another plate, but put no salt over them; when you have finished your breakfast compare the contents of these two plates, and also taste them. Your eye and your mouth will agree in asserting that the salt has converted a crisp, juicy, tempting vegetable, into a flabby, washy, and unsightly mess.

How often do you see a salad sent to table fit to eat, if it has been dressed in the kitchen? My experience answers, not once in a hundred times; and is not that yours, gentle reader? And why is this? Simply because the fresh vegetable has been salted for half-an-hour before it was served to you.

The gardener may spend his master's money in buying seeds of all the varieties of Lettuce, Endive, Cucumber, and other saladings; — he may pride himself upon the earliness of one and the lateness of another, upon the whiteness of this and the greenness of that, upon the flavour of this variety and upon the cold juicy crispness of that;—he may have applied to the growth and perfection of certain kinds the thought and experience of many years of labour and observation; and all his anticipations of giving pleasure and satisfaction to his employer are knocked on the head by the thoughtfulness (?) of the cook, who (in order to be well forward with her work) salts the salad or the Cucumber half-an-hour or more before it is to be eaten, though in this she only follows the instructions of the books and of her preceptors by beginning with the use of pepper and salt, and subsequently pouring over vinegar and oil!

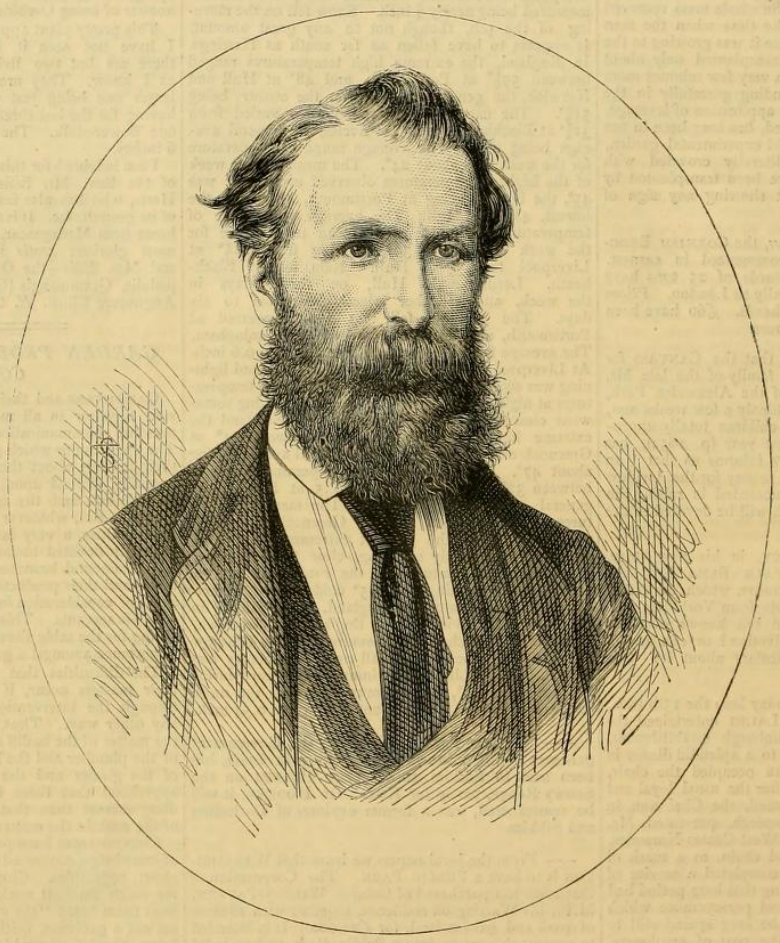
Upon another occasion I propose to explain how, in my judgment, uncooked vegetables ought to be served. The subject I now have before me is not salads but salt. And gardeners, who desire that the saladings they have grown should be served to their masters in perfection, should lose no time in impressing upon the cooks for whom they have to provide, that salt should never, under any circumstances whatever, be added to raw vegetables until the very last minute that it is possible to do so before it is to be eaten.

Every cooks knows that all combinations of eggs, milk, and flour, require to be served immediately that they are cooked, as they so quickly become sodden; batter puddings, fritters, pancakes, and omelettes of various kinds, are all dishes of which the cooking is put off until the last moment; and all who enjoy these preparations will agree with me that they had much rather be kept waiting a few minutes for a pancake or an omelette, than that it should be half a minute in the room too soon. Let the gardener remind the cook of these facts, and at the same time explain to her that the premature use of salt over green vegetables will as certainly injure his credit as a grower, as the premature cooking of an omelette will affect her credit as a good cook. *W. T.*

ARCHIBALD F. BARRON.

Among the representative horticulturists of Great Britain, there are few, if any, who have, by their talents and personal qualities, secured from their fellow-labourers a larger measure of respect and esteem than the Superintendent of the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Kensington and at Chiswick; and as his career is one that may with profit be studied and imitated by the coming race of gardeners, we gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity of saying something of it. Mr. Barron is, we believe, a native of Aberdeen, a locality in which, to quote an old saying of the Edinburgh nurseries, "They strike gardeners by cuttings, so plentiful is the supply." His gardening career commenced at Crathes Castle on the banks of the Dee, Aberdeen, under the auspices of his father, who was then gardener there, and enjoyed considerable reputation in the district as an able cultivator and excellent gardener. Crathes was but a small place, where, however, considerable attention was paid to Dahlias, Pansies, Hollyhocks, and other florists' flowers, and where vegetables received the attention they deserve. It was there the subject of our notice learned, as he tells us, how to grow vegetables, how to prepare land, how to use the spade, the hoe, the rake, the scythe, and all those accomplishments which some among the modern school of young gardeners think it beneath their dignity to acquire.

On leaving Scotland in 1853, Mr. Barron proceeded to the gardens of the Marquis of Huntly, at Orton, near Peterborough. The late Marquis was a great admirer of trees, and was just commencing then, with Mr. Ross, the formation of the fine pinetum which now exists there. From Orton, in April, 1854, Mr. Barron went to the gardens at Arundel Castle, Sussex, the seat of the Duke of Norfolk, and at that time under the direction of the late Mr. M'Ewen.



ARCHIBALD F. BARRON.

The collection of fruits at Arundel was very fine, and great attention was paid to their cultivation in every way, so that the foundations of Mr. Barron's knowledge in this department were laid in this situation. Mr. M'Ewen was at this time grappling with Mr. Fleming, of Trentham, for the chief honours as an exhibitor of fruit at the London shows. Great alterations were being made in the gardens, and all sorts of experiments were in progress. Arundel was specially great in forcing all kinds of fruit in pots and out of pots, and Mr. M'Ewen was extremely fond of making daring experiments with them, so that while his pupil learned the way how to become successful, he learnt also what methods of procedure to avoid.

From Arundel Mr. Barron went to Shrubland Park, Suffolk, the seat of Sir William Middleton, then one of the leading places in the country for summer flower gardening. Here Mr. Barron underwent a good drilling, under Mr. Foggo, in the department of ornamental gardening, in the use of Verbenas, Pelargoniums, &c.

After a short stay at Shrubland, our now well-trained gardener went to South Wales, to assist his brother in farming, and whilst there Mr. M'Ewen was appointed superintendent at Chiswick, and invited his former pupil to come to Chiswick, which he did. Mr. M'Ewen shortly afterwards died, and Mr. Eyles became superintendent, when Mr. Barron found himself in a much better position than heretofore, with a wide field of interest before him, in the management of which he was encouraged by Mr. Eyles, Dr. Lindley, Dr. Hogg, and Mr. R. Thompson. From the latter Mr. Barron derived much benefit, and learned some of the best lessons of his life. The great vinery at Chiswick was planted the season previous to Mr. Barron's appointment. The first season the Vines were in a wretched plight, but they were not long before they assumed a more creditable appearance.

On the appointment of Mr. Eyles to South Kensington, Mr. Barron became superintendent at Chiswick, and those who know the discouragements under which he laboured in an establishment starved for want of means, and perforce neglected in sundry departments, are those who are the loudest in their approval of the skill with which the garden was managed. By-and-by a change came; the garden was reduced in size, and altogether put on a different footing. The orchard was replanted, and space left for the resumption of those trials of vegetables and flowers which have been so useful in the past. The alterations have been too recently made for us to say anything as to results, but there can be no two opinions as to the skill shown in the re-organisation of the garden. At the present time Mr. Barron acts as superintendent at both Chiswick and Kensington, and while essentially a practical gardener of the best stamp, is no rule-of-thumb practitioner. His practice is based on experience, but it is modified according to circumstances by shrewd common sense, correct reasoning upon the results of observation, and a most careful appreciation and discrimination of the requirements of plants and the conditions influencing those requirements. If Mr. Barron has a love for one thing more than another it is the cultivation of fruits both under glass and in the open air, in which any one conversant with the history of Chiswick Garden during the last few years will readily admit he has had a well merited share of success. The way in which he has treated, and in a manner rejuvenated, the almost worn-out Vines in the large vinery, is deserving of all praise. The old house never promised better for a bright future than it did the past season. The culture of Figs in pots has received his special attention, and both by his pen and the beautiful bushy, fruitful trees which he has to show visitors he has done more to bring about their more general cultivation, than any other man of the day and generation he serves so well.

COTTAGE GARDENS.

I am an old country resident living in Hertfordshire, in a district celebrated for its cottage gardens, in which Roses and Apple trees are equally abundant, giving an appearance and reality of comfort to the inhabitants not often seen, but very pleasurable.

In travelling in other districts of England I am often grieved at seeing gardens neglected, or, at best, devoted only to Potatos and Cabbages. Knowing, as I do, the comfort given to families by our best-known and easily-grown fruit, the Apple, I am tempted to ask you to assist in spreading the knowledge of its culture, so that every cottager may grow his own Apples, and thus contribute to the comfort, and, I may

afternoon, and on the 19th inst. a large party sat down to a sumptuous banquet under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Broome, the chairman of the council, the Mayor of Manchester and the Dean of Manchester being among those present. The Temple show of the Royal Horticultural Society is carried out without any social observance of this kind. Might it not be advantageous, writes our correspondent, if something of the kind were attempted when so many representative of the gardening profession congregate in London?

Royal Botanic Society.—It is not very often that we are called on to take note of any publications of this Society, but the quarterly record for January, February, and March of the present year, though far inferior, on the whole, to the publications issued by the Royal Horticultural Society, is worthy of note. It contains an interesting and valuable report on the sunshine of 1892, from which we learn that the amount of "useful sunshine" recorded in 1892 was more than in the preceding year by 164 hours—equivalent to nearly a month's sunshine. We learn that Professor J. W. Groves will give three lectures on Ferns, and Professor Vines three lectures on the leaf and its functions. The lectures are given in the gardens at 4 P.M. on Fridays from May 5 to June 9. The rainfall at "the Botanic" in February is noted at 3·05 inches distributed over twenty-two days. In March the figures are 0·33 inch over six days—what a difference!

Mr. A. F. Barron (p. 635), **Mr. J. Weathers** (p. 637).—The occurrence of the "Temple Show" affords us an opportunity of laying before our readers the portraits of two of the officials of the Society on whom the stress and burden of the Society's work largely lie. Of Archibald Barron we need say little. His long service to the Society under its now happily past gloomy period, his work on *Vines and Vine Culture*, his services to the Gardeners' Orphan Fund, combine to make him one of the best known and the most respected of horticulturists.

John Weathers, after working at Kew and at Messrs. Sander, at St. Albans, took office as the Society was emerging from its evil days, and entering upon a career of usefulness and prosperity such as we hope it may long enjoy. The work that has allen on Weathers has been heavy, but it has been done efficiently and cheerfully, and in such a way as to ensure the good will of all associated with him. He has identified himself with the Society, and spared neither zeal nor labour in its interests.

Market Gardeners' Compensation.—A Bill, prepared and brought in by Sir Edmund Lechmere, Mr. Jesse Collings, Sir Frederick Dixon Hartland, Sir Algernon Borthwick, and Sir Richard Temple, to extend the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings (England) Act, 1883, so far as they relate to market gardens.

1. This Act may be cited as the Market Gardeners' Compensation Act, 1893, and shall be read and construed as part of the Agricultural Holdings (England) Act, 1883, hereinafter called the principal Act.

2. This Act shall come into operation on January 1, 1894, which date is hereinafter referred to as the commencement of this Act.

3. From and after the commencement of this Act, the provisions contained in section thirty-four of the principal Act shall extend, and be applicable to every conservatory, forcing-house, forcing pit, or any other erection or building put up or constructed or affixed either before or after the commencement of this Act by a tenant for the purposes of his trade or business of a market gardener upon or in or to a holding which, either in whole or in part, is cultivated as a market garden.

4. From and after the commencement of this Act the first schedule to the principal Act shall, as far as regards holdings cultivated either in whole or in part as market gardens, be amended in the following particulars (that is to say):—

The improvement numbered (11), "Planting of orchards or fruit bushes," shall cease to be comprised in Part I. of the said schedule, and the following improvements shall be comprised in Part III. of the said schedule:—

(i.) Planting of standard fruit trees.
(ii.) Planting of fruit bushes.
(iii.) Planting of Strawberry plants.
(iv.) Planting of vegetable crops.
(v.) The application to land of manure not produced on the holding other than such as is included in Part III. of the said schedule.

5. Compensation under the principal Act as amended by this Act shall be payable in respect of the aforesaid improvements, whether the same respectively shall have been executed before or shall be executed after the commencement of this Act.

6. No compensation shall be payable in respect of any of the said improvements if the landlord shall have allowed or shall hereafter allow to the tenant some benefit equal in money value at the least to the sum which would otherwise be payable to the tenant as compensation in respect of such improvement, and the tenant shall have executed or shall hereafter execute such improvement in consideration of such benefit.

7. So far as relates to the improvements numbered respectively i., ii., and iii. in the fourth section of this Act, section fifty-six of the principal Act shall be read and construed as if the words "with the consent in writing of his landlord" were not included therein.

8. It shall be lawful for the tenant of a holding cultivated either in whole or in part as a market garden to remove all fruit stocks planted by him on the holding either before or after the commencement of this Act, and not being more than 9 inches in girth immediately below the branches and not set out in rows or as a permanent plantation; but if the tenant shall not remove such fruit stocks previously to the termination of his tenancy, such stocks shall remain the property of the landlord, and the tenant shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect thereof.

9. Nothing in this Act contained shall apply to any land cultivated as nursery ground.

Gardening and Forestry Exhibition at Earl's Court.—We understand that an early Rose show has been arranged to take place on June 14 and 15. This will be in addition to the two Rose shows already announced to be held at the same place this season.

The "Agricultural Gazette" of New South Wales affords a striking example of the way in which general scientific principles may be utilised for practical purposes. It is one of the best publications on agricultural matters that comes under notice. In the January number we note an article on the cultivation of the Queensland Nut, Macadamia ternifolia, which the author says should be cultivated in every Australian garden that is suitable, both for the sake of its Nuts, and for its fine ornamental appearance. Seven years, however, elapse from the time of planting to the gathering of the first crop.

"Ecloga Plantarum Hispanicarum."—(Paris, Masson; London, Williams & Norgate) A series of plates and descriptions illustrative of plants recently discovered in Spain, and issued by M. A. de Coincy. The interest is mainly botanical.

East Anglian Horticultural Club Benevolent Fund.—The sum of £22 15*s.*, representing the profits arising from an amateur dramatic performance of *Bombastes Furioso*, given by the *employés* of Messrs. Daniels Brothers, seedsmen, of Norwich, has been given to the above fund.

The Harvest of 1892.—We have already alluded to the preliminary data published by the Board of Agriculture, and have now to note the full details as given in a publication entitled *Agricultural Produce Statistics of Great Britain, &c.* (Eyre & Spottiswoode), price 4*d.* The total produce of Wheat was 60,775,245 bushels, representing a yield per acre of 26·48, instead of 31·30, as in 1891; the diminution in the Wheat crop amounting to 14,000,000 bushels as compared with the yield of the preceding year, or nearly 5 bushels less per acre, the Eastern Counties, especially Cambs, Hunts, Beds, and Herts being the most unfortunate counties. Barley was slightly over average. Potatos yielded on the average 5·80 tons per acre—not much under average of 6 tons per acre. Turnips yielded a good crop. Mangels furnished an average of 1·3 tons per acre below the standard 19·8 tons. Hay was very deficient, except in the North. These statistical tables will afford a valuable comparison with those issued for the present year, the climatal features of which, so far, have been so extraordinary.

Professor Passerini.—We regret to hear of the decease, after a long illness, of Professor Passerini, the Director of the Botanic Garden of Parma. Dr. Passerini's studies were principally devoted to Fungi. Dr. Passerini was in his 77th year.

"Cottage Gardening."—We have before us the first volume of this publication, edited by Mr. Robinson and published by Cassell & Co. Poultry, window and town gardens, allotments, bees, and simple cookery, all for a halfpenny a week! We had overlooked the pigs, as the editor has done in his title, but they are not forgotten, nor the goats either. It is not much to say it is worth the money—the real truth is, it is worth much more.

Roses! Roses! Roses!—Under the auspices of the National Rose Society, a third edition of the Society's descriptive catalogue has been published. It may be had for 1*s.* by non-members, on application to the hon. secretaries, Rev. H. H. D'Ombrain, Westwell, Ashford, Kent, or E. Mawley, Esq., Rosebank, Berkhamsted, Herts. The catalogue not only deals with the dandies of the exhibition tent, but also with the more virile occupants of the garden and rosery. It is a very useful publication.

Hermaphrodite Hazel.—In the *Journal of Botany* for May, 1893, p. 153, Mr. C. A. Newdigate notes the production, near Blackburn, of male Hazel catkins, in which some of the flowers were bisexual. Similar cases are recorded in the *Journal of Botany*, 1889, p. 193.

Surveyors' Institute.—A discussion took place, at the meeting held on May 8, on the paper by Mr. R. F. Grantham (Associate), entitled, "Recent Experience in Sewage Filtration Considered in Relation to River Pollution," and, after a long debate, was concluded, and a Vote of Thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Grantham for his paper. The annual general meeting of the institution will be held on Monday, May 29, at 3 P.M.; and the annual dinner on Wednesday, May 31, at the Holborn Restaurant, at 6·30 P.M., and not on the day announced in the Calendar.

National Rose Society.—The annual dinner of the Society will be held in the Rooms of the Horticultural Club, Windsor Hotel, Victoria Street S.W., on Tuesday, June 20, at 6 P.M.

Nidularium digeneum—This is a bigeneric hybrid between Nidularium Innocenti and Bromelia nitens, described and figured by Dr. Günther Ritter Von Beck in the April number of the *Wiener Illustrierte Garten Zeitung*. It is an interesting cross, with linear lanceolate serrate leaves, brown, mottled with green on the lower surface. Racemes terminal, cylindric, clothed with numerous, showy rosy-crimson bracts. It was raised by Hofgärtner Hübsch of Gmünd.

Oncocyclus Irises.—The Rev. H. Ewbank details in the *Garden* how he succeeds in cultivating these difficult plants by placing the Irises on a plateau raised some 6 inches above the level of the ground. A foot below the surface a firm impervious bottom is supplied by means of flags of stone, so that the plants were shut in during winter beneath straw above and paving-stones beneath, with only about 1 foot of soil to grow in. Out of eighty-six plants so treated, not one failed to appear in spring, whereas previously even so good a cultivator as Mr. Ewbank has lost them by dozens. In summer the Irises will be between two fires, they will be cut off from all moisture at the top, and from all moisture at the bottom, so that they be passive so long as may be required. Mr. Baker proposes to call the Irises of this section Cushion Irises.

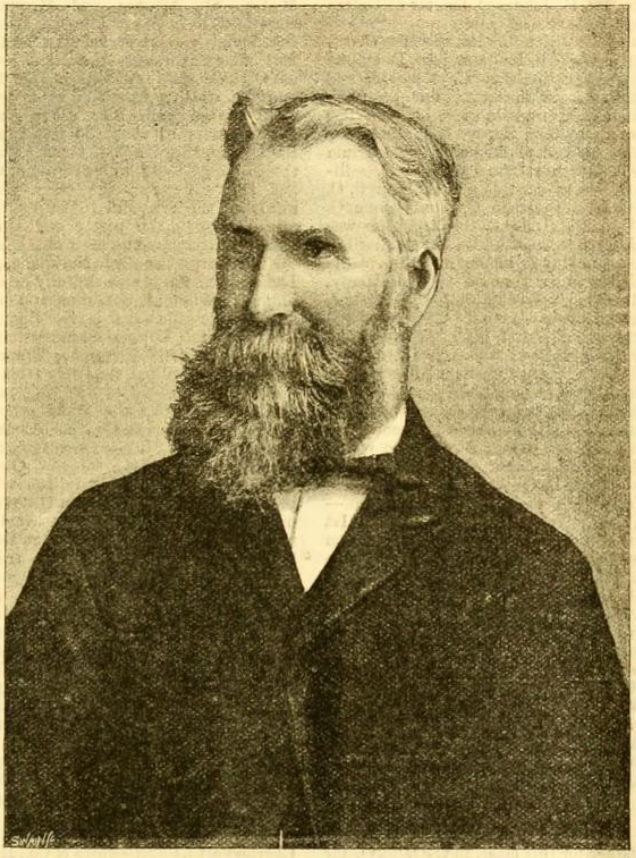
Postal Money Notes.—Mr. Alexander Downs, of Monkstown, Dublin, sends us specimens of money notes designed to facilitate the transmission, by means of any money-order office, of small amounts, viz., 6*d.*, 1*s.*, 2*s.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.*, at a uniform commission of ½*d.* each; 10*s.*, 15*s.*, and £1 at 1*d.* each; advice notes for £5 and £10, at commission of 3*d.* and 6*d.* respectively. Remitters in this case must fill up a form specifying to whom the amount is to be paid, and the recipient must also sign a receipt on the same form. The plan seems very simple, and will, we trust, be adopted, and adequate

CALTHA PALUSTRIS. — This common British plant is well worth planting in gardens which contain lakes, or which have a stream running through them; it coming much finer in such places than in a wild state, possibly from the greater supply of nutriment afforded. A few plants placed irregularly about the banks and margins of watercourses have a pleasing effect for a few weeks at this season. I do not like the double so well as the single-flowered variety, although its flowers are certainly larger, but the colour is not so good. *W. H. Divers, Ketton Hall Gardens, Stamford.*

PRIMULA CORTUSOIDES SIEBOLDII.—This has been one of the most effective hardy flowers we have had this spring, and during the three weeks ending with May 13 it was a mass of flowers. It was later in flowering than P. rosea, P. denticulata, and others, and therefore the blooms escaped injury from the severe frosts which disfigured those varieties very much here; and as the plants are growing where they get a plentiful supply of water at frequent intervals, it has not suffered from the dryness of the weather; moreover, the situation is cool, and partially shaded. I have often seen the species growing in peaty soil, but a medium loam suits it best if well drained. Besides the type, we have six varieties, all differing in colour, and some of them with flowers beautifully fringed. None of them receives any protection during winter, and they have never suffered in the least from frost. *W. H. Divers, Ketton Hall Gardens, Stamford.*

EARLY PEAS.—Our first sowing was made on January 20, outside, on a south border, and the first dish of Peas was gathered on May 13, the variety William's Early Gem. It is a distinct, prolific, dwarf Pea, and was sent out a few years ago by Messrs. B. S. Williams & Son, of Holloway. This is my earliest record of Pea picking during fifteen years' experience, the nearest approach to it being in 1881, when the first dish was fit on May 20, in a garden in Herefordshire. The subsoil here is clay; all the garden crops look promising, and we have had an abundance of excellent Asparagus since March 25, thus showing that retentive soils have their good sides in a season like the present. *J. Scouse, Foliejon Park, Windsor.*

ELLAM'S EARLY CABBAGE ON CLAY LAND.—I was pleased to see, at p. 552, reference made to this variety of Cabbage growing on sandy soil by your correspondent "A. D," and I wish to offer a few remarks about the same variety growing on land with a clayey subsoil. A few weeks ago I visited the gardens of New Lodge, Windsor Forest, and Mr. McIlwrick showed me a fine breadth of it, consisting of about 1500 plants, not one of which had bolted; it was the finest breadth of early Cabbage (considering the past and present season) that I have ever seen in a private garden. Mr. McIlwrick said, on making enquiries as to his method, that he puts the Cabbage plants at 18 inches apart; and that Mr. Lockie, the veteran Cucumber-grower, plants at 1 foot apart, with equally good results. *J. S., Foliejon Park, Windsor.*



MR. ARCHIBALD BARRON. (See p. 633.)

CRIMSON RAMBLER POLYANTHA ROSE.—At a recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, at Earl's Court exhibition, and other places, the above remarkable variety has been shown by Mr. C. Turner, of the Royal Nurseries, Slough. It was originally received from Japan. The plant is of vigorous growth, making shoots from 8 to 10 feet in height during a season, and is consequently a most desirable climbing variety, and when pegged down or grown as a bush, a marvellous head of bloom is the result, the two-year-old wood producing trusses of flower in every growth. It is also quite hardy in this climate, having been planted in exposed situations for two very severe winters in England. The glossy-green foliage of the plant, which appears at an early part of the season, forms a striking contrast to the flowers, which are produced in large pyramidal trusses, and of bright crimson colour, which remain on the plant for a great length of time without losing their brightness. The foliage is also retained to a great extent during the winter, making the plant almost an evergreen. *J. B.* [It was well staged at the Temple Show. Ed.]

THE DROPPING OF PEACH BUDS. — In your informing leader on this ever-interesting because ever-recurring phenomenon, it struck me that the differing ratio of bud-dropping outside and indoors was hardly sufficiently emphasised. Practically, bud-dropping is unknown in most gardens in the open air, and hardly a serious trouble in any, whereas it may be said to grow in intensity, as the season of forcing is accelerated, or its area is enlarged. In other words, the sharper the disparity between the external and internal temperatures, the more buds drop, and *vice versâ*. And if this is generally so, and I believe it is, then it points in the direction of the most general opinion of cultivators for the main cause of bud-dropping, viz., in some disparity of temperature between root and top of Peaches and Nectarines. No doubt the other causes in your leader, such as an excess of buds, or of wood, or of drought, poverty, or an excess of food and water on borders, ill-assorted stocks, &c., may often result in a limited or wholesale shedding of buds; but most of these might shed buds in the open as well as indoors. From the fact that they seldom or never fall there to any serious extent, we are almost led to the conclusion that the cause is mainly atmospheric, or one of disparity of temperature between the different parts of the tree. One of the best Peach growers of my acquaintance always contended that the seat of bud-dropping lay in the stem of the tree, and more particularly in the smaller portion that marked the union between the scion and the stock. Take care of that more, and all the rest will take care of itself. And his way of taking care of these gnarled knobs, as he called them, whether on the open walls or in Peach-houses, was to cover them from the sun with a layer or two of matting or old sack, and to keep the latter well soaked with water during bright sunshine. This kept the keystone of the arch, the crux of the circulation, cool and clean. Be that as it may, I never remember him to have had every bud dropping. Under glass there can be no doubt that the sudden rise of temperature before air is admitted in the morning is another very fruitful cause of bud-dropping, as is sudden and severe dryness at the roots. But then the buds will drop equally or more freely should their roots be lying in a swamp of stagnant water. Had mere sunshine on the open wall, half-roasting skeletonised Peach trees for nearly three months at a stretch, sufficed to force their buds to drop, never a Peachlet could have been left in the open on this 23rd day of May, 1893. But what do we find in the gardens up and down the country? Why, this is one of the best crops, and assuredly the biggest fruit of Peaches, Nectarines, and Apricots, ever seen before, and in May. *D. T. F.*

THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE, MUSIC, AND THE FINE ARTS.—I like the proposed trinity of the three new organised humanities. The blend, could it be profusely mixed, would result in a long life of honour and usefulness. Cowper sang of sermons in stones, and we all know there are pictures in flowers and music in colours, as well as in sounds, and if beauty is equally or more useful than utility, then horticulture is only in her right place when receiving all the other fine arts, and fostering the sweetest music. All would, however, as befitted them, meet on equal terms, not based on the new social gospel of culture, sweetness, and light. The Messrs. Wood & Son's proposal comes at an opportune moment. The Imperial Institute is just opened, but still comparatively empty. A portion of its ample space could hardly be turned to better use than by finding a home for the new institute, which could not fail to enrich, and in the highest sense enlarge, our great empire. *D. T. Fish, F.R.H.S.* [The lessons of South Kensington should not be so soon forgotten. Ed.]

SOCIETIES.

BUTLEY TULIP SHOW.

May 19.—Never for sixty-eight years has this old Lancashire exhibition been held at so early a date, as the unusual character of this season has necessi-

of April, will cut a sorry figure, as a vast number of the forwardest racemes are quite withered up. Roses out in the open have their forward shoots blackened. Stauntonia latifolia and hexaphylla are in the same state, and many of the taller-growing early Tulips had their flower-heads resting on the ground on the morning of the 16th, from which they have not recovered, 6° of frost being too much for them. It is too early to say what damage has been done to stone-fruits and to Pears, but it is almost certain that a great many Plum trees as well as Pears will be denuded of their fruits. At present, Peaches and Apricots appear all right, thanks to protection, though aphis and blister has made its appearance with the former, and measures must be adopted in earnest, or serious results will follow. Among vegetables, Asparagus, permanent and newly-planted quarters, are at a standstill. Early Cauliflowers are stunted, spring-sown Onions are through the ground, but make no headway whatever; and early crops of Potatos near the coast are completely levelled to the ground. Although March was our wettest month, the farmers are calling out for rain so that they may be better able to work their ground for small seeds, and a few showers would greatly benefit the gardener, but warmer weather is necessary with it. *J. Mayne.*

—— The past week will long be known by gardeners and fruit-growers as the black Easter of 1903. On every hand are heard deep laments over the injury wrought amongst fruit-bloom and germ by the unusually severe frosts of mid-April; even bloom-buds in an immature state, when examined, being found quite black and destroyed. So much is this the case, that it is most difficult yet to estimate the full extent of the injury done. This form of harm is not limited to tree-bloom alone, although it is the Apple chiefly that yet has bloom-buds unexpanded, for Strawberry bloom-buds in the same undeveloped stage have been similarly injured, even on warm borders where some shelter was afforded. It is observed by a paragraph in a weekly paper that no harm has been done by the frost in Kent. That is very hard to believe, as that county, even if, as is said, the bloom has been dry, yet must have felt the effects of the several recurring sharp white frosts of from 10° to 12°. Bloom, when dry and strong, may withstand one or two such frosts, but none can encounter several such in succession without suffering great injury. Even on walls, where naturally fruit trees have appreciable shelter, both Plums and Pears have been hard hit. Sometimes the fruits, when examined, are found to be black within; in other cases, where the fruits seem sound, the stems are blackened. Even bush fruits have not escaped, also. In low-lying districts the harm done is greater than in elevated ones, where the air is dryer; but the snow and sleet storms which marked the Easter-time were very general, and of necessity made the bloom or buds or immature fruits wet, thus intensifying the frost-effects. We had in March what should be April weather, with the result that it developed all descriptions of fruit-bloom unusually early, and giving a promise that was to the optimistic most exhilarating. April, however, gave us March weather, with the results now seen. It has been a severe slap in the face for British fruit-culture. *A. D., Surrey.*

—— As have prevailed elsewhere, in the Midlands we had precisely the same frosts and withering winds here, which have wrought about the same amount of harm amongst our smaller amount of Pear and Plum blossom as it appears to have done in the Vale of Evesham. On Sunday, April 19, the glass began to give way, and has continued to go down ever since. This afternoon (Monday) the wind has veered round to the south-west, and the temperature is now as mild as anyone could wish it to be. We might almost be pardoned for saying that we appear to have drifted all of a sudden from an arctic into a temperate zone; and it is seriously to be hoped that we will remain there for as long as that temperature will suit us. Apple-blossom, which is yet unexpanded, we flatter ourselves is so far safe; and let us hope that some also of the unopened Pear and Plum blossom will have escaped. *W. Miller, Berkswell, Coventry.*

—— The following numbers of degrees of cold were registered at Ashby St. Ledger, Rugby, last week, viz., April 13, 7°; 14, 9°; 15, rain and snow; 16, 12°; 17, 11°; 18, 9°; 19, 12°; 20, 8°. The outside fruit crops have suffered severely, and the only fruits which look uninjured are Apples, which are very late in blooming. *Wm. Camm.*

PINK-COLOURED ANEMONE BLANDA.—In reply to Mr. W. H. Divers' interesting note, I regret that I cannot at present give the date of the first flowering of the pink-flowered Anemone blanda raised by Mr. Allen. I hope to ascertain shortly, but it is not unlikely that Mr. Divers may have anticipated Mr. Allen, and we have to thank him for informing us of the existence of another plant giving the coveted colour. *S. Arnott, Carsethorn by Dumfries, N.B.*

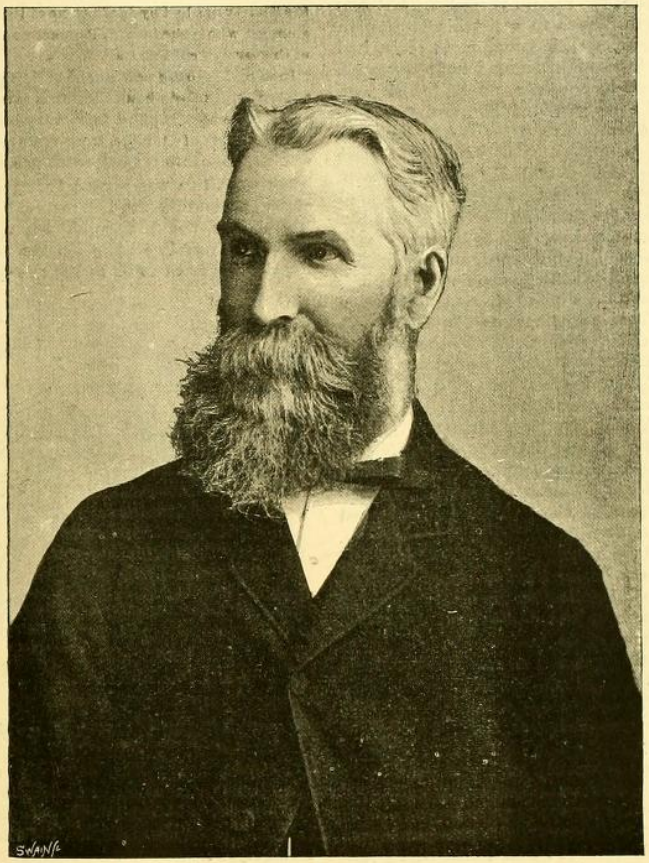
AN ANSWER TO THE ENQUIRY OF "PINKIE," REGARDING TOMATOS.—If "Pinkie" would sow Sutton's Winter Beauty Tomato on September 1, and grow them on very sturdy, shifting them three times so as to get as much root as possible, before placing them in 10-inch pots, this would be about the middle of December, afford them a very gentle bottom heat to induce root action, and a good position with top heat of 70° by day, and 63° to 65° by night, in accordance with the state of the weather, when the plants flower gently tap the wires they are tied to, to distribute the pollen, and carrying out all the details, it is certain that ripe fruits may be gathered on the 1st of March. In my own case, I sowed this variety on September 17, 1902, and gathered the first ripe fruits on March 22, 1903. *Jno. W. Barks, Bletchingley.*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—*The Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales*, February. Contents: Pot Experiments to determine the limit of Endurance of different Crops for certain Injurious Substances, F. W. Guthrie and R. Helms; Bottling Apples, W. J. Allen; Seed Wheat, N. A. Cobb; Sorghum Hay, Thinning Tomatos to increase size of Fruit.

ARCHIBALD BARRON.

A JUST and upright man, conscientious, of good abilities, sound judgment, and extensive knowledge, he was the friend of all, and the enemy of none. So long as gardeners grow Vines, so long will the author of *Vines and Vine-culture* be held in estimation. His work on Apples and Pears, though less known, is equally sound, but it remains buried in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*. To reprint these articles in a separate volume would be a fitting tribute to the great pomologist.

The funeral took place on April 18 in the churchyard adjoining the old church at Chiswick—a corner of the old world, quaint, pictural, and rich in associations, but hemmed in by the unlovely slums of a modern suburb. Here were gathered together to pay the last tribute of respect the Superintendent and staff of the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Chiswick, representatives of the Floral, Fruit, and Scientific Committees, of the Gardeners' Orphan Fund, and of the horticultural Press, together with pupils and old friends. Among those present were Dr. James Wilke (nephew), Edinburgh; Dr. F. Lawrance, Captain Robinson, R.N.; and Messrs. M. and G. H. Jupp, H. Miller (Secretary Church Association), J. Gammie, S. Sullivan, J. T. Musgrave, T. Stevens, Dr. Masters, Messrs. H. B. May, A. Dean, G. Wythes, E. T. Cook, J. Fraser, J. Thornton, W. R. Matthews, C. Lawrence, Cox (of Messrs. Sutton), S. T. Wright, T. Humphreys, T. W. and H. Turner, and S. R. Alexander. No doubt many others would have been present, but that they were attending the great Ghent show.



THE LATE ARCHIBALD BARRON (IN MIDDLE AGE).

Archibald Barron was a native of Aberdeen, a

district whence so many good gardeners have come, that it has given rise to the saying that they are propagated by cuttings in the northern city. His father was gardener at Crathes Castle, where his son passed his novitiate, and acquired a knowledge of vegetable culture, of florists' flowers, and of the general routine of gardening, not omitting the use of the scythe, for in those days mowing-machines were not. From Crathes he went south to Orton, near Peterborough, where he took part in the formation of the celebrated pinetum at that place, and thence proceeded to Arundel Castle, where the foundations of his knowledge of fruits and fruit culture were securely laid. His superior, Mr. McEwen, was a celebrated fruit-grower at the time, and Barron profited not a little from the procedures he witnessed at Arundel.

The gardens at Shrubland Park, near Bury St. Edmunds, were the next field of Barron's work; but he did not remain there long, but proceeded to South Wales to assist his brother in farming operations. McEwen, meanwhile, had been appointed to be Superintendent at Chiswick, and summoned his former pupil to his aid. McEwen died shortly afterwards, and was succeeded by the late Mr. Eyles. At Chiswick, Barron came in contact with Lindley, Robert Hogg, Thomas Moore, and Robert Thompson, from whose teaching and example he benefited greatly. Indeed, it may well be said that the mantle of Thompson descended to Barron.

Chiswick was still unmutilated, and occupied a much larger area than it does now. The big vinery had just been planted, and soon came under Barron's management, as Mr. Eyles was removed from Chiswick to undertake the management of the gardens at South Kensington, then in full celebrity, but destined soon to fall into decadence. A miserable time ensued; the Prince Consort died, the South Kensington garden rapidly degenerated, and Chiswick was sadly curtailed, and perforce neglected. Barron fought manfully under the most depressing circumstances, re-organised the garden, and rendered it highly useful even in its truncated condition. Now it was, in particular, that in spite of his retiring manners, he gained the admiration and warm esteem of his fellow workers. By his position and character he was admirably adapted for the post of Secretary to the Gardeners' Orphan Fund in its early days, and retained the post till ill-health compelled his retirement.

Ill-health also led to his resignation of the superintendency at Chiswick, and the Society being now fortunately in a better financial position than formerly was the case, was enabled to accord to him a substantial and well-earned pension. Since his retirement, gradually increasing ill-health prevented him from taking much part in horticultural affairs, so that to the rising race of horticulturists he was a name—but an honoured one rather than a personality. To those who were privileged to work with him, the case was quite otherwise, and a tie existed which no adverse circumstances could loosen.

Barron leaves a widow and two daughters to mourn his loss; and his son Leonard, after a period of probation in this office, migrated to the United States, and is now the well known and respected editor of *American Gardening*.

Croydon and District Horticultural Mutual Improvement Society.—The third annual exhibition of spring flowers and plants will be held in the Art Galleries, Park Lane, Croydon, on Wednesday, April 22, 1903, from 3 to 10 P.M. No charge is made for admission, and there are no entrance-fees for exhibits, and no prizes are awarded. The hon. sec. is Mr. Harry Bosher, 62, High Street, Croydon, to whom applications for space for exhibits should be made not later than Saturday, April 18.

SOCIETIES.

SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'AGRICULTURE ET DE BOTANIQUE DE GAND.

THE GHENT QUINQUENNIAL.

(April 18 to 26.)

THE fifteenth quinquennial international exhibition of this renowned Belgian Horticultural Society, which will close on Sunday, may be described as the greatest and most important horticultural show which has been held since the last "Quinquennial," in 1898. The work necessitated by the organisation of so great an exhibition, and the selection of 230 jurymen from most of the nationalities of Europe, is enormous; but the Council, with the indefatigable Comte de Kerchove de Denterghem at their head, and M. E. Fierens as their Secretary, have once again succeeded in making the Ghent Quinquennial a wonder to visitors from every country that was represented there. Since 1898, the Society has lost by death some of its best supporters, amongst whom the late M. Pynaert was known to most of the foreign exhibitors.

In addition to the permanent buildings of the Casino, a large annexe of about the same size as on the last occasion, and a smaller temporary building, devoted to the display of Orchids, were required to house the whole of the exhibits that needed protection.

The exhibition was opened during a violent snowstorm on Saturday, the 18th inst., at 2 o'clock P.M., by His Majesty the King, who was accompanied by Princess Clementine. The number of visitors from England appeared to be as large as formerly, and it

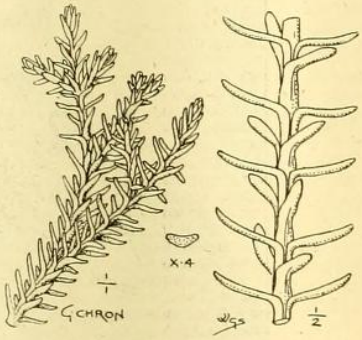


Fig. 111.—RETINOSPORA SANDERI: DETAILS OF FOLIAGE.

was remarked that at least twenty old Kewites were present.

It is quite impossible for us to give a full report of the plants shown, as their number is much greater than our space would permit, even if the arrangement of the groups was simpler, and the work of note-taking lighter.

NEW PLANTS.

One of the most attractive features of the Ghent shows is that of the new plants, which for years past have been of sufficient importance to excite much interest previous to each show. The class for Twelve New Plants, flowering or not flowering, recently introduced and not yet in commerce, was entered on the present occasion by Messrs. F. Sander & Co., St. Albans, who it will be remembered won 1st prize five years ago with an excellent collection, in which Acalypha hispida (Sanderi) caused a sensation. Messrs. Sander then and now had no competitor. Their plants consist of Dracæna Broomfieldi superba, Selaginella Watsoniana, Polypodium Knightiæ, Alpinia Sanderæ, Alsophila Sanderi (fig. 103), Heliconia Edwardus Rex, Phrynium Micholitzii, most of which were described and illustrated in our last issue; also Drymophloeus Mooreanus, an erect growing Palm, with greyish-green leaves; Cordyline (Dracæna) kewensis (Supplement, fig. 109), a capital decorative variety, with green leaves and reddish stem, apparently a good market plant; Bilbergia Forgetiana (see fig. 102); Pandanus Wavrinianus, a very remarkable variety, remarkable for its white spines, and the graceful recurved leaves; and Linospadix Leopoldi (see Supplement, fig. 106).

In addition to the plants already named, Messrs. Sander showed Retinospora Sanderi, see fig. 107; Alocasia Wavriniana, Ficus pandurata, with leaves a foot across; Asparagus myriocladus, a useful and most attractive plant, with pink-coloured stems; a monster specimen of the pretty variegated variety of Asparagus Sprengeri, Dracæna Victoria, Anthurium crystallinum illustre, with leaves marked freely with rich yellow; Saintpaulia ionatha variegata, which is not so attractive a plant as the type; Fourcroya Watsoniana, Pteris Maissonieri, from a cross between P. serrulata and P. tremula, a plant that exhibits evidences of P. tremula, but at present is exceedingly variable, many of the fronds being quite similar to those of P. serrulata. Messrs. Sander also exhibited, on behalf of M. Dreer, nurseryman, Philadelphia, U.S.A., a dozen or so magnificent plants of Pandanus Sanderi, one of the best new plants in the St. Albans collection in 1898; the leaves are variegated with rich yellow colour. The specimens being of considerable size, they showed the qualities of the plant to a remarkable degree.

Amongst other good plants in this section, though all of them were not absolutely new, were Dracæna Victoria, exhibited by M. A. Toeffaert, Gendbrugge; Marattia Stanleyana, a handsome Fern, with magnificent brown stems marked with little white stripes, exhibited by M. F. Lambeau, Brussels; Clivia (Imantophyllum) miniata striata, with freely variegated leaves; Grisebachia compacta, and Cyrtostachys renda var. Duvivieriana, a variety of this pretty Palm, with nearly scarlet stems, having a most extraordinary effect. The type, when a young plant, has generally yellowish or orange coloured stems, but we have not seen previously so large a specimen. Possibly the richer and deeper colour is not developed until the plants are some years old. The specimen was shown by M. L. De Smet Duvivier, of Mont St. Amand, and attracted much attention, there being no other Palm at all resembling this. The prize awarded was a Gold Medal, offered by the Comte Chandon de Brialles, President of the Society of Horticulture and Viticulture of Epernay.

M. Lambeau, of Bruxelles, obtained a 1st prize with "*félicitations*" in Class 10 for ten plants introduced into commerce since 1900, with a collection including Marattia Stanleyana, Ficus Eetveldiana, Pteris Droogmansiana, Asparagus Duchesnei, a fine plant trained on a balloon shaped trellis; Maranta Lujaiana, a decorative plant having green leaves; Cyrtosperma congolensis, Ficus Luciani, and Dichorisandra Thysiana.

In Class 2 for six plants not yet in commerce, a 1st prize was awarded to M. L. De Smet-Duvivier, Mont. St. Amand, Ghent, who had Ficus Duvivieri, with a habit suggesting that of F. elastica, but having much thinner leaves, and being more tender; Croton gandavensis, a moderately broad-leaved variety, tricoloured; Phlebodium elegans, an elegant plant with pale green coloured fronds; Gesnera reginæ, having green velvety leaves, with white midrib and main veins, flowers bluish-purple colour; Anthurium gandavensis, a hybrid of A. Scherzerianum, with rosy-red coloured spathes; and a spotted Odontoglossum named "Rex."

Rubus reflexus (?), shown by several exhibitors, was very much admired. The leaves of this plant resemble those of a Begonia. They are thick, digitate, of a bright green colour, with darker colour following the rib and veins. As the leaves get older they assume a greyish tint, just like that of some Begonias. They are six inches long or more, and as much across at the base, but vary much in size. The margins are very slightly, and evenly toothed. Plants were shown by some exhibitors, and long growths as if cut from a Vine were used by others in decoration. It excited much comment.

A group of plants of a new Dracæna was shown by M. L. J. Draps Dom, 76, Prève Ste. Anne, Laeken, Bruxelles. The leaves were very rich red in colour, and the variety is certainly a first-rate decorative plant. The specimens also exhibited exemplary cultivation.

Vriesia hieroglyphica variegata, shown by M. C. Vermeire, of Gendbrugge, was one of the prettiest plants in the show. The upper surface of the leaves is pale green, with darker green, bar-like markings across them at distances of less than an inch; also distinct white stripes, from one end to the other; the markings are much more intense upon the underside of the leaves. This magnificent plant had about twenty leaves, and was growing in a 6-inch pot. Other new varieties of plants, including Orchids, are mentioned under the sectional headings following.

THE ORCHIDS.

Award of a Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Special accommodation had been provided for the Orchid classes by the construction of a commodious additional building fitted with a broad staging all round, and two stages in the middle portion. Every part of the space was well occupied by exhibits of good quality, and in some cases of extraordinary merit, the

cement or clay and moss. This method consists in building up such spaces by means of tiny bits of stone, using soil instead of mortar, and putting in small plants sideways as the work proceeds. Keep the whole flush with the stones on either side, ramming both soil and stones well around the plants, and taking care that the roots of the plants can have access to the main body of soil behind the larger stones. This method I consider by far the best in the end. It may look a little "patchy," but if suitable plants are chosen and properly planted they will soon obliterate all trace of a joint, and the stones will appear united into massive rock.

This method was also used in the construction of the rock garden represented by the illustrations given last week, but of course, as yet, the plants are so small that they are scarcely discernible in the picture. Illustration No. 1, for instance, shows on the left side a row of stones resting on the top of a cement wall forming the beginning of the pond. In the second one the pond is full of water, and the same row of stones is seen on the far side of the water, but the spaces between the joints are filled up in the manner recommended with small stones and plants. The latter are scarcely visible, but in a few months the desired effect will have been attained. Just above the spot referred to a batch of German Iris may be seen, and the little promontory in the foreground on the left is filled with Japanese Iris (Iris lævigata), planted in such a way that their roots can have free access to the water. Behind the large stone in the foreground and planted on a moist level spot is a colony of Primula rosea, and the rocks adjoining are adorned with Primulas, Gentians, Ramondia, and other good things, which, though insignificant now, will enliven the rocks in a very short time, and when they are at their best I hope to give another picture by way of comparison.

Elmside, Exeter. F. W. Meyer.

(*To be continued.*)

OBITUARY.

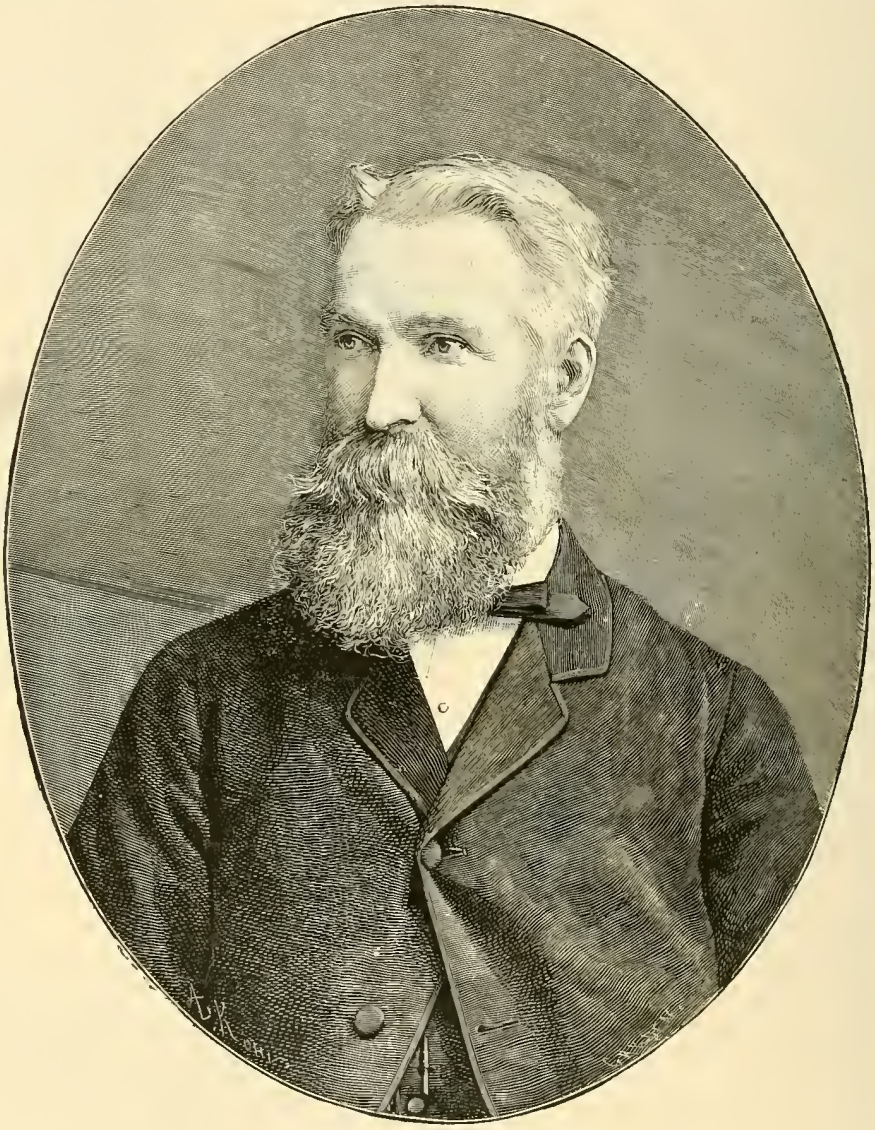
A. F. BARRON.

One by one the older horticulturists pass from the ranks of the living. On Saturday last, in the presence of many of his old friends, the remains of Mr. Barron were laid to rest in Chiswick Cemetery, not a mile from the historic gardens over which for many years he presided with enthusiasm and skill. Soon, too, we believe the gardens will pass away, and with them all reminiscences of the labours of one of the greatest horticulturists of his time. This is not fulsome flattery. Mr. Barron's position in the horticultural world was won by a first-rate training in youth, devotion to duty, and great knowledge of fruit culture in general. When Mr. Barron retired in 1895 from his position as superintendent it was felt that nothing less than a national testimonial should be offered to him, and, as many of our readers well know, this was made to him by Dr. Masters at a meeting in the Horticultural Club in January, 1896. The sum collected was £500, and well we remember his pleasure when he saw the names of so many of his old pupils and workers under him in the gardens, which he may be said to have loved with his whole heart. We wish for his health's sake that he thought more of other things perhaps than his work at Chiswick. Beneath an apparently cold and brusque manner there was a warm and sympathetic heart, and he was ever ready in his own quiet way to help forward the men who passed through the gardens during his many years of office.

Retiring in disposition, nervous in temperament, it was small wonder that Mr. Barron felt keenly the separation from his sphere of work, but he was not forgotten. Until a few years ago, when he became quite infirm, he took his place upon the fruit committee, of which he had acted as secretary during his long association with Chiswick, and it was a comfort we know to him that he enjoyed a honorary life Fellowship of the society he had served so well, and was also in the first list of those who received the Victoria Medal of Honour.

Mr. Barron's work amongst fruit and vegetables was immense. The reports of the Pear and Apple congresses are sufficient testimony to his untiring industry, and his book upon the Vine is the standard authority. Nor can we forget Mr. Barron's disinterested services in connexion with the Gardeners' Orphan Fund, of which he was secretary from its inception in 1887 until through ill-health compelled to abandon his honorary post. Whatever our late friend undertook to do, he did it with all his might, but without proclaiming to the world his own efforts.

he did his best for the society he served has been proved over and over again by the publications relating to the Chiswick garden in the society's Journal. Placed in a most onerous position, the superintendent at Chiswick was brought into contact with all sorts and conditions of men, and he made many friends among gardeners generally. . . . . The Apple and Pear and other hardy fruit reports of the society, and 'Vines and Vine Culture' are well-known works due to Mr. Barron's practical and literary ability, while the living and growing interest he has taken in the Gardeners' Orphan Fund entitles him to the gratitude, not of gardeners only, but of all interested in the future of children left alone in



THE LATE ARCHIBALD F. BARRON.

It is interesting to look back in The Garden and read the reference to Mr. Barron at the time of his retirement. Mr. Burbidge (August 10, 1895, page 112), says: "The retirement of Mr. Barron from the Chiswick garden of the Royal Horticultural Society of London (after a service of considerably more than a quarter of a century) marks an epoch in its history as one of the centres of scientific horticulture in this country. For many years Mr. Barron has been a staunch and loyal official who has worked strenuously, even in the face of many difficulties, and when environed in doubts and uncertainties of many kinds. Through all vicissitudes and unpleasantness Mr. Barron always acted firmly and wisely, and that

the world. As an old pupil of Mr. Barron in the Chiswick garden, before it was restricted in its area and scope as now, and as a friend since that time, I think that all gardeners will feel it a personal privilege and pleasure to wish the retiring superintendent God-speed, and a happy and quiet period of comparative rest after so long, laborious, and honourable a career."

During Mr. Barron's long connexion as superintendent with the Chiswick gardens, a period of thirty-five years, trials of fruit, vegetables, and flowers were carried out with a thoroughness that we feel convinced helped to tide the society over the blackest period in its history, when, through South Kensington entanglements, this historic

organisation was almost wrecked. We look back with pride to that splendid horticultural work which has developed in the midst of troubles and vexations, and it was carrying out, surely, a policy that must be pursued in the future if the society is to be the leading exponent of horticultural practice in this country.

We have referred to the testimonial fund. If space permitted we should have been pleased to print the list of the committee to show the representative nature of the testimonial, but it is interesting to read that Mr. Harry Veitch was the treasurer and Mr. Wynne, an old Chiswick student, the secretary.

Mr. Barron received from the council of the society an annual pension of £180, and during the closing years of his life his happiest moments were spent with his old friends who spoke to him of the days long ago when Chiswick was the great horticultural centre, and fed, so to say, the great exhibitions held at South Kensington. Exhibitions of great magnitude were arranged by Mr. Barron and his assistants, and his services as a judge of fruit were in great request.

Mr. Barron was in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and has therefore spent the best part of a busy life at Chiswick. He began his gardening career at a place near Brantry, in Scotland, where he, however, stayed only for a brief period. From thence he went to Shetly, near Swansea, and the next move was to England, namely, the gardens of Arundle Castle, the residence of the Duke of Norfolk. Through the influence of Mr. Gordon whose "Pinetum" is a work of enduring importance, he came to Chiswick as a journeyman, and when Mr. George Eyles retired became superintendent. This is a brief history of Mr. Barron's gardening career. To Mrs. Barron and his family we tender our deep sympathy, and we are not unmindful of the tender devotion of Mrs. Barron to her husband in his life work at Chiswick. Without her encouragement and sympathy we feel that Mr. Barron would not have accomplished that enduring work which is the proud record of our late friend.

The only son, Mr. Leonard Barron, is editor of *American Gardening*, and we hope that his work for horticulture across the seas will be as fruitful in good results as that of his father in England.

Owing to the Ghent Quinquennial show occuring last week and this, few comparatively assembled in the church and at the graveside. Those present were Dr. Masters, and Messrs. H. B. May (representing the society), S. T. Wright (superintendent of the Chiswick gardens), E. T. Cook, G. Wythes, W. P. Thomson, T. Humphreys, John Fraser, J. H. Dick, A. Dean, Turner, and Mr. Cox, representing Messrs. Sutton and Sons. Many beautiful wreaths were sent by friends from afar, and the family received many letters and telegrams of sympathy.

The volume of The Garden for midsummer, 1888, was dedicated to Mr. Barron.

By the decease of this universally-known horticulturist, Pomology has lost one of its most distinguished exponents. I first made Mr. Barron's acquaintance in 1866—the year of the ever-memorable International Horticultural Exhibition at South Kensington—the year in which he was appointed superintendent of the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Chiswick. His first appearance at historic Chiswick—as a journeyman gardener—was, however, in 1858, so that his advance to the important position just noted was a rapid one, a position he retired from in 1895. Far abler pens than mine will, doubtless, tell in your columns of his many and notable victories on the pomological field. Exigencies of space will only permit my referring—and that in a very brief manner—to some of them. What a past master he was in the cultivation of that delicious fruit, the Fig. How well, too, he wrote about this particular fruit, a fine collection of which is still grown at Chiswick. Who can forget the admirable paper he contributed on their culture on the occasion of the Royal Horticultural Society's provincial show at Oxford in 1870? And the society's own admirable Journal has, in recent years, been the medium of expressing his successful practice in this direction, to say nothing of his communications on the same subject to the weekly horticultural press, all tending to further extend and deservedly popularise this fruit. His most successful book, "Vines and Vine Culture," needs no comment or praise. In my opinion, at any rate, Mr. Barron will always be justly accorded a very high position amongst pomologists for his successful labours in connexion with the Apple congress held at Chiswick.

How truly invaluable here, in the compilation of the reports of these conferences in the society's Journal, was his unique experience! Only those who have intimate knowledge of the great work thrown on his shoulders at these fruit conferences can estimate the work at its true and proper value. Then his knowledge of vegetables was of the same high-class order, displayed again at the well-known vegetable conference, and, if I may be permitted to point a moral for some of the young gardeners of to-day, it would be to lay particular stress on the shining example which Archibald Barron, the once journeyman gardener, sets them of the value in these days, probably more than in any other, of a sound, practical knowledge of these important branches of gardening—hardy fruit and vegetable culture—so apt to be ignored, to their own great disadvantage, by the "glass" men. Reference to the young men irresistibly compels me to make only a passing allusion to many who served under Mr. Barron, some of whom, in various capacities, are now ornaments to the horticultural profession. How well I recollect in 1868 my good friend Mr. F. W. Burbidge, the talented curator of the Trinity College Botanical Gardens, Dublin! And, finally, Mr. Barron will always be very gratefully remembered in the hearts of the craft for his splendid work on behalf of gardeners' orphans as first secretary of the Gardeners' Orphan Fund.

Quo.

[*Many letters have been received about Mr. Barron's work, but must be held over through pressure upon space.*—Ed.]

SOCIETIES.

GHENT QUINQUENNIAL SHOW.

No horticultural event on the Continent occasions more interest than the great Quinquennial Show at Ghent. The weather was not kind, but the exhibition itself was superb, while the new plants were of much interest. In the leading article this week reference is made to the more important features.

Exhibits from England.

Messrs. R. P. Ker and Sons, Liverpool, showed a grand collection of Amaryllis; the flowers were bold, of distinct and handsome colouring, well arranged, and were universally admired. They were little, if any, the worse for their long journey from England. Among the best and really distinct coloured flowers we noticed Imperator, deep scarlet; White Lady, white, except for slight pale red markings; Salmon Queen, true salmon, shaded with pink; Momus, deep scarlet; Vulcan, dark scarlet; Puritan, vermilion and white, with greenish white centre; Ruby King, very handsome, very dark red; Exquisite, a lovely bloom, claret-red markings upon pure white ground; Pegasus, vermilion, with white central bands; Pygmalion, uniform red, shaded with rose; and Pink Beauty, lovely dark pink-rose. This collection won the first prize in its class.

Messrs. Cannell and Sons, Swanley, Kent, showed a collection of zonal Pelargonium flowers in many beautiful varieties. They were in splendid condition, and made a very bright display. Among the best were Circe, double pink; Mary Pellon, salmon-pink; Mrs. Ewing, pale salmon; Lord Curzon, rosy red; Lady Curzon, lovely pale pink; Magara, white; Golden Gate, double scarlet; Barbara Hope, salmon; Captain Holford, red, tinged with crimson; and Lady Roscoe, pink.

The magnificent display of new plants by Messrs. Sander and Sons, St. Albans and Bruges, is described elsewhere.

Orchids.

M. A. Peeters, Brussels, had a magnificent display of Orchids, by far the best exhibit in this section. He was awarded the medal given by the King of the Belgians, and also the gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society for the best collection of Orchids. They consisted chiefly of hybrids, and these were particularly choice and beautiful. We shall describe several of them under new and noteworthy plants, so that it is unnecessary to mention many here. Especially good were Cœlogyne cristata lemoniana, Masdevallia Veitchii superba, M. Lindeni, Odontoglossum hunnewellianum nigrum, several fine forms of O. Rolfeæ, O. crispum violaceum, O. c. virginale, O. excellens Prince of Orange, Zygopetalum Perrenondi, Phalænopsis grandiflora var. rimestadiana, Cattleya Schroderæ alba, Cattleya Mozart (C. lobata × C. lawrenceana), Cattleya L. Chaton (C. lawrenceana × C. Trianæ), Lælio-Cattleya Mrs. Leeman (C. aurea × L. dighyana), Cypripedium aureum Surprise (C. spicerianum × C. Sallieri), C. aureum var. virginale, and many more. M. Peeters also won the first prize for the best collection of hybrid Orchids, and these, too, were remarkably fine. Those already named were included as well as those elsewhere described.

For the best collection of 100 Orchids, M. Vincke-Dujardin, Bruges, won the first prize, and was the only exhibitor. The Oncidiums were very good, and also Cattleya Parthenia carnea, Ansellia africana, and Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum. M. Vincke-Dujardin also had the best collection of Lælias and Cattleyas, which were well flowered, though not in any way a remarkable display. The first prize for a collection of thirty Odontoglossums went to the same exhibitor, who showed some lovely flowers; for instance, O. Pescatorei album, O. triumphans rubrum, good forms of O. Adrianæ and O. mackerianum. In a class for the best fifty Odontoglossum crispum, M. Vincke-Dujardin was again first, but had no very fine forms. The purple-shaded ones were best.

The Marquis de Wavrin was first for the largest and best collection of Lælias and Cattleyas. C. Mendelii, C. Schroderæ, C. S. rosea (very fine), and L.-C. callistoglossa were very good. The Marquis de Wavrin was first for a collection of white forms of Lælias and Cattleyas, the best being L.-C. Kerchoveæ (a lovely hybrid between L. anceps alba and C. Trianæ alba).

For the best collection of seventy-five Orchids, M. L. de Smet-Duvivier was first with a good display, Oncidiums, Dendrobiums, and Cattleya Trianæ Regina being the best features.

M. Fanyan had the best lot of thirty Orchids, which included L.-C. chollettiana, L.-C. Hippolyta, L.-C. warnhamensis var. Onix, and other good hybrids.

For a collection of fifteen Cypripediums, M. Pynaert was first. C. Mme. Ed. Pynaert, C. callosum Sanderæ, C. nitens, &c., were notable sorts.

M. A. E. Praet had the best lot of fifty Orchids, and MM. Verdonck of Gendbrugge the best collection of Orchids from Guatemala and Colombia.

For ten hybrid Cypripediums, MM. Janssens and Putzeys were first. Included were C. × Rialto (Sallieri hyeanum × spicerianum), C. × Felix Putzeys (spicerianum magnificum × villosum nigrum), C. × virginale (Sallieri hyeanum × spicerianum), C. × Carmen (Sallieri hyeanum × spicerianum), and C. × antwerpiense (spicerianum × villosum aureum).

In the class for a new hybrid Orchid between two different genera, M. de Bièvre, head gardener to the King, was first for Lælio-Cattleya Prince Leopold (C. chocoensis × L. cinnabarina), described elsewhere.

A splendid plant of Cymbidium bearing thirteen racemes, each with about twenty-five flowers, was shown by M. Tromp Meesters, Steenwijk.

Palms.

There was a magnificent display of these plants. The first prize for a collection of the finest Palms was won by La Société Horticole Gantoise with remarkably fine plants. The gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society of England was also given to this group. Some of the plants were huge specimens, some reaching to the top of the building, and quite 30 feet to 40 feet high. Some of the best of them were Sabal sp., Caryota urens, Kentia australis, K. fosteriana, Areca sapida, Livistona rotundifolia, Chamærops ataurachanta, Kentia Lindeni, Rhapis flabelliformis (about 12 feet high and the same through), and Phœnix Roebelini, a very elegant Palm. This was a splendid group and very large, filling a good part of one side of the hall. The second prize for a group of Palms went to MM. de Smet frères, Ghent, who also had splendid plants.

M. L. Shae, Vandermeulen, was first for twelve Palms, and showed some fine plants. Sabal blackburniana, Areca sapida, and Rhapis humilis were splendid. M. A. de Smet, Ledeburg, had the best specimen of Rhapis humilis, a grand plant some 15 feet high, and M. H. Millet-Richard, Ledeburg, was first for a collection of fifteen rare Palms. Included were Geonoma Leemanni, Linospadix petrickiana, Licuala grandis, Wallichia oblongifolia, Latania aurea, Chamædorea geonomæformis, and other rare Palms.

In the class for a new Palm not in commerce M. P. de Bruycker, Ghentbrugge, was first with Kentia elegans, an attractive plant some 4 feet high, with elegant leaves, slender leaflets, and very graceful appearance.

M. L. de Smet Duvivier, Mont St. Amand, Ghent, won the gold medal offered by Count Chandon de Briailles for a new plant with a Palm, Cyrtostachys renda var. duvivieriana. It is of stiff habit of growth, like an Areca somewhat, with striking bright red stems and leaf stalks, leaves a good green with red midribs. The plant shown was from 6 feet to 8 feet high.

Cycads.

M. de Ghellinck de Walle, Chatean de Wondelgem, won the first prize for the best fifteen Cycads, showing splendid plants. One is of immense size, as, for instance, Encephalartos caffra, Zamia villosa, Z. horrida, Z. funiculata, Z. Lehmanni glauca, Z. Altensteinii, Lepidozamia Macleayi, and L. peroffskiana.

Ferns.

Collection of thirty Tree and other Ferns: First prize, M. le Comte de Kerchove de Denterghem, with grand plants of Alsophila australis, Woodwardia radicans, Cyathea medullaris, Cibotium Barometz (very elegant, black stems), Nephrolepis bostoniensis, and Adiantum pentadactylon. M. Pynaert also won a first prize in another similar class. Cibotium Schudei (?), Angiopteris fraxinifolia, and Nephrolepis bostoniensis were the best.

M. Pynaert was also first for a collection of thirty exotic Ferns (not Tree). Todea africana was the best.

Aroids.

For a collection of twenty-five Anthuriums in flower, M. A. de Smet was first with some very fine plants, particularly A. schertzerianum Wardi (large scarlet spathes), A. S. roseum, A. S. President Steyaert (large, blood-red), A. S.

Still, there can be no doubt whatever that it is preferable to sow sufficiently late, so that the plants do not remain too long in the seed-bed. There should be no rest or wait between the time the plants are above the soil and of planting. The best Broccolis I have seen are those given field culture, and treated as advised, that is an ample seed-bed, early planting before the plants are weakened by overcrowding, and after the planting there is no coddling, that is, the plants are thoroughly exposed and make a sturdier growth than in rich garden soil. As regards sowing a certain date cannot be given to suit all parts of the country. In the South the early Broccoli is one of the best paying crops grown, and, though my note refers more to the value of the late supplies, I would add the early spring varieties are equally valuable.

It will be found in such seasons as this that if the late Broccolis are earlier than usual, other green crops, such as the Borecoles, will be soon over. This will result in scarcity for a short time, but it is a simple matter to keep the small late heads of Broccoli later by lifting and laying in under a north wall and screening from bright sunshine. Treated thus, quite a fortnight's time as regards the supply will be secured.

There is no gain whatever in sowing late, as the plants do not pay. They must have a fair season's growth, and when sown too late the result is disappointing. Of course, much may be done to keep up a full supply by sowing late varieties, but these cannot always be trusted. This year we are cutting June Monarch early in April, but there are some compensations, as when the Broccoli is erratic the spring Cabbage is much earlier. This is a great gain, as if one fails the other comes in to take its place.

Another point the grower should always bear in mind is that no plant can stand extremes of heat and cold, rain, and snow if not strong and well-rooted. It is the weak ones that fall out, and it is well to get a good plant to stand our variable winters.

I have referred to soil and position. With regard to the former I have always got the best supplies from a deeply-dug or holding soil. This results in a more solid growth, and, given free exposure, there are fewer losses. In many gardens the Broccoli crop cannot get much attention, and even with the best culture there are great losses in severe winters. I have found fewer plants die when grown on as advised. Our soil is very light, but we get a hard root-run by planting on land from which the early or first Strawberries have just been cleared. For the latter crop the soil is trenched, well manured, and the early plants only occupy one season, as our object is fine fruit. The Strawberries are hoed off and the Broccoli placed in position: they are planted between the rows, the land being very hard and trodden. Of course, to do this good plants is necessary, and this is easily managed by pricking out the seedlings if the season is late.

Our best late Broccolis are not numerous, and I will only refer to those I have grown for some time, and these, in my opinion, are far superior to the huge heads grown a quarter of a century ago. For home supplies—that is, the private garden—two varieties should be grown in all gardens where delicate, medium-sized heads are required for use from April to June. Veitch's Model is one of the best introductions of late years, and very little inferior to the best Cauliflowers; it is very hardy, of fine texture, beautifully white, and well protected with its folding foliage. This variety is very distinct, the heads being conical, remarkably close and compact, and of splendid flavour. We usually have this variety on three quarters to get a long supply, and in severe seasons the plants on a north border escaped when those on a warmer one were killed.

Another very fine late Broccoli is Sutton's Late Queen. It is as valuable as Model, and one of the hardiest sorts grown. I have had it at midsummer in the northern part of the kingdom; indeed, it never failed, as it is a dwarf grower and a splendid garden variety. Another very late variety, also hardy, is Carter's Champion, which is a very fine Broccoli. June Monarch is also good, very late, and hardy. A favourite Broccoli in Scotland and the North is Methven's; it gives a close, compact head, and is a well-flavoured variety. The old Cattell's Eclipse is also hardy, but many do not like its sulphur colour. It is still a favourite for field culture. G. Wythes.

OBITUARY.

ANDREW PETTIGREW.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Andrew Pettigrew, of Cardiff Castle Gardens, which took place on Sunday morning last, April 26. Mr. Pettigrew, who was seventy years of age, had been seriously ill for some weeks. By his death we lose one of the most notable of British gardeners. Mr. Pettigrew was known throughout the kingdom as an expert horticulturist, more particularly as a fruit grower, and

THE LATE MR. ANDREW PETTIGREW.

was greatly respected wherever known. His face will be missed by many at horticultural gatherings.

Even those who did not know him personally will hear with great regret of his death, for Andrew Pettigrew was a household word in gardening circles, while those who had the pleasure of close acquaintance with him will remember him as an honourable, just yet generous and warm-hearted man, and a typical Scottish gardener.

Mr. Pettigrew commenced work in an Ayrshire garden at the early age of twelve, and subsequently worked in the following gardens for periods varying from nine months to two years: Craigie House (Ayr), Dalblair House (Ayr), Rozelle House (Ayr), Sheffield Botanic Gardens, Minard Castle, Drumlanrig Castle, Stoke Farm, Daylesford House, and Rollinson's Nurseries, Tooting. At the age of twenty-nine Mr. Pettigrew was appointed head gardener to the late C. Meeking, Esq., Richings Park, Bucks, and remained there for six years. Then, greatly against the wishes of his employer, he returned to Scotland to take charge of the late Marquis of Bute's gardens at Dumfries House, Ayrshire. After six years' service there Mr. Pettigrew, at the request of the Marquis, went to South Wales to lay out the gardens around Cardiff Castle.

Subsequently Mr. Pettigrew formed the famous vineyards and successfully conducted experiments in wine making after spending some time in visiting vineyards in France and studying the methods of wine making there. Mr. Pettigrew had been in the service of the Bute family for thirty-six years. The pot Vines and Melons, as well as the specimen Apple and Pear trees in the gardens of Cardiff Castle, we have rarely, if ever, seen equalled, and Mr. Pettigrew was justly proud of them. He was a thorough gardener, and took delight in excelling in his profession.

Several eminent gardeners of to-day have spent some time in the Cardiff Castle Gardens under Mr. Pettigrew, and it is not too much to say that in a large degree they owe their present success to the knowledge gained under his thorough tuition. Mr. Pettigrew was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, before which he has lectured on several occasions. He was a valued contributor to our columns. Great sympathy will be felt with Mrs. Pettigrew, her three sons and daughter in their bereavement.

JAMES W. WITHERS.

Mr. Withers, of the *American Gardening* Publishing Company, New York, died on April 13 in Jamaica, West Indies, whither he had gone in hopes of recuperating his health.

Mr. Withers was born in Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, England, forty-two years ago. Going to America in 1892, Mr. Withers entered the employment of the Oasis Nursery Company. In 1894 he joined the staff of the *Florists' Exchange*. In October, 1898, he purchased *American Gardening*. During his stay in the United States the deceased did some excellent work in the cause of horticulture. He took a keen interest in exhibitions, and did everything in his power to encourage them. He was an active worker in various horticultural organisations. In the untimely death of Mr. Withers horticulture has surely lost a valued exponent and true friend. —*The Florists' Exchange.*

THE LATE MR. BARRON, V.M.H.

Your pages are always open to those who advocate the claims of our gardening charities or who work in their behalf. Our good friend and worthy horticulturist, Mr. A. F. Barron, will be remembered as one who did much for the widow and orphan. Few were his equals with regard to fruit, especially hardy fruit culture. As a judge of fruits it was a pleasure for anyone to be associated with him. There is no occasion to point out the late Mr. Barron's qualities. These were testified to when he resigned the position as superintendent of the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens by the testimonial of £500 presented to him on that occasion. We all regret the loss of such men, and sympathise with those he has left behind. G. Wythes.

Mr. A. F. Barron's Book of the Vine.

The late Mr. A. F. Barron undoubtedly possessed a wide knowledge of fruits, and a good deal of that knowledge may be found incorporated in the "Fruit Manual" and other books to which he was a contributor but not the author. He left behind, however, one book at least that is a standard authority, viz., his "Book of the Vine." It is without doubt the best and most authoritative work on the subject that has ever been issued from the press, and has the merit of being not merely fully but most truthfully illustrated. Mr. Barron had a very matter-of-fact mind, and he carried that fact thoroughly into his book. For that reason it is found on all gardeners' book-shelves, and is the work of reference when Vines are in question. It is not a big book by any means, but it is one that will live long after many other books have been forgotten.

It is very difficult indeed to keep books on gardening up to date, the progress made being so rapid, but the Vine progresses very slowly; indeed, the varieties held in the highest esteem twenty years ago or much longer are still the best varieties of to-day, and, judging by the rate with which new varieties of Grapes are introduced that make reputations, it is just possible that a century may elapse ere we shall see Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Muscat of Alexandria, Mrs. Pince, Black Muscat, Gros Colman, Black Alicante, Lady Downe's, and Foster's Seedling displaced.

Of the several varieties that have received awards or been put into commerce during the past ten years hardly one has yet made any reputation. Something may be due to the fact that Vines can only do so very slowly. It is this fact that lends such value to the late Mr. Barron's book, and must for many years yet to come make it the standard work on the Vine in British horticulture. A. D.

BOOKS.

The Chrysanthemum: History, Classification, Description, and Culture.—This in plain English is the title of a new book that has just been published in the Italian language by a Mr. Dario Formilli of Rome. It is a pretty book, and, judging by its bulk, it is likely to prove to be a very useful one. It is the first book that has ever been written in Italian on the subject of the Chrysanthemum, and for style and comprehensiveness is an example to be imitated. We cannot compare it with any other book that we know of or with which our readers are familiar, but if we did we should be inclined to say that it was a happy blending of styles analogous to "Le Chrysanthème, by Anatole Cordonnier, and the Chrysanthemum Album published by Sautel, whose coloured engravings are vividly recalled to our memory by those in Mr. Formilli's book. The author certainly deals with his subject in a very liberal manner, and seems to have spared no expense in producing a useful and, at the same time, well-executed cultural and historical manual. History, the various types with illustrations in black and white, literature, culture for all the many purposes to which the Chrysanthemum is put are freely and ably dealt with. Various composts, formulæ for liquid manures and mixtures to combat the rust, &c., are also supplied. Then there are lists of the best varieties for all kinds of purposes, besides much other literary matter, which we cannot even briefly review. The book is a substantial volume, well printed, freely illustrated, and one that we hope will materially help to extend the culture of the Chrysanthemum in Italy and to add to the dignity and well-being of the Italian National Chrysanthemum Society, after whose late president, Mr. A. Scalarandis, the variety forming the coloured frontispiece is named.

SOCIETIES.

CROYDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society has every reason to be pleased with its third annual exhibition of spring flowers and plants, which was held recently in the Art Galleries, Park Lane, Croydon. The objects of the society are not for the purpose of enabling its members to obtain monetary and other rewards for the particular branch of horticulture in which they may be engaged or take up as a hobby, but to create and encourage a love of horticulture amongst the masses, and this is certainly brought about by exhibitions such as this. Purely for the love of horticulture professional and amateur gardeners enter into friendly rivalry, and certainly with the result that year by year one sees an advance on the exhibitions of previous years. There were on this occasion more entrie than previously, and the quality throughout was of a higher standard. The exhibition consisted of collections of plants and Ferns, which were gronped round the wal and in the centre of the room. Amongst some of the most prominent groups visitors could not fail to be etruck by those of Mr. M. E. Mills, gardener to Mr. F. Lloyd, of Coombe House, who had a collection of herbaceous plants, including some fine specimens of the Narcissus Emperor and Empress blooms, and also showed a splendid collection of Primula obconica. Mr. J. Dingwall, gardener to Mr. F. Stanley, J.P., of Cumberlow, South Norwood, in a tastefully-arranged gronp of flowers and plants, exhibited a splendid specimen of Amaryllis. Mr. A. May, gardener to Mr. Wickham Noakes, of Selsdon Park, had a collection of Cinerarias of delicate tints and shades, and other collections of flowers, Ferns, &c., were sent by Mr. F. Oxtoby, gardener to Mr. J. J. Reid, of Coombe Lodge; Mr. E. Perrett, gardener to Mrs. Fuller, of Hollywood, Duppas Hill; Mr. W. Bentley, gardener to Mr. George Curling, of Elgin House, Addiscombe; and Mr. J. R. Ball, gardener to Mr. A. D. Klaber, of Norhyrst, South Norwood, who also showed some forced French beans. Amongst the nurserymen Mr. Butcher, of South Norwood, in the centre of the gallery grouped a first-rate collection of Palms, plants, Ferns, &c., the effect of which was much enhanced by the magnificent bouquets of Roses Gloire de Dijon and La France, which occupied prominent positions at each end of the group. Messrs. J. R. Box and Co. of Derby Road, Croydon, had some excellent spring flowers, including the finest variety of the Barri section, Dorothy E. Wemyss; also an interesting collection of alpine plants, showing how these can be utilised in Japanese art pots for table decorations. Messrs. J. Peed and Sons, of West Norwood, had a similar exhibition of alpine plants. A feature of the show was the group of Orchids sent by Mr. E. Kromer, of Bandon Hill.

MIDLAND DAFFODIL SHOW.

NEW DAFFODILS AT BIRMINGHAM.

As the exhibition of the above society at Birmingham is regarded as the leading competitive display of the flower in the kingdom, it is not to be wondered at that new varieties find their way there from all parts. The judges and the leading experts present form a floral committee and act precisely in the same manner as the Daffodil committee at the Drill Hall. A large number of novelties were staged by the Rev. G. H. Engleheart, Miss Willmott, Messrs. Barr and Sons, Messrs. de Graaff and Son, and others, and the following varieties obtained awards of merit. No first-class certificate was granted, the Daffodil experts apparently holding the opinion that unless their allocation is challenged by something most distinctly novel it is best to make awards of merit in the first instance, leaving it open to make the higher award of a first-class certificate later on.

The Rev. G. H. Engleheart was, as usual, in strong force, and he obtained awards of merit for the following:—

Strongbow.—Of the character of Nelsoni, having a broad, white, overlapping perianth, and a long, clear yellow and somewhat spreading cup.

Laureate.—A very large form of the Poeticus type, white, with a large flat cup like that of Poetarum.

Salmonea.—A rather small and star-shaped Burbidgei, perianth white, with a delicate orange cup, paler on the edge, almost to white.

White Ensign.—Another Burbidgei, having a broad, pure white overlapping perianth and large flat yellow cup slightly stained on the edge.

Broadwing.—Somewhat of the same character; large pure white perianth, and a large and somewhat flat yellow cup margined with light orange. It was stated that the whole of the stock of this was disposed of on the day the award was made.

Castille.—A large Barrii type, soft lemon, star-shaped perianth, with a medium-sized spreading cup of bright orange.

Hyacinth.—One of the flat crowned varieties Mr. Engleheart has produced, the perianth pnre white, the flat cup clear lemon-yellow; a rather small-sized variety with a distinct perfume.

Miss Willmott obtained awards of merit for

Lemon Queen.—An incomparabilis type having a large soft yellow perianth and spreading cup of a darker yellow, but smaller in proportion to the perianth.

Red Charles Digby.—A Johnstoni bicolor, with small white open perianth and large soft yellow trumpet.

Cecil Rhodes.—Also of the Johnstoni type, in colour pale lemon yellow, having a flat open perianth and long straight trumpet.

Corydon.—One of the Backhousei type, having a creamy overlapping perianth and soft yellow spreading cup of the Sir Watkin type.

Ducat.—A medium-sized well-formed trumpet variety, like an undersized but refined Golden Spur.

Moonray.—A hybrid of triandrus, having a pure white expanded cup and perianth, somewhat in the way of Moonstone, but the perianth is more open and the cup not quite so bold.

Messrs. Pope and Son received an award of merit for

King's Norton, which might be described as a giant Emperor, the trumpet large and rather bolder than in the case of King Alfred, but with scarcely so solid a perianth, which is of a primrose-yellow shade.

Messrs. Barr and Sons obtained awards of merit for

Cleopatra.—A large yellow trumpet variety, having a broad flat overlapping perianth, and may be best described as a refined Glory of Leiden.

Cygnet.—A bicolor, the white perianth inclined to curl and twist inwards; soft yellow trumpet somewhat open at the mouth.

Loveliness.—Broad overlapping perianth and pure white trumpet, rather long; an enlarged Mme. de Graaf.

Mrs. George Barr.—Another white trumpet in the way of Loveliness, and may be said to be intermediate between it and Mrs. Robert Sydenham, described below.

Messrs. de Graaff and Sons, Leiden, secured awards of merit for

Mrs. Robert Sydenham.—In the way of Messrs. Barr and Sons' Loveliness, but with a rather longer and more open trumpet.

Francesca.—Broad white overlapping segments of the perianth, and short but fine open trumpet; one of the best of the new varieties shown.

Odorus Rugulosus maximus.—A very fine form of the type, but of a rich deep yellow tint, and though one flower only was produced on a stem it is thonght it may run to two.

Apricot Phœnix.—A fine double form in the way of Primrose Phœnix, but flushed with deep apricot at the base.

The Rev. G. H. Engleheart had among his new varieties a single flower of prodigious size, the perianth of which measured 5 inches in diameter, and the trumpet nearly 3 inches in depth; it is of the Emperor type, and is to be known under the name of Royal. R. D.

A GROUP OF DAFFODIL ENTHUSIASTS AT THE MIDLAND DAFFODIL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

Standing (reading from left to right): Mr. W. B. Latham, Mr. John Pope, Mr. Herbert Smith (hon. secretary), Mr. R. C. Cartwright, Mr. Robert Sydenham (treasurer), and Mr. E. M. Crosfield. Sitting: Mr. P. Rudolph Barr, the Rev. G. H. Engleheart, and the Rev. S. E. Bourne.

BARRINGTON Sarah Isdell of West Meon Petersfield Hants widow died 25 February 1903 Probate **London** 4 May to Frank Paige retired schoolmaster Effects £442.

KENNETT-BARRINGTON sir Vincent Hunter Barrington of 57 Albert Hall-mansions Kensington Middlesex died 13 July 1903 Probate **London** 1 December to dame Alicia Georgette Kennett-Barrington widow Effects £26280 17*s*. 2*d*.

BARRITT Martha of 19 Wood-street Westminster Middlesex widow died 24 January 1899 Administration **London** 27 July to Charlotte Crittenden (wife of William Crittenden) Effects £202.

BARRITT Mary Ann of Curtis-house West Cliff Ramsgate spinster died 22 October 1903 at the London-temperance-hospital Hampstead-road Middlesex Probate **Canterbury** 27 November to Gladys Mary Beale spinster Effects £170 15*s*. 9*d*.

BARRITT Phylliss of 12 Gloucester-street Clerkenwell Middlesex widow died 17 January 1902 Administration **London** 11 May to George Booth Barritt plumber Effects £70.

BARRITT Robert of 19 Wood-street Westminster Middlesex died 10 July 1896 Administration (with Will) **London** 25 August to Charlotte Crittenden (wife of William Crittenden) Effects £202.

BARRITT William of 4 Prince's-street Colne Lancashire died 5 October 1902 Probate **London** 2 April to Isaac Barritt schoolmaster and David Hartley Barritt cotton-manufacturer Effects £368 6*s*.

BARRON Alexander of Clayton-square Liverpool physician and surgeon died 4 March 1903 at Buenos Ayres South America Administration (with Will) **Liverpool** 22 May to Grace Dyson spinster Effects £709.

BARRON Archibald Farquharson of 13 Sutton Court-road Chiswick Middlesex died 15 April 1903 Probate **London** 1 May to Eleanor Barron widow Effects £1183.

BARRON Barbary of Edmondbyers county Durham widow died 19 December 1902 Probate **Durham** 9 April to Joseph Barron labourer and Francis Barron butcher Effects £704 18*s*. 4*d*.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Barron, William (1805–1891), *landscape gardener*
by Brent Elliott, *rev.*
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Barron, William (1805–1891), landscape gardener, was born on 7 September 1805 in Eccles, Berwickshire, the son of John Barron, gardener, and his wife, Betty Johnston. (The year of his birth is usually cited as 1800, as a result of a mistake in his obituary in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*.) He served a three-year gardening apprenticeship at Blackadder, Berwickshire, before entering the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, where he was soon placed in charge of the glasshouses. From there he went to Syon House, Middlesex, where he helped to plant the new conservatory. On 1 March 1830 he was appointed gardener to Charles Stanhope, fourth earl of Harrington, at Elvaston Castle in Derbyshire, where he took up his post on 2 August, with instructions to create a new garden.

Early in 1831 Barron began transplanting mature trees; he became expert in their removal and he described his techniques in *The British Winter Garden* (1852). The gardens he created were seldom visited before 1851, when a series of articles in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* created a sensation by describing the transplanting operations, the grafted conifers, the avenues of multiple rows of different species, the architectural topiary, and the series of formal gardens enclosed by hedges. The revelation of Elvaston led to a topiary revival in the 1850s.

The fourth earl died in 1851 and his successor retrenched on expenditure, opened the gardens to the public, and instructed Barron to develop a commercial nursery at the garden. In 1862, on the death of Leicester Stanhope, fifth earl of Harrington, Barron bought 40 acres for a nursery site in nearby Borrowash, to which he moved from Elvaston in 1865. In addition to plant sales, Barron offered transplanting and landscape gardening. During Barron's life, among his firm's commissions were those undertaken at Stancliffe Hall, Matlock; Impney Hall, Droitwich; Locke Park, Barnsley; People's Park, Grimsby; and, his most famous work after Elvaston itself, Abbey Park, Leicester (between 1877 and 1882). In 1880 he successfully moved the Buckland yew, with a documented age of 800 years. One of his transplanting machines was preserved at Kew.

Barron retired in 1881 but came out of retirement for a commission for the ninth earl of Dysart, at Welbeck Abbey, in 1886. In 1887 he was the first witness called before the select commission on forestry. He was noted for his prodigious memory, he was deeply religious, and he was a staunch advocate of temperance.

Barron married Elizabeth Ashby, and their only child, John (born on 8 June 1844), having trained abroad in landscape gardening, became his father's partner by 1867. Barron died in Borrowash, Derbyshire, on 8 April 1891. The family continued the firm into the inter-war years. Among the firm's later commissions were those at Queen's Park, Chesterfield (1893); the Bedford Embankment (1894); and Whitaker Park, Rawtenstall (1900).

BRENT ELLIOTT, *rev.*

Sources *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 3rd ser., 9 (1891), 522–4 · *Gardeners' Magazine* (25 April 1891), 242 · d. cert.

Likenesses photograph, Royal Horticultural Society, Lindley Library [*see illus.*]

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Brent Elliott, 'Barron, William (1805–1891)', rev. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Sept 2010 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/37159, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

William Barron (1805–1891): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/37159

Obituary.

Samuel Cooper.—We regret to record the death of the well-known nurseryman and seedsman, Mr. S. Cooper, of Hadleigh, Suffolk, who died on Friday, April 3, at the age of sixty-nine. The deceased was born at Humberston, Leicestershire, and early in life he held several responsible positions in nurseries and gardens in England. Removing to Scotland, he was for some time in the gardens of Dalkeith Palace, the residence of the Duke of Beccleugh. After this, he established for himself a very successful business at Wellingborough; and finally, some twenty-five years since, removed to Hadleigh, where he extended the nurseries, and, with the aid of his son (who will in future carry on the business) worked up a very good connection.

H. G. Bard.—The death has recently taken place of Mr. H. G. Bard, whose name some twenty years ago, whilst in the service of E. G. Henderson & Son, of the Wellington Road Nurseries, was well known in connection with the new varieties of Bouvardias, Fuchsias, then being introduced. He afterwards entered the service of Messrs. James Carter & Co., with whom he will be best remembered as having been engaged for a series of years in the fertilisation and raising of their crossbred Wheats.

John Dykes.—Nurseryman, Kilmarnock, N.B., on April 10, aged 80 years. The business will be carried on by Mr. J. C. Dykes, the remaining partner.

William Barron.—William Barron, of Elvaston, has for long years past been a well-known name in Horticulture. By nature keen and shrewd, long experience had made him a first-rate gardener, and one whose knowledge of trees and their ways was unique. Of his early history we propose to speak on another occasion; it must suffice now to mention that he was gardener for some years at Elvaston Castle, on leaving which he entered into business as a nurseryman and landscape gardener at Borrowash, near Derby, within sight of the garden he had done so much to make famous. Here he accumulated a large and varied collection of hardy trees and shrubs, especially Conifers, with which he had a special acquaintance. He had large experience in the moving of large trees, undertaking, with confidence, tasks in this direction from which others would have and did shrink. One of his feats in this way was his removal of an old Yew in the churchyard at Buckland, near Dover. In common with others who were consulted, we at the time expressed an adverse opinion as to the propriety of the proceeding, but we had to confess, and we may repeat it now, that the operation was performed without material damage to the tree, which was in good condition when we saw it last a year or two ago. Illustrations of this remarkable tree, and of the process of its removal, were given in our columns at the time.

Next week we hope to be able to publish a portrait of this remarkable man, together with some further details as to his career. Mr. Barron, who had retired from business a year or two ago, died on the 8th inst., in the eighty-sixth year of his age.

Markets.

COVENT GARDEN, April 9.

Business continues brisk, and with supplies lighter prices have improved. *James Webber, Wholesale Apple Market.*

Vegetables.—Average Retail Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Artichokes, Globe, each	0 4- 0 6	Lettuces, per dozen	3 0- ...
Beans, French, lb.	1 6- 2 0	Mushrooms, punnet	2 0- ...
Beet, red, per dozen	2 0- 3 0	Mustard and Cress, punnet	0 4- ...
Brussels Sprouts, lb.	0 6- ...	Parsley, per bunch	0 4- ...
Carrots, per bunch	0 6- ...	Seakale, per basket	2 0- 2 6
Cauliflowers, each	0 6- ...	Shallots, per lb.	0 6- ...
Celery, per bundle	2 6- 3 6	Spinach, per bushel	7 0- ..
Cucumbers, each	0 6- 0 9	Tomatos, per lb.	1 0- 1 6
Endive, per dozen	4 0- ...	Turnips, per bunch	0 6- ...
Herbs, per bunch	0 4- ...		

Plants in Pots.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Aralia Sieboldi, doz.	6 0-18 0	Ficus elastica, each	1 6- 7 0
Aspidistra, doz.	18 0-42 0	Foliage plants, various, each	2 0-10 0
— speci. plants, each	7 6-10 6	Genista, per dozen	8 0-12 0
Azalea, per dozen	24 0-42 0	Hyacinths, per doz.	6 0- 9 0
Bedding plants, variety, per doz.	1 0- 2 0	Lily of the Valley, per dozen pots	9 0-18 0
Bouvardias, p. doz.	9 0-18 0	Marguerites, doz.	6 0-12 0
Cineraria, per dozen	8 0-10 0	Mignonette, per doz.	6 0- 9 0
Cyclamens, dozen	9 0-18 0	Myrtle, per doz. pots	6 0-12 0
Cyperus, per dozen	4 0-12 0	Palms in variety, each	2 6-21 0
Dielytra, per dozen	8 0 12 0	Pelargoniums, doz.	12 0-18 0
Dracæna terminalis, per dozen	30 0-60 0	,, scarlet p. doz.	5 0- 9 0
— viridis, per doz.	12 0 24 0	Primula sinensis, doz.	4 0- 6 0
Euonymus, in var., per dozen	6 0-18 0	Roots for bedding, in boxes, each, from	1 0- 3 0
Ericas, various, doz.	8 0-18 0	Spiræa, per dozen	9 0-12 0
Evergreens, in var., per dozen	6 0-24 0	Solanums, per doz.	9 0-15 0
Ferns, in var., doz.	4 0-18 0	Tulips, per doz. pots	6 0- 9 0

Fruit.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Apples, ½-sieve	3 6- 6 0	Lemons, per case	15 0-25 0
— Nova Scotia, brl.	15 0-25 0	Pine-app'es, St. Michael, each	2 0 8 0
Cobs, Kent, 100 lb.	45 0-50 0	Strawberries, p. lb.	3 6- 8 0
Grapes, new	5 0-9 0		

Cut Flowers.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Anemone (Fr.), 12 bun.	2 0- 4 0	Narcissus (paper white), 12 sprays	0 9- 1 6
Azalea, 12 sprays	0 6- 0 8	— French, 12 bun.	2 0- 6 0
Bouvardias, per bun.	1 0- 1 6	Narcissus (yellow), 12 bun.	2 0- 4 0
Callaæthiopica, 12 bl.	3 0- 6 0	— Poeticus (Pheasant Eye) 12 bun	4 0- 6 0
Camellias, white, 12 blooms	2 0- 4 0	Pelargoniums, scarlet, 12 spr.	0 6- 0 9
,, colrd., 12 blms.	0 9- 1 6	Poinsettias, 12 blms.	... ...
Carnations, 12 blms.	1 0- 2 0	Primroses 12 bun.	0 8- 1 6
Cyclamens, per doz.	0 3- 0 6	Primulas, double, 12 sprays	0 6- 1 0
Daffodils, various, 12 blooms	0 3- 0 9	— single, 12 sprays	0 4- 0 6
— (Foreign), 12 bun.	2 0- 6 0	Ranunculus (Fren.), 12 bun.	1 0- 2 0
Eucharis, per dozen	4 0- 6 0	Roses, Tea, per doz.	1 0- 3 0
Gardenias, per doz.	2 0- 4 0	— coloured, dozen	2 0- 4 0
Heliotropes, 12 spr.	0 6- 1 0	— yellow (Maréchals), per doz.	3 0- 6 0
Hyacinths, Rom., 12 bunches	1 0-2 0	— red, per dozen	3 0- 6 0
Hyacinth, various, 12 spikes	3 0- 6 0	— do., Frenchp. doz.	1 0- 3 0
Lilium Harrisii, doz.	3 0- 4 0	Snowdrops doz. bun.	1 0- 3 0
Lily of the Valley, 12 sprays	0 6- 1 0	Tuberoses, 12 blms.	0 9- 1 6
Maiden Hair Fern, 12 bunches	4 0- 9 0	Tulips, various, 12 bl.	0 9- 1 6
Marguerites, 12 bun.	3 0- 6 0	Violets, 12 bun.	0 9- 1 6
Mignonette, Fr., bu.	1 6- 2 6	— Parma, Fr., bun.	3 0- 3 6
Mimosa (French) 12 bun.	15 0-18 0	— dark, Fr., bun	2 6- ...
— (French) basket	4 0- 6 0	Wallflower (Fren.), 12 bun.	1 0- 2 0
Myosotis, 12 bun.	4 0- ...		

Orchid-bloom in variety.

Old Potatos.—A further rise of 10*s.* per ton for all kinds has taken place since last report with upward tendency.

New Potatos.—The demand has been somewhat brisk, with a gradual rise in values Arrivals light. *J. B. Thomas.*

SEEDS.

London: *April* 15. — Messrs. John Shaw & Sons, Seed Merchants, of Great Maze Pond, London, S.E., report a quiet, steady demand for Clover and other seeds at last Monday's prices. From the moderate stocks held, the sowing wants of the vast majority of English farmers have yet to be satisfied. The present season is proving to be a most remarkably backward one. In Rape seed the late advance is well sustained. Mustard shows no alteration. The tendency in Canary and Hemp seed is upward. Peas and Haricots have further risen in value, and the supplies of both articles seem nearly exhausted.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Stratford: *April* 14.—There has been an excellent supply of all kinds of produce at this market during the past week, and a brisk trade was done as under:—Cabbages, 3*s.* to 5*s.* per tally; Savoys, 5*s.* to 8*s.* do.; Greens, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per sieve; do., 2*s.* to 5*s.* per dozen bunches; Cauliflowers, 2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per dozen; do. 9*s.* to 15*s.* per tally; Turnips, 30*s.* to 40*s.* per ton; Carrots, household, 100*s.* to 120*s.* do.; do., cattle feeding, 36*s.* to 40*s.* do.; Parsnips, 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per score; Mangels, 24*s.* to 26*s.* per ton; Onions, English, 110*s.* to 130*s.*; do., Dutch, 3*s.* to 5*s.* 3*d.* per bag; Apples, English, 3*s.* to 7*s.* per bushel; Watercress, 7*d.* per dozen; Cress, hot and cold, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* per dozen bunches; Radishes, 9*d.* to 1*s.* per dozen bundles; spring Onions, 5*s.* to 7*s.* do.

POTATOS.

Borough and Spitalfields: *April* 14.—Quotations:—Hebrons, 120*s.* to 130*s.*; Imperators, 120*s.* to 140*s.*; Champions, 110*s.*; Regents, 120*s.*; Magnums, 110*s.* to 140*s.* per ton.

Spitalfields: *April* 15.—Quotations:—Magnums, 110*s.* to 140*s.*; Hebrons, 110*s.* to 130*s.*; Regents, 110*s.* to 120*s.*; Imperators, 120*s.* to 140*s.*; Champions, 110*s.*; Early Rose, 110*s.* per ton.

Stratford: *April* 14.—Quotations.—Imperators, 110*s.* to 130*s.*; Magnums, 110*s.* to 140*s.*; Hebrons, 110*s.* to 130*s.*; Elephants, 110*s.* to 130*s.*; Scotch Magnums, 120*s.* to 140*s.* per ton.

The Weather.

By the term "accumulated temperature" is meant the aggregate amount, as well as the duration, of degrees of temperature above or below 42° Fahr. for the period named; and this combined result is expressed in Day-degrees—a "Day-degree" signifying 1° continued for twenty-four hours, or any other number of degrees for an inversely proportional number of hours.]

Districts.	Temperature.					Rainfall.			Bright Sun.	
	Above (+) or below (—) the Mean for the week ending April 11.	Accumulated. Above 42°, for the Week.	Accumulated. Below 42°, for the Week.	Accumulated. Above 42°, difference from Mean since Jan. 4, 1891.	Accumulated. Below 42°, difference from Mean since Jan. 4, 1891.	More (+) or less (—) than Mean for Week.	No. of Rainy Days since Jan. 4, 1891.	Total fall since Jan. 4, 1891.	Percentage of possible Duration for the Week.	Percentage of possible Duration since Jan. 4, 1891.
		Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	10ths Inch.		Ins.		
1	2 —	15	31	+ 35	+ 32	6 —	66	14.8	35	24
2	3 —	9	23	— 19	+ 45	2 —	40	5.3	23	28
3	4 —	3	20	— 29	+ 71	2 +	47	4.5	16	27
4	2 —	13	19	— 32	+ 112	1 —	48	4.2	11	30
5	3 —	14	21	— 28	+ 92	0 aver.	41	4.6	15	28
6	3 —	21	11	— 63	+ 140	3 —	42	5.9	16	29
7	2 —	12	23	+ 5	+ 16	4 —	49	9.4	23	27
8	2 —	12	11	+ 8	+ 21	3 —	38	4.8	16	28
9	2 —	24	9	— 37	+ 103	5 —	40	7.0	24	33
10	3 —	24	15	+ 6	+ 16	4 —	51	5.6	23	29
11	2 —	33	15	+ 16	+ 26	4 —	44	5.7	36	
12	1 —	27	0	— 21	+ 41	5 —	45	6.1	33	3

The districts indicated by number in the first column are the following:—

Principal Wheat-producing Districts — 1, Scotland, N.; 2, Scotland, E.; 3, England, N.E.; 4, England, E.; 5, Midland Counties; 6, England, S.

Principal Grazing, &c., Districts—7, Scotland, W.; 8, England, N.W.; 9, England, S.W.; 10, Ireland, N. 11, Ireland, S.; 12, Channel Islands.

THE PAST WEEK.

The following summary record of the weather for the week ending April 11, is furnished from the Meteorological Office:—

"The *weather* was showery and changeable, with thunder and lightning in places during the first two days of the period, but afterwards became dry, with generally overcast skies.

"The *temperature* rose considerably during the earlier part of the time, and means varying between 56° and 59° were recorded in most of the English districts, and between 52° and 56° over Ireland and Scotland. During the latter part of the week, however, the maxima were generally below 50°. The lowest of the minima were registered on the 8th, when the thermometer fell to 21° in 'Scotland, N.,' 25° in 'Scotland, E.,' and over Ireland, to between 27° and 32° in most other districts, and to 36° in the 'Channel Islands.' The average values for the week have been in most cases from 2° to 4° below the mean for the time of year.

"The *rainfall* has been more than the mean in 'England, N.E.,' and about equal to it in the 'Midland Counties.' In all other districts a deficit is shown.

"The *bright sunshine* has been less prevalent over the Kingdom as a whole than for some time past, the percentage of the possible duration having ranged from 11 to 24 over England, from 23 to 35 in Scotland, and from 23 to 36 in Ireland.'"

Notices to Correspondents.

Alpine and other Strawberries: *W. C. C.* Where the runners are not to be obtained, and even as a matter of ordinary practice, it is well to raise the Alpine Strawberry from seed, by sowing in pans in February and March, or even at the present time. It should be sown thinly in loam and leaf-mould, about 1-inch layer of fine sifted soil, laying on 2 inches of loamy lumps, of the size of hazel nuts; these again over-laying a few crocks. The lumps afford root-hold, and most of the seedlings will lift with one or more attached to the roots. The earliest sowings should be raised in heat of 60° to 70°, and the pans should be put close to

vellous growth is obtained on the large specimens of Cattleya gigas, some of which produce five or six massive flower-spikes, whose beauty can easily be imagined. At present there are some fine forms of C. Trianæ in bloom, especially good being one with fine sepals and petals, and rich glowing purplish-crimson lip. The light forms of the delicata type, too, are exceptionally good, and some of the earliest C. Mendelii are already in flower. The Dendrobe-house was a mass of bloom, although it was said to be past its best. In it were noted Dendrobium fimbriatum, with twelve spikes; three well-bloomed forms of D. Ainsworthii ×; and D. A. roseum; D. primulinum, with eight flowering bulbs; D. crassinode Barberianum, with nearly one hundred flowers; some excellent forms of D. nobile, D. Brymerianum, D. crassinode album, D. Wardianum, D. Devonianum, &c.; and the specimens of D. thyrsiflorum and D. densiflorum are profusely furnished with flower-spikes.

The Cool Range

in three divisions, has in the first a grandly-grown batch of Miltonia vexillaria well set with buds, and various Lælias, &c., a good show of flowers being on the L. harpophylla and Bifrenaria Harrisoniæ, and the rare Cymbidium tigrinum is in bud. In the second division are a fine specimen of Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum, with four spikes; some superb forms of O. Pescatorei—one with a twelve-branched spike; Platyclinis glumacea, with many of its elegant sprays; Oncidium Marshallianum, &c. The third division is filled exclusively with Odontoglossums and Masdevallias, and a magnificent show is made by the many fine sprays of O. triumphans, O. crispum, and O. Pescatorei, together with the rare O. tentaculatum; some excellent O. Halli, O. Edwardii, O. luteo-purpureum, and other Odontoglossums, and the many bright flowers of the varieties of Masdevallia ignea. Of O. Pescatorei there is a large quantity in bloom, and the strain seems to be a specially good one, many of the varieties having large flat labellums richly marked with purple, and some also exhibiting spotting on the petals. The type of O. crispum, too, is of the best class, the flowers very large, and some of the small plants of the spotted forms flowering for the first time very promising.

In the large plant-houses, in the centre of one of which is a great specimen of Anthurium Schertzerianum with over one hundred of its scarlet spathes, are in bloom, a good lot of Lycaste Skinneri, L. plana, Cymbidium Lowianum, Oncidium leucochilum, Calanthe vestita gigantea, a lot of good Cypripediums, some Phalænopsis, Cœlogyne cristata alba, Cattleya amethystoglossa, Epidendrum Wallisii, &c.

The fine display of cut Orchids tastefully arranged in the drawing-room is worthy of mention, in order to call attention to the elegant manner in which the sprays of Heuchera sanguinea (illustrated in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, August 4, 1888, p. 125), arrange with those more massive flowers.

BOURNE PLACE.

The residence of John Flower Jackson, Esq., also has a rising collection of Orchids, among which, on the occasion of our visit, we found both Mr. Jackson and his son busily engaged. Here the species of Phalænopsis thrive remarkably well, small plants rapidly growing into large ones, which is the reverse to what is experienced in many collections. The foliage of these plants is thick and firm, and each leaf displays an advance in size over the one made before. The house is kept moist, and on the wet stages we noted some lumps of rock-salt which may contribute to the healthy character of the plants, for it will be remembered that salt used to be sprinkled in the house in which the fine plants of the Partington collection grew. Among those we noted were the rich crimson-centred P. amabilis Dayana, and sundry ordinary P. amabilis, P. grandiflora, several P. Schilleriana, P. Sanderiana, and a very large plant of P. Luddemanniana with abnormally long spikes, which will soon give a rich display of bloom.

In the Cool-houses,

the plants are placed on open stages, made of frames covered with fine half-inch wire netting (the same as at Bridgen Place), stand over a close stage, covered with shingle to be kept moist, and it must be said that better results in both plants and flowers could scarcely be attained. At one entrance, purposely placed by the door for the better access of air, is a batch of very large-bulbed Epidendrum vitellinum, and throughout the whole house a good show of Odontoglossum is made, among the plants being that exquisite violet-spotted form of O. Pescatorei, which Mr. Jackson exhibited a year or two ago. Also in this house is a showy specimen of Cypripedium Boxalli with twenty-two flowers, and on a narrow shelf at the end a pretty show of Odontoglossum Rossii majus. In another part is a grand bank of Orchids in bloom, made up of many Odontoglossum triumphans, O. crispum, and O. Pescatorei, with some O. Cervantesii; O. Rossii rubescens, O. cordatum, O. maculatum, a noble form of O. nebulosum with very large pure white flowers spotted on the inner halves of the segments; various O. odoratum, Cymbidium Lowianum, many Lycaste Skinnerii, Pilumna fragrans, some good Cattleya Trianæ, Masdevallia Lindenii, M. ignea, M. i. coccinea, M. Shuttleworthii, M. triangularis, some scarlet Sophronitis, and Ada aurantiaca, and various others—truly a fine show. In the Cattleya-house the C. Mendelii are coming on, and a stout plant of C. Lawrenciana is in bud.

An arched walk leads from the Orchid-houses to the long orchard-house at the bottom of the garden, and it is worthy of note, by reason of the admirable manner in which it is covered by trained Gooseberries on the one hand, and Morello Cherries on the other, both being said to produce good crops, the Gooseberries being very fine dessert fruits. The orchard-house has been a fine sight, with the bloom on the trees, but in the proper course they are now faded. One end of the house is used as a pleasant resting-place, and a row of Hyacinths and Tulips makes the border bright. In this house, which has a back wall, there is an admirable arrangement for bringing the water from the gutter in front to the tank which is built inside under the back wall. The pipe from the gutter is carried under the bed and walk inside the house, and up the outside wall of the tank to supply over the top on the inside. A very simple arrangement, but one which does not suggest itself to all who build, and who consequently place their tanks in inconvenient places to get near the rain-water shoot.

HONEYDEN, NORTH CRAY.

R. A. Todd, Esq., like Mr. Jackson, was busy in the garden. Here the Orchids are grown for the greater part mixed with flowering stove and greenhouse plants, and the result is very satisfactory. At the entrance of one of the houses, was a good show of Orchids in flower, conspicuous being some good forms of the fragrant pale-lilac Cattleya Schroderæ, behind which was a very fine specimen of a richly-coloured form of Lælia cinnabarina, which had five spikes, each over 2 feet in length, and some plants of Dendrobium Ainsworthii, and other Dendrobes. In the same range, were Vanda suavis, Angræcum polystachyum, Cypripedium callosum, and other Cypripediums; two plants, the one having fine spikes, of the rare Phajus Manni. The largest is made up of several imported pieces potted together, and there is a very marked difference in the flowers, some having the front of the lip yellow, and some white. The scarlet Epidendrum radicans, too, is well-flowered; and the many Catasetums, Mormodes, and other curious plants which Mr. Todd is so fond of, promise to display a goodly number of their quaint spikes. Among the other showy plants in bloom with the Orchids are Hymenocallis guianensis, which has white flowers, the upright tubes of which are 8 inches in length; two specimens of an Amaryllis, near to Hippeastrum regium, each with six spikes; Tillandsia splendens, Meyenia erecta, Euphorbia splendens, Impatiens Sultani, and various other showy stove shrubs. In the cool-house, in the second division of which there are some rare Ferns, the pretty Oncidium pyramense has a showy, branched spike, about 1 foot high; Odontoglossum cirrosum has several spikes; the pretty rare and fragrant Cœlogyne ochracea is in bloom, so also Masdevallia Lindeni; Odontoglossum Rossii majus, with nine spikes, O. Œrstedii majus, and a very large and handsome form of Oncidium maculatum.

WILLIAM BARRON.

This gardener, whose death we announced in our last number, was born at Eccles, in Berwickshire, on September 7, 1800. He was of a very old Scotch family, which originally came from the neighbourhood of Aberdeen. His father was a gardener, and the boy proved a sharp lad at school, subsequently studied Greek and French, and learned sufficient Hebrew to enable him to read the Bible in the original. Having developed a taste for gardening, William Barron was apprenticed at Lady Honstan Boswell's of Blackadder, Berwickshire. During his three years of apprenticeship, he studied his profession with such effect, that when, through the influence of his employer, he obtained admission to the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, he was, much to his own surprise, put (after an examination in Botany) into full charge of the houses there, by the elder Mr. William McNab, who was at that time probably the best practical botanist in Britain. Barron continued in this situation two years, during which time he attended the botanical lectures under Professor Graham for three terms, and together with the late Mr. James McNab (who was somewhat his junior), attended Chemical lectures in the evenings, under Professor Turner, and lectures in Natural Philosophy and Mechanics under Professor Lee.

Having expressed a wish to obtain some experience in Pine forcing, he was sent by Mr. McNab to the Duke of Northumberland's, at Sion House, Isleworth, and while there he assisted to plant the large conservatory. On March 1, 1830, he was appointed to lay out the grounds at Elvaston Castle, Derbyshire, for Charles, 4th Earl of Harrington, with whom he remained until the death of the earl, a period of twenty years and eight months. During this time, he began and completed one of the most distinct and regal gardens in Britain. What took place about this time will be best told in his own words:—

"Charles, the fourth Earl of Harrington, was a nobleman every inch of him. I arrived on August 2, 1830. The whole country was at that time in a fearful political ferment. Nottingham Castle was burnt down early in January, 1831. My mind was strongly impressed to have put in repair a small double-pistoned water-engine much out of repair; both the engine and hose had not been used for years. I had only had them finished on Saturday afternoon early in January, 1831. On the next Sunday morning, about five o'clock, I was awakened by screams on the staircase leading to my room (as I then slept in the castle) that the castle was on fire; I opened my window to prevent suffocation, every place being filled with smoke. I immediately despatched a man on horseback for the fire-engines from Derby; I then got one of the maids to sound the gong, which soon brought a number of my men from the village; meantime, I had ascertained where the fire originated, viz., in the housekeeper's store-room, and as soon as I obtained assistance, I got the engine in position in front of the castle. I then mounted a pair of steps, and dashed the engine-pipe through the shutters and window. The flame came out with such force as nearly knocked me off; I stooped below it, and directed the pipe to the corner where the fire originated, and, with a plentiful supply of water, and willing hands at the engine, I succeeded in putting it out before the fire-engines from Derby arrived. I had also placed a man with a cudgel in each doorway, to prevent any of the roughs from coming into the castle, as nearly 200 of them followed the engines; and all the thanks I got for my civility was a plentiful supply of threats and curses. I then placed two night watchmen around the castle and premises during the whole of the time the county remained in an unsettled state.

"With my morning exertions, I went to bed early, and slept soundly until midnight, when I was awakened by one of the watchmen, who said there was a barn on fire at Aston, a village about two miles off. I jumped out of bed, and partly dressed, I ran out and again sent off a man on horseback for the Derby engines; meantime I sent off our engine and men to work it. I then ordered my mule to be saddled: being a sharp frost at the time, my mule fell twice with me on the ice. As soon as we reached Aston, I found a large barn, full of barley, not thrashed, on fire, with the tiled roof fallen in; we imme-

diately set to work and got it extinguished before the Derby engines arrived. When they came, I was standing on the sidewall, about fifteen feet from the ground, pouring water on the still smoking straw; they were so much annoyed because I had put out both fires without their assistance, that the chief fireman stood inside the barn-door directing the pipe of his engine to knock me off the wall. I instantly named him, and called out to him that I should have him dismissed from the force. I afterwards had him up before the Mayor, who made him beg my pardon or be dismissed. When the Earl of Harrington came down from London the following April, his first salutation was, 'Barron, you have saved my Castle.' I told him I had only done my duty.

"Before the time of the Fourth Earl of Harrington, nothing had been done to improve or ornament the grounds. There was a kitchen-garden of two acres, surrounded by a brick-wall; no hot-houses, only a Cucumber-frame or two. My worthy predecessor, who had been gardener about forty years was of the old school; he strongly impressed upon me the necessity of seeing well to an open drain which passed through the grounds, telling me that the water stood so near the surface, that nothing would grow much before the month of June. I asked him if the open drain could not be lowered; he said he had done all he could to keep it clear from weeds, but as it entered into the river Derwent a mile and a quarter below, it could not be lowered. I had made up my mind, that after proving his statement to be correct, I should relinquish my charge; but on going over the whole with my spirit-level, I found that commencing a mile from the garden I could lower the stream 4 feet 7 inches. This I did at once, and cut drains through the kitchen garden 6 feet deep, and for days the water ran through the brook with a fœtid smell. Thus the foundation was laid for successful operations all over the grounds. Elvaston, up to 1830, had no public attraction, and on the maps of the county there was only the usual hieroglyphic to indicate the parish church close to the mansion.

"After completing the drainage operations and commencing hothouses, and an additional kitchen garden, in November 1830, his lordship turned my attention to three Cedars of Lebanon in a plantation near the vicarage, which was at that time near the mansion. They were from 28 to 32 feet in height; he asked me if I knew anything of Sir Henry Stewart's mode of removing trees. I replied that I had studied for a time under the person who was gardener to Sir Henry during the time of his operations, so I had a trench cut round all three, and filled in with good soil, to enable them to make new roots, so as to be removed the second year. His lordship then astonished me by saying that he wanted them removed in February, a little more than two months after the operation. I asked him what good he expected from the operation if we were to move them two months hence! Without answering me (as I saw that he was puzzled), he asked if I had read Sir Henry Stewart's book. I told him I had not, but I was perfectly familiar with his practice. He went in, and gave me the book to read. After reading it through, I took it to him, and told him that Sir Henry, with his 'Janker' or 'Timber Wheels,' never had, nor ever could remove trees of the dimensions we had in hand. I saw his lordship's disappointment, and said no such trees as these have ever been successfully removed before, but if your lordship will support me, I will form a plan of my own, and remove your trees, and make them grow. He replied, 'Go on, Barron. That is all I want.' So, in February, 1831, I removed all three successfully into the East Avenue. In November, 1831, following, I removed one from the front of the mansion, 43 feet high, 48 feet diameter of branches, and 2 feet diameter of trunk. Now it is over 10 feet in circumference, at the bottom of the garden of 'Fair Star,' as named by his lordship."

From this time until the death of the Fourth Earl tree moving on the most extensive scale was practised at Elvaston Castle. Mr. Barron scoured the country to find fine specimens, and many old Yew trees, some of them hundreds of years old, were brought from distances of nearly 20 miles The pleasure-grounds, which were practically non-existent in 1831, were gradually extended and most elaborately laid out, until in 1851 they covered about 80 acres.

The ornamental lake was pronounced by all who saw it to be "like a glimpse of fairyland," and the great Duke of Wellington, when he first saw this lake and the rockwork on the islands and mound, exclaimed, "This is the only *natural* artificial rock-work I have ever seen." (See fig. 104, p. 525). The finest specimens of all the rarest Coniferæ at that time existent were obtained, regardless of cost, and planted with profusion. During the Fourth Earl's life, Elvaston Gardens were as a sealed book to the public. His orders were, "If the Queen comes, Barron, show her round; but admit no one else." On his death in 1851, he was succeeded by his brother, Colonel Leicester Stanhope. Up to this time from eighty to ninety men had been constantly employed. What passed at the first interview Mr. Barron had with his new employer, we will give in his own words:—

"He sent for me, and said, 'Now, Barron, I come to the place a poor man, so that I cannot keep it up. All that I can do for you is, to continue your salary, and keep an efficient foreman. I can only afford you eight men and two boys. Your talent cannot be buried here. Your time will be your own. You must go out as a landscape gardener, and I will do all I can to further your interests.' And so he did. During the time that I was enlarging the grounds, every new piece which we were going to take in, I had to make a plan for his lordship's approval, and as soon as it was passed, he was like a child with a new toy, to see it finished, so that in order

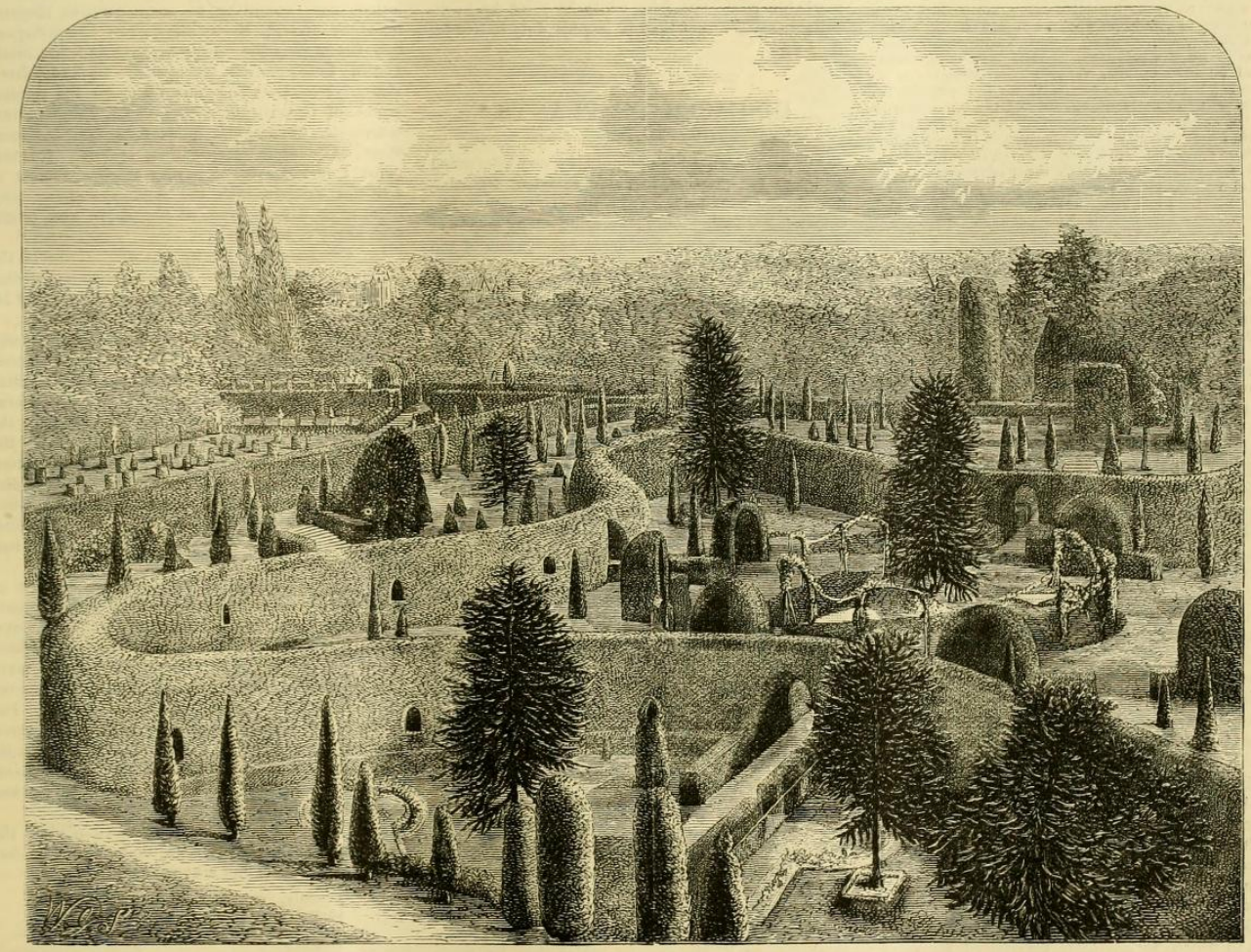


Fig. 103.—View in the Gardens, Elvaston Castle: showing clipped yews.

to meet his views, I had formed a reserve nursery-ground, filled with plants of a good size, enabling me to complete the design at once.

"When Leicester the Fifth Earl came into possession, he took me to this reserve nursery, and said, 'Now, Barron, I wish you to sell all these plants for me as soon as you can.' I told him that in order to keep them in a saleable condition, that it would require two men. He said, 'Barron, I cannot afford it.' Then I replied, 'If you cannot afford it, I will try if I can.' I then told him what I would give per annum for the nursery, adding that I would not buy his plants, as he might be told that I had taken advantage of him. He at once said, 'Barron, write out your agreement and I will sign it.' I not only sold all his lordship's plants then in the nursery, but several valuable specimens in the grounds, which I knew could be well spared; amongst others, the finest specimen, now at Osborne, of Picea (Abies) nobilis, I sold for £20. The late Prince Consort lost his only plant at Osborne, and when he returned to Windsor, he came to the Queen's gardener, and said, 'Oh, Ingram, I have lost my plant of Picea nobilis, and the worst of it is I cannot replace it.' Mr. Ingram said, 'Your Royal Highness, I think I can find one.' Afterwards, Mr. Ingram came down to me. I took him into the East Avenue, and showed him a host of them; I pointed out a fine plant, 7 feet 4 inches high. I asked him what he thought it was worth? He at once replied, 'Twenty guineas.' I then said, 'Well, as the Prince is a poor man, he shall have it for pounds instead of guineas; and, to give him confidence in its removal, I am willing to insure it, the first year for 5*s*., and the next two for 5*s*. more.' He told the Prince, and he said, 'By all means pay the insurance.' Before the plant was sent off, I happened to see Mr. Toward from Osborne, and he exclaimed against so large a plant being sent off, saying that 'they were subject to such high winds at Osborne, and to think of sending a plant of that size so far, he was sure it never could succeed.' I told him I had insured it, and it must go. I sent it with a ball of earth about half a ton weight, and it grew about a foot the first year.

"I took a large number of Cedrus deodara, Araucaria imbricata, and other specimen Conifers, to the Crystal Palace grounds, for Sir Joseph Paxton, at prices varying from 3 to 18 guineas. Altogether, I sold plants for his lordship in nine years to the value of £3000, all of which I had propagated or reared."

During these years visitors were admitted to the grounds on a payment of 3*s*. each, which was devoted to various charities; and, notwithstanding the somewhat high charge, many thousands visited the Gardens. Shortly after the death of the Fourth Earl, Mr. Barron published a work under the title of *The British Winter Garden*, which met with a ready sale. Notwithstanding the entreaties of his publisher and friends, Mr. Barron would not allow a second edition to be printed until he had revised the work, which unfortunately he never found time to do. This book is full of valuable hints as to the growth of trees, and the best method of transplanting them. In particular, the evils resulting from planting "pot-bound" trees, up to that time not adequately appreciated, were insisted on and made apparent by striking illustrations.

From 1850 to 1885 he was one of the most prominent figures in the horticultural world, not only as a landscape gardener, but as a great authority in Coniferæ. His labours extended all over Britain, and it was no infrequent occurrence for work under his supervision to be going on in a dozen different counties at once. Soon after the death of the Fifth Earl of Harrington, in 1862, Mr. Barron's Nursery, at Elvaston, having largely increased, he purchased about 40 acres of land at Borrowash, within a mile of Elvaston Gardens, to which he gradually transferred his stock. Conifers were still his hobby, and he never could be induced to sell his choicest specimens. He called them his "Decoy Ducks." His son, who had been studying landscape gardening abroad, having now joined him, he resigned his appointment at Elvaston in 1865, and went to reside at Borrowash.

One of his greatest feats in tree moving he accomplished in 1880, when he successfully removed the Buckland Yew, a huge tree over 1000 years old, mentioned in the Doomsday Book, and which was growing close to Buckland Church, near Dover (see figs. 107, 108, pp. 533, 535). The last public work in which he took an active part was in the laying out of Abbey Park, Leicester, which was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1882; but he afterwards personally superintended extensive alterations for the present Duke of Portland, at Welbeck; and for Earl Dysart, at Buckminster, in 1886. He retired from business at the age of eighty-one, but he was summoned as the first witness before the Commission on Forestry in 1887. Up to the time of his death, which occurred on April 8, 1891, his faculties were unimpaired, with the exception of his previously wonderful memory, which somewhat failed him, after a severe illness in the spring of 1890, although he could still recount with minuteness events which occurred from thirty to seventy years ago. He could both read and write without glasses to within a week of his death. He was a deeply religious man, of the sternest integrity, and under no circumstance did he ever allow his principles to be made subservient to his interests. He was one of the pioneers of the temperance cause at a time when such a course was far more difficult to maintain than at the present day.

The portrait which we affix (see p. 531), was taken a few years since, and is a good likeness of a remarkable man—one who, while he lived by horticulture, never forgot that it was his duty to live for it as well.

DISEASES OF PLANTS.*

(*Continued from p. 460.*)

The association of host-plants is a very interesting aspect of the question, to which sufficient attention has not yet been paid. Take the Gymnosporangia, a very remarkable group, presenting many points of interest, such as the gelatinous aggregation of the teleutospores, the absence of uredospores, their perennial mycelium, the large size and peculiar structure of their æcidia. The teleutospores of the Gymnosporangia are found only upon the Cupressineæ, the Junipers, and their allies, while their æcidiospores, the Rœsteliæ, occur only on the Pomaceæ. Many of these species resemble each other very closely morphologically, but biological research has demonstrated their distinctness.

There are ten species of Puccinia occurring on Carices whose æcidial hosts are known at the present time; of these, no fewer than seven have their corresponding æcidospores upon Compositæ; while of the fifteen species of Puccinia occurring in Gramineæ in Europe, only one is known to have its æcidiospores upon a composite plant (P. poarum). Therefore as the Gymnosporangia have for their associated host plants the Cupressineæ and the Pomaceæ; so of the Pucciniæ, the group affecting the Carices, the most frequently associated host-plants are the Compositæ.

The host-plants of the fifteen graminicolous Pucciniæ are found in the following natural orders:—

Ranunculaceæ	4	Boraginaceæ	1
Rhamnaceæ	2	Orchidaceæ	1
Liliaceæ	2	Compositæ	1
Polygoneæ	2	Aroideæ	1
Berberidaceæ	1	Caprifoliaceæ	1

The association of the æcidial and teleutospore host plants seems, in many instances, to be governed by the environment of the respective plants; if we find a teleutospore growing upon a grass or carex in a damp situation, we expect to find the corresponding Æcidium upon a plant also affecting damp localities—as P. Magnusiana, which has its spore forms on Phragmitis communis and Ranunculus repens; Uromyces junci on Juncus obtusiflorus and Inula dysenterica, P. moliniæ on Molinia cœrulea and Orchis latifolia, P. paludosa on Carex vulgaris and Pedicularis palustris.

On the other hand, species which occur on plants in meadows, such as P. obscura on Luzula campestris and Bellis perennis, Uromyces dactylidis on Dactylis glomerata and Ranunculus bulbosus; or on dry sandy heaths, as P. Schöerliana and arenaricola on Carex arenaria, have their æcidia on Senecio Jacobæa and Centaurea nigra respectively; species growing on the sea-shore, as P. extensicola on C. extensa and Aster tripolium, Uromyces maritimæ on Scirpus maritimus and Glaux maritima.

Favourite Æcidial hosts.—Schröter long since remarked the number of æcidia which occurred upon Ranunculaceæ without corresponding spore forms from his own and subsequent researches it is known that four Pucciniæ, viz., P. persistens, Magnusiana, perplexans, aquilegiæ, and two Uromyces, viz., U. poæ and dactylidis, occur upon plants of this natural order, besides some others whose life history has not yet been elucidated. Some of the commoner Ranunculaceæ are host-plants for more than one species of parasite, thus: R. repens for U. poæ and P. Magnusiana, R. bulbosus for U. dactylidis and P. Magnusiana. In a limited sense, we may therefore say that the Ranunculaceæ are the associated hosts of the grass-dwelling heterœcious species.

The group of plants most highly favoured by the heterœcious Uredineæ for the development of their æcidiospores, however, is the Coniferæ, upon which some eight or ten species are known to occur; three of these are Melampsoræ, viz, M. pinitorqua, M. laricis, and, according to some cultures recently made by myself, M. betulinæ; two Chrysomyxæ, two Cronartia, one Calyptospora, and the well-known Coleosporium senecionis. Of the above, Pinus sylvestris is the host plant for the æcidiospores of Cronartium asclepiadeum, Coleosporium senecionis, Melampsora pinitorqua, and of some other, at present unrecognised, species. On this point I feel convinced, having made a number of artificial cultures with the æcidiospores, as they occur near King's Lynn, on the above host plants with negative results.

On the Larch, as Hartig has shown, one of the Melampsoræ on Populus tremula forms its æcidiospores, but it also harbours the æcidiospores of M. betulinæ.

There are, upon the other hand, several large natural orders, which, so far as we at present know, afford the æcidiospores of no heterœcious Uredine a domicile, such as the Leguminoseæ, Cruciferæ, and Labiatæ; while several smaller orders, as the Rhamnaceæ, Primulaceæ, and Polygoneæ, are the æcidial hosts for more than one heterœcious species. There seems to be a tendency for the æcidia of distinct species to occur on certain host-plants allied to one another; such a favourite group of acidial host-plants is afforded by the Ranunculus repens, bulbosum, and ficaria.

Favourite Teleutospore Hosts.—As far as we at present know, all the Pucciniæ and Uromyces occuring upon grasses, Sedges, and Junci are heterœcious. The same remark applies to those Melampsoræ which occur upon the foliage of deciduous trees; but more than this, certain species of the host-plants support the teleutospores of more than one species. For instance, the common Reed has no less than three Pucciniæ attacking, viz., P. phragmitis, Magnusiana, and Trailii, all of which have distinct life-histories, as well as differing from each other in marked morphological characters.

An even more striking instance is afforded by the common Phalaris arundinacea, upon which no less than four Pucciniæ find a home, namely:—

Puccinia sessilis	æcidiospores on	Allium ursinum.
,, phalaridis	,,	Arum maculatum.
,, digraphidis	,,	Convallaria majalis.
,, coronata	,,	Rhamnus cathartica.

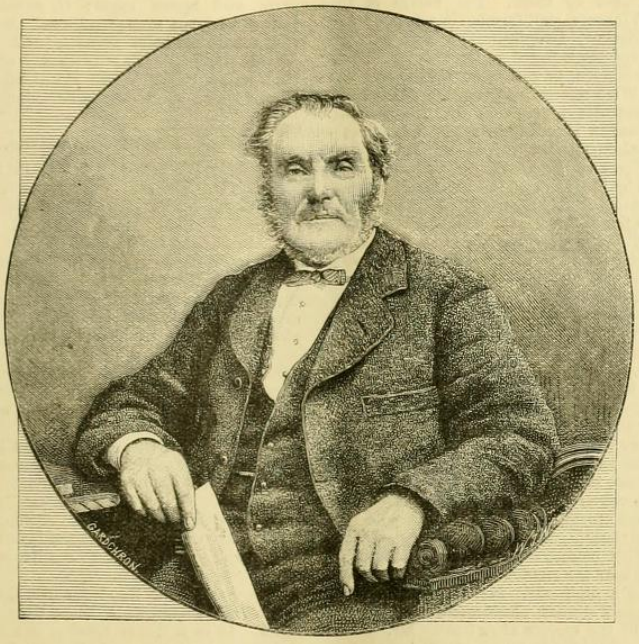
The above-named Pucciniæ, although very similar (excepting the last-named), are quite distinct in their life-histories. Dietel has, indeed, suggested (*Hedwigia*, vol. xxix., 1890, p. 152), that P. sessilis and phalaridis are the same species, which, for some unaccountable reason, sometimes forms its æcidiospores on Allium ursinum, and sometimes on Arum maculatum. On this point, however, he has fallen into error, for I have made several cultures, in which the germinating Puccinia sessilis was applied at the same time to plants of Allium and of Arum, with the result of producing the Æcidium Allii, while the Arum remained healthy. And conversely, P. phalaridis has been applied to Allium and Arum plants at the same time, with the result of producing the Æcidium Ari; but the Allium plants remained free from any infection. With two teleutospores so closely resembling each other, occurring on the same host plant, it is very possible that one may employ for infecting material

* A course of lectures delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons by Professor Plowright, M.D., in February, 1891.

Home Correspondence.

EFFECT OF THE PAST WINTER ON SHRUBS.—Our experience at this place, South Hants, as to the manner in which shrubs have been affected by frost in the past winter, does not agree with the views expressed by Mr. Thiselton Dyer on p. 458, and I think that Mr. Wilks' theory is much nearer the mark. It is found, where shrubs are actually dead, the injury first occurred at the base of the plant. For instance, in Coronilla glauca, Euonymus radicans in variety, Ericas, Veronicas, and Myrtles, the bark comes off the stem close to the ground, while plants of Ceanothus and Escallonia, which have many of their branches killed, are quite sound at the base, as far as the stripping off of the bark is concerned. My conviction is, that those trees and shrubs which have suffered, could not withstand the low temperature with impunity which was experienced on the night of November 28, when the thermometer registered 23° of frost, the lowest of any night during the winter. Following a summer that was cold and damp, the frost came on suddenly at that early date, whilst the new growth was immature. The exceptionally warm months of September and October, moreover, kept plants in a growing state to a later date than usual, especially quick-growing subjects like Veronicas, hence the shrubs suffered to a greater extent than under ordinary conditions. At no time in my experience were shrubs so little prepared to withstand low temperatures as last winter. The reason that shrubs which are now proved to be killed did not turn brown soon after the injury was done, is, in my opinion, due to the fact that the wood retained enough vitality to prevent the foliage suddenly turning brown; but the green colour of the leaves gradually paled, and changed to grey. No plant shows this sequence of conditions more clearly than Euonymus japonicus, which has thick and leathery leaves. Magnolias also provide another case in support of my contention. There was here a striking instance of the buds pushing forth, followed by a total collapse. A plant 7 feet high of Rose Isabella Sprunt growing in a pot was left out-of-doors by accident on the night of the frost, and unprotected in any way; early last month this Rose was stood in a Peach-house, and its buds at once began to break, the buds grew evenly all over the plant, until they were 1 inch long, and then they withered and died, thus proving that this Rose tree possessed sufficient vitality in its shoots to enable it to make some attempt at growth without assistance from the roots, but when that was not forthcoming, owing to the plant being virtually killed, the shoots died forthwith. *South Hants.*

THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS.—Calling here a few days since, I noticed in bloom a plant of Pinguicula caudata (the Mexican Butterwort), and what a lovely little plant it is with its soft rich deep carmine-coloured flowers, which in appearance bear a resemb'ance to a flower of Impatiens Sultani. It has an erect and one-flowered scape, and does well in peat and sphagnum, or in fibrous peat and pieces of broken pot, and with cool-house treatment. Hoya globulosa (from the East Indies), is flowering very freely from the roof of an intermediate-house, and the foliage is smaller than H. imperialis, and very thick. The flowers are of a creamy-white colour and fragrant, and abundantly produced. Toxicophlæa spectabilis is always well grown here, some young plants, especially, being profusely flowered. It is an evergreen shrub, doing best in an intermediate-house, having Pittosporum-like foliage and habit, with clusters of pretty white flowers in the axils of the leaves, a plant well deserving more notice than it gets. Ipomœa Horsfalliæ, in one of the stoves, is in full bloom, rich indeed in its glowing rich crimson-carmine colour. *D.*



THE LATE WILLIAM BARRON. (SEE P. 522.)

THE DOUGLAS FIR.—In regard to the doubt as to the existence of what your correspondent calls "inferior varieties" of the Douglas, surely there can be no doubt that the fastest-growing variety from the Pacific slope is altogether inferior in beauty as an ornamental tree to the Colorado variety. I grow both, and can tell them apart at any distance. They have a different scent. *D.*

THE WINTER, AND INSECT LIFE.—The old notion that a severe winter destroys most of our insect enemies will not stand investigation, nor that a severe winter is followed by a good and fruitful season. The winter of 1860—61 was hard enough, and was followed by a disastrous summer. February was the best month of the year 1861; February, again, this year, was fine and bright. To return to insects. The larva of the winter moth is appearing in quantity in some parts, though here we have only a few, owing to several years' combat with that scourge, in which it appears as if we should come out conquerors. Aphis appears on almost everything, so the winter has not affected them; and the same remark applies to slugs, which are more than usually plentiful on newly-planted Cauliflowers, Lettuces, Radishes, Asparagus, &c. *J. T. Wright, Glewston Court Gardens, Ross.*

THE LATE MR. R. H. BARD.—Mr. Bard will always be associated in my memory with the well-known Golden Feather Pyrethrum. I well remember his bringing to a meeting of the Floral Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, then sitting at South Kensington, a box of this plant, and while its interesting character was universally acknowledged, doubts were expressed as to its durability, and so a Certificate was not awarded at the first time of asking. A day or two after, Mr. Bard put in appearance at a meeting of the then United Horticultural Society at the "Green Dragon" Hotel, in Bishopsgate Street, also bringing with him a box of the Golden Feverfew; when a Certificate of Merit was unanimously adopted. It has proved one of the most useful bedding plants ever distributed. *R. D.*

A BLUE CHRYSANTHEMUM.—In my opinion, this Chrysanthemum, if it ever should arise, is more likely to arise from a sport than a seedling. With varieties at present in cultivation, there is a great tendency that way. I have seen traces of blue in sported flowers which came near to the desired goal. Last season blooms of Lady Dorothy, which is an incurved kind, and itself a sport from Hero of Stoke Newington, showed distinct signs of a colour that was more blue than purple in some parts of its petals, here and there blotches which prompts me to apprise those interested in this novelty to be on the look-out for further freaks of the kind, and to carefully preserve plants which show the slightest inclination to assume a blue colour. It is a well-known fact that some sorts do exhibit signs of sporting several years before an actual sport occurs. *E. M.*

OLD MAN. — Very popular still amongst Londoners is the Southernwood—Artemisia Abrotanum—one of the Wormwoods, the "Boy's Love" of old days; and, in Cockney phraseology, the "Old Man" of later ones. It is, indeed, difficult to understand why a plant, so widely known years since as "Boy's Love," should now obtain such a diverse and contradictory appellation, except it be out of pure "cussedness." Did we ask of the growers of hardy plants of all kinds for the million for "Boy's Love," they would probably look amazed. Still more would it be the case were the query addressed to the rough, uncultured plant hawker, and it is morally certain that neither would comprehend what was required were the botanical appellation given. But "Old Man" is the vulgar term, and "Old Man" it will probably be for generations. The plant owes its popularity to its exceeding hardiness, for it has come through such a winter as the late one literally unhurt. Even were the foliage at all harmed, and it is so comparatively deciduous that there is little foliage to injure in the winter, it was but needful to cut back the top shoots, and in a few weeks the back buds burst, so that now the plants are tufts of the richest green, earliest amongst the early of deciduous shrubs in leaf. Then it has very pretty leafage also, which is of an exquisite green tint; and finally, it is of a sweet perfume. Somehow, plants which have a pleasant perfume never lose in popularity. Even now there is a big run on the "Old Man," and it is hard to keep pace with the demand. Some increase stock by cuttings, some by putting older stocks all topside, and dividing them—but propagated they must be plentifully Lavender, too, finds favour, especially the Lavender Cotton, but still, no perfumed shrubs of this class are in such demand as the Southernwood as a market-barrow plant, and immediately it will be found in vast quantities in all our London streets. *A. D.*

FRUIT JUDGING.—I would like to bring forward a grievance felt by numbers of exhibitors who show Melons, Apples, Pears, &c., of the common practice of judges to cut these fruits before making their awards. The object of an exhibition is to show; and what does the public generally care about flavour in what is shown? Now, while granting that high flavour in all kinds of fruits is of much importance, I do not attach the same weight, as some people do, in exhibited fruits. If the committees of societies are anxious to have flavour tested, then why not have a

Auriculas came from Mr. Douglas. Mr. Charles Turner was second. This class adds some extent to the show, but it invariably contains specimens inferior to those seen in the foregoing classes.

The alpines made a brave display, and those who complain of the sameness in character and formality of the show varieties turn with satisfaction to the brilliant and diversified alpines. The best twelve plants came from Mr. Charles Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough, who had a very fine lot of superbly grown and bloomed plants. The varieties were Harry Turner, Roland, Magnet, Sunrise, John Bright, T. E. Henwood, F. Knighton, Mungo McGeorge, Peter Flower, Phœbe, and Sensation. Mr. J. Douglas came second with some admirable specimens. With six varieties, Mr. T. E. Henwood was first with grand plants of Love Bird, Charles Turner, Mrs. Martin, Mary Frances, Defiance, and a seedling; second, Mr. C. Turner. Mr. George Wheelwright was third with capital specimens also. The best four came from Mr. Wheelwright, who had Hotspur, Pallas, Garnet, and Defiance; Mr. T. E. Henwood being second, Mr. W. L. Walker, also of Reading, third. In the class for single specimens of golden-centred alpine Auriculas, Mr. C. Turner was first with H. M. Pollett, Mr. T. E. Henwood second with Florie Henwood, Mr. A. J. Sanders third with Diadem, and Mr. Wheelwright fourth with Sunrise. In the class for white centres, Mr. C. Turner was first with Maud Fellowes, and second with Countess; Mr. T. E. Henwood third with Paragon, and Mr. J. J. Keen, Southampton, fourth with Edith.

Gold-laced Polyanthuses were shown in much better character than during the past few years. Mr. J. Douglas was first with well grown and bloomed plants of Cheshire Favourite, Exile, William IV., George IV., Lancer, and a seedling red ground. Second, Mr. J. Weston, gardener to Mr. D. Martineau, Clapham Park. Mr. R. Dean was third. Mr. J. Douglas also had the best three plants. Mr. A. J. Sanders was second, Mr. Weston coming third. The best single specimen was George IV., from Mr. J. Douglas. For twelve fancy Auriculas, Mr. J. Douglas was first and Mr. R. Dean second. Under this head can be grown anything that does not come into any of the divisions of the show Auricula. Among seedlings of the latter will come some edged flowers having a golden instead of a dark ground, and such types Mr. Douglas had in good character. Mr. R. Dean had some double and semi-double varieties and others of a mixed character. Fancy Polyanthuses were less attractive than usual, owing to the lateness of the season and the difficulty of getting the plants into bloom. Mr. J. Douglas was placed first and Mr. R. Dean second. In the class for hardy Primroses the positions of these two exhibitors were reversed, Mr. R. Dean showing a bright and effective lot, but wanting time in which to develop. In the open ground they are nearly a month later than nsual in blooming. Mr. J. Douglas was second, and Mr. O. T. Hodges, Lachine, Chislehurst, third. Messrs. Paul and Son, Old Nurseries, Cheshunt, were first for baskets of double Primroses; Mr. R. Dean was second, having the old velvet crimson and the blush. None of the doubles scarcely were well advanced in bloom, owing to the coldness of the weather. A very fine and interesting group of twelve species came from Mr. J. Douglas, and was awarded the first prize. It contained japonica, Auricula, cashmeriana, floribunda, verticillata, obconica, intermedia, Nelsoni, marginata, obtusæfolia, nivea, and rosea. Sir J. T. Llewelyn, Bart., Penllergare, Swansea, was second with a very good collection also. With six specimens, Mr. O. T. Hodges was first with denticulata, very fine; viscosa and its variety, purpurea, nivea, hirsuta, and marginata; second, the Guildford Hardy Plant Company, who set theirs up tastefully in a Moss-covered box. Noticeable in this collection was Balfouriana, with large, bright, claret-coloured flowers. Mr. R. Dean was third, having a finely-formed P. obconica and a pretty lilac-coloured form named Peyritschi. Messrs. Paul and Son were first, and Mr. R. Dean second, for baskets of Primroses.

Certificates of merit were given to the following new Auriculas: Mrs. Henwood, green edged, raised by Mr. Samuel Barlow, Manchester, a very finely-fringed variety of robust growth; exhibited by Mr. T. E. Henwood, of Reading. Certificates of merit were also awarded to the following alpines: Mrs. Walker, maroon, shaded with salmon-red, raised and exhibited by Mr. T. E. Henwood, of Reading; John Bright (Turner), dark ground, shaded with delicate orange-salmon, very fine, and Primrose Queen (Turner), dark ground, with rose shading paling to silvery-grey—both exhibited by Mr. Turner; Mrs. Douglas (Henwood), cream centre, with maroon ground, and edged with rose shading to silvery-pink—a very pretty and pleasing variety; and Mrs. Harry Turner (Turner), cream centre, black ground, shaded with delicate mauve.

The Auricula selected for the premier prize was grey edge George Lightbody, shown by Mr. T. E. Henwood in his first prize collection of twelve varieties.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM BARRON.

We are very sorry to have to announce, at the advanced age of eighty-five, the death on the 8th of April of Mr. William Barron, of Borrowash, whose name was so well known among gardening people. He was born on the 7th of September, 1805, at Eccles, in Berwickshire, and having early shown a love for gardening, he went as an apprentice in the gardens of Lady Boswell, Blackadder. He afterwards went to the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, under Mr. William McNab. Here he remained for two years, and wishing to know something of Pine growing he was sent to Syon House. He was then appointed in 1830 to lay out the grounds at Elvaston Castle, Derbyshire, for Charles, the fourth Earl of Harrington, with whom he remained for over twenty years. During this period he began and completed one of the most curious gardens in Great Britain. All the finest specimens of Coniferæ, including many large old Yews, that could be obtained were brought to and planted at Elvaston. Shortly after the death of the fourth earl, Mr. Barron published a work under the title of "The British Winter Garden." Mr. Barron would not allow a second edition to be published until he had thoroughly revised the work, but unfortunately he was never able to do this. He was known not only as a landscape gardener, but as an authority on Conifers. Soon after the death of the fifth Earl of Harrington in 1862, Mr. Barron's nursery at Elvaston having largely increased, he bought about 40 acres at Borrowash, within a mile of Elvaston, and to this he gradually transferred his stock. His son having now joined him, he in 1865 resigned his appointment at Elvaston and went to reside at Borrowash. One of his greatest feats in tree moving was when he successfully removed the Buckland Yew, over 1000 years old. The last work he took any active part in was laying out the Abbey Park, Leicester. He was summoned as the first witness before the Royal Commission on Forestry in 1887. Up to the time of his death his faculties were unimpaired, with the exception of his wonderful memory, which somewhat failed him after a severe illness he had in the spring of 1890. He was one of the pioneers of the temperance cause at a time when it was more difficult to inculcate its doctrines than at the present day.

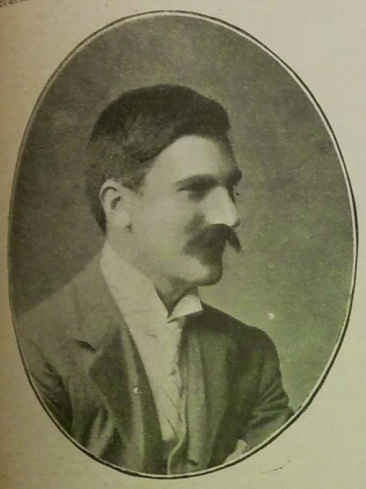
Mr. John Dykes.—Mr. John Dykes, nurseryman, expired at his residence, Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock, on Friday morning last, aged 80 years. He had been for a considerable time in infirm health. The deceased had for upwards of fifty years carried on his business as the successor of Dykes and Gentles. He was one of the most prominent authorities on agriculture in the west of Scotland, and was appointed a member of the committee of the agricultural section of the International Exhibition at Glasgow.

W. M'CORQUODALE.

Many of our readers, not only in this country, but in widely different parts of the world, will learn with deep regret of the death on the 17th April, at the age of eighty-one, of Mr. William M'Corquodale, forester to the Earl of Mansfield. He was a man who enjoyed the love and esteem of all who had the good fortune to be acquainted with him. As a forester he had acquired a European reputation. Until last spring Mr. M'Corquodale was in the enjoyment of excellent health, but at that time he suffered from the epidemic of influenza, and although he was able to resume his duties, he was never so robust as formerly, and towards the latter part of September he was entirely confined to the house as an acute sufferer with little hope of recovery. Mr. M'Corquodale was born in Argyleshire, and received part of his training at Stonefield. In 1838 he entered the service of the Earl of Mansfield, and for many years has been the acknowledged father of forestry in Britain. In May, 1880, he completed his fiftieth year as a practical forester, and on October 5 following, at the annual dinner of the Scottish Arboricultural Society, of which he was one of the original members and staunchest friends, he was the recipient of a valuable testimonial, consisting of a handsome gold watch and a purse of 100 sovereigns, with a brooch for Mrs. M'Corquodale. During the long period he has been connected with Lord Mansfield's estates he has planted and reared many thousands of acres of woodlands with the greatest success, thus not only enhancing the beauty of the landscape in what were formerly desolate portions of the county, but adding immensely to the value of the property. Oak, Larch, and Scotch Fir were the varieties which he most largely cultivated, but all other species and varieties of British timber have found a home under his care on the Scone estates. Still, it is as the pioneer planter of the newer Coniferæ on an extensive scale, as a regular forest crop, that Mr. M'Corquodale's name will be best known to future generations. When he first took charge of Scone woods, the taste for planting ornamental Conifers was just developing, fostered by the splendid introductions of Douglas (himself a native of Scone) and others from the north-western seaboard of America. Of these noble trees, Mr. M'Corquodale had the greatest faith in Abies Douglasi, which he regarded not only as a beautiful ornamental tree, but as a valuable timber tree as well. He commenced in 1857 by planting 13 acres of poor moorish soil with Douglas Fir, and he was so well pleased with the result, that in 1860 he planted several acres on Taymount Estate, alongside the Highland Railway between Stanley and Murthly, with Douglas Fir as a permanent crop. This is now a pure Douglas Fir plantation, and from its singular beauty readily attracts the attention of observant travellers. The success which so far crowned his efforts led him to extend his experiments at Lynedoch, Logiealmond, and Scone, with the most gratifying results.

He, happily, lived to see his early beliefs justified by results. These experiments brought him into notice not only all over Britain, but in various parts of Europe. From his extensive experience, Mr. M'Corquodale was frequently invited to act as a wood valuator and surveyor, and, through the kind indulgence of his noble employer, he was privileged to inspect and report upon the woods of a very large number of estates in Scotland and England, his opinions and recommendations being held in the highest estimation by landlords and others. Many of his most valuable contributions to forest literature appear in the "Transactions of the Scottish Arboricultural Society," from whose annual meetings he was only once or twice absent since the formation of the society in 1854, and in which he held various important offices. He is survived by a widow and a family of grown-up sons and daughters, for all of whom there will be widespread sympathy.—*Perthshire Constitutional.*

—which is very remarkable—while in the case of hybrids from these two parents the resulting bulbs often attain a circumference of six inches by the end of the first year. In order to obtain these results, it is, of course, necessary to keep the plants growing the whole of the time, and not to allow them the annual rest which they require when they are older. It is scarcely necessary to add that they must be kept under glass—at any rate during the colder months—but a high temperature is not advisable. There can be no



MR. JAMES BARSON.

doubt that the perpetual propagation by means of offsets or leaf-cuttings tends to produce the deterioration of the race, and, as the stock of many growers already shows signs of deterioration, it is to be hoped that seeds will be more largely used in the future than they have been in the past. There is, too, always the chance of securing new hybrids superior to either of the parents, and this alone should be an inducement to amateurs to try this method of propagation.

August 26th.—That plants are often starved is indisputable; but the possibility of their being overfed is apt to be overlooked. While one realises in a general way that it is possible to have too much of a good thing, there is generally a reluctance to apply the principle to specific cases. A plant, given a certain amount of manure, makes a remarkable advance, so more and more manure is given to it—with surprising results, for it turns sickly, and begins to go backward. This would not be likely to happen if one fact were borne in mind—that all plants consist of from seventy-five to ninety per cent. by weight of water. Obviously, then, the amount of solid matter which they can utilise is very small. It has been shown that if the amount in solution exceeds one part in five hundred parts of water, many plants are injured, being dwarfed in growth, while their leaves become yellow or twisted, and ultimately fall. Pot plants are more likely to suffer from these and similar causes than others growing in the open ground, because they cannot send their roots beyond their injurious surroundings. This is one more argument in favour of good drainage. When there are plenty of broken crocks at the bottom of a pot, watering will, in time, wash away the excess of soluble food, and so will relieve the roots. Of course, it cuts both ways. If there is a deficiency of soluble food, that also will be reduced by each watering.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

A HOLLYHOCK growing in a garden at New Cross is attracting a good deal of attention just now. It has three flowering stems, varying from eight to nearly twelve feet in height, thus eclipsing even the famous Cardiff plant, which has attained a height of eleven feet.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 152.—MR. JAMES BARSON, AT THE GARDENS, HINCHINGBROOKE, HUNTINGDON.

IT was almost on the eve of the Huntingdon Horticultural show, in July, that I visited Hinchingbrooke, and preparations for the event were going on in the gardens, which Lord Sandwich kindly allows to be used for the purpose. Mr. Barson, the head gardener at Hinchingbrooke, is, of course, one of the moving spirits, as he is also one of the most successful of exhibitors at local and other shows. But he suggested that before we discussed either of these points we should look round the grounds, and, accordingly, we started at the fine old archway, which is one of the features of the place, passing on our way the commodious stables, with their window-boxes adorned with Pelargoniums.

In making restorations to the mansion, such as the repair of a window of 1602, care has been taken to preserve its ancient character. In that part of the pleasure grounds which can be best seen from the terrace opposite the mansion, beds containing standard Geraniums, Begonias, Aloysias, standard Fuchsias, and Dahlias are prominent, with two antique vases filled with scarlet Geraniums and Tagetes. Scarlet Geraniums are, in fact, a great feature, Lord Sandwich being very fond of them. But at this point we did not talk about varieties, proceeding instead to notice some of the fine timber which enhances the beauty of the pleasure grounds. There is a grand Cedar, with a trunk fourteen feet six inches round, twenty feet up, and more than a hundred and fifty years old, a very handsome Beech, and some nice specimens of Prunus Pissardi.

In the path leading to the woods, a fine old Box hedge, of considerable height, attracted my attention; and in the park, just beyond the gates, adjacent to the appropriately-named Walnut Walk, is the lake, with some of the best varieties of Marliac Lilies, which flower well, and are extremely ornamental. Coming back to the pleasure grounds, with a glance at another grand old Cedar, conspicuous for its striking quantity of bramble, we paused at the Cloisters, which form a portion of the mansion, and I said,

"I see that you have some Orange trees in tubs."

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Barson. "They came from the South of France, and have been here about six years. We take off the old fruit, and they seem all the better for it."

"Here, too, you have a number of Geraniums in tubs still thriving."

"A dozen. They are all Henry Jacoby, and have been in flower since Whitsuntide. They are very lasting, and cause very little trouble. We give them a small quantity of bonemeal twice a week. The pots which you see sunk into the lawn contain Ivy-leaf varieties, Madame Crousse, Ryecroft Glory, Charles Turner, and Splendens."

"With the Geraniums you mix Marguerites?"

"We like the combination. The Marguerites are also grown as single plants in tubs. They are taken from the beds, wintered in the tubs, and put out in April. The variety is Coronation."

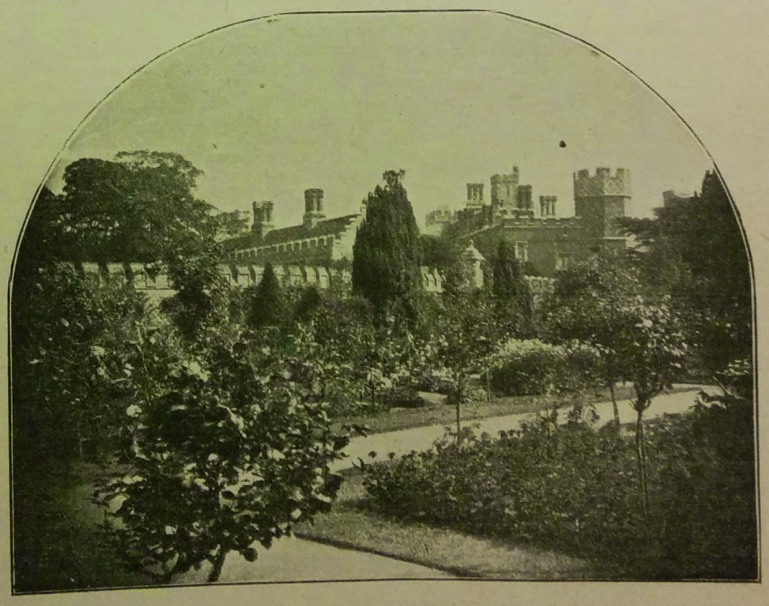
"What do you grow in the winter garden?"

"The Clianthus puniceus is very beautiful when it is in flower. Other climbers are Plumbago capensis, Bougainvillea Sanderii, and Tacsonia exoniensis. We have Chrysanthemums here in the winter, and also the Palms."

"Your Honeysuckle arches are quite a feature."

"They are just beginning to look lovely. We only grow the old red variety; no other does so well here. The arches, some of which consist of Crimson and White Rambler Roses, were started eight or nine years ago. Honeysuckle also grows on the wall of the flower garden adjoining the mansion, as well as Clematis and Ampelopsis Veitchii."

"The wall is embellished by its battlements," I observed, as, after inspecting a noble Wellingtonia gigantea, and a number of good old Irish Yews, we strolled towards what is known as the flower garden. This contains a number of singularly effective beds, in which standard Geraniums are prominent.



HINCHINGBROOKE, HUNTINGDON, FROM THE GARDENS.

"The principal varieties," said Mr. Barson, "are Decorator, Golden Vesuvius, John Forbes, Dr. Nicaisse, Mrs. Marshall, King Edward the Seventh, and Athlete."

"How many vases of Geraniums are there on the top of the wall with arches leading out of the garden?"

"About a hundred. They are chiefly Jacoby, King Edward the Seventh, and Athlete. The wall itself is covered with Ivy and Clematis."

"I should like to have some particulars about the beds."

"One, as you see, is scarlet Begonias, carpeted with Alyssum and Mesembryanthemum, relieved with Acacia lophantha. There are two beds of light, dwarf Grass, also Eulalia japonica dotted with Lobelia cardinalis and standard Golden Privet in the centre. Then there are beds of white Marguerite dotted with scarlet Cannas, beds of bush Fuchsias, dotted with standards, and beds of Heliotrope with a standard in the centre and bushes at the bottom."

"Your plan is to dot the beds?"

"Yes, in this garden. Thus, the beds of Tagetes are dotted with the bronze Castor-oil plant, and those of the small Begonia Phosphorensis with Japanese Maize. Other beds, however, consist of one variety, such as Marigold, (Legion of Honour), Geraniums (Duchess of Cornwall), and blue Lobelias. There are two beds, under the wall, of Antirrhinums of mixed colours, and one of the Tobacco plants (affinis and sylvestris)."

There is another garden by which the tennis courts and croquet lawn are approached, and I inquired whether these had been made recently.

"Everything in the shape of improvements has been done during the last eighteen years, since the present Lord Nantwich came into possession of the estate."

"The pleasure grounds must be very considerable in extent?"

"They are about twenty acres, and the kitchen gardens about four acres and a half. Here you notice a good collection of flowering and other shrubs, including Lilacs, Syringas, standard Laburnums, Golden Elders, Berberis Darwinii, and double scarlet Thorns, while all round the tennis courts are climbing Roses, Clematis, and Honeysuckle on woodwork."

"The arrangement is very charming. But what is the garden we are now entering?"

"The Japanese garden. It was made three years ago, out of a dirty pond."

"How did you do it?"

"We drained the pond, made the watercourse, and took in another piece of the park where hundreds and hundreds of barrows of soil had collected. Of the last we made miniature mountains."

"Yes, I observe that you have the valley and the hills on either side."

"On one bank will be an avenue of Cryptomerias (Japanese Cedars) and Japonicas, which have already made marvellous growth."

"What have you planted on the hills?"

"Chiefly, Bamboo, Eulalia japonica, standard Wistarias, Rosa rugosa, clumps of Chrysanthemums, Azalea mollis, Aucuba japonica, Funkias, bush Wistarias, Golden Privets, Liliums Harrisoni, Browni, auratum, tigrinum splendens, masses of the old common Musk, and masses of Hyacinth candidums, clumps of Pampas Grass, standard Hydrangeas paniculata, standard Hibiscus, Magnolia stellata, Maples in pots sunk in the earth, and little Oaks in pots."

"We have, also," continued Mr. Barson, "worked Azaleas in trunks of trees from Yokohama. Some of the best varieties of Japanese Iris are still in flower. Aucubas, male and female, are planted together, with double Cherries (white and pink). Other varieties are the Japanese Larch, Pyrus japonica, large clumps of Spiræa japonica, Japanese Dianthus, Golden Hop, Japanese Myrtle in pots, Rheum giganteum, Hydrangeas, Hortensis, the Japanese Wineberry, Strawberry-Raspberry, and Mayberry."

"You have Lilies in the water."

"Lilies and goldfish. The bank in front of the tea-house is made up of stonework, flowers, and foliage."

"Did the seven storks come from Japan?"

"Yes, and also the two flying-fish. When the garden is illuminated we have a fire which is supposed to represent burning earth, and the effect is very realistic."

"How long did it take you to make the garden?"

"We commenced at the end of September, and finished at the end of April."

"Then you must have had a large staff engaged?"

"We had a number of extra men. Ordinarily, the strength of the garden staff is about fifteen, four of whom reside in the bothy."

Before we went into the kitchen garden we had a peep at the Chestnut Walk, and at forty-eight very fine-looking roots of Celery—Sutton's Silver White and Veitch's Red Perfection—for exhibition. Two years ago the south wall of the kitchen garden was planted, right away from the gate to the Park, with Roses, Teas, China, and Noisettes on one side, and Crimson Rambler on the other. The addition is delightful, and prepared me for the remarkably beautiful border of mixed annuals leading from the pleasure grounds and going far into the kitchen garden. I asked how it was mainly made up.

"There are Roses and Sweet Peas at the back, a hundred and fifty Dahlias of the best varieties in the border, which also includes batches of Coreopsis, Stocks, Godetias, Marigolds, Salpiglossis, batches of Asters, pale blue Larkspur, miniature Sunflowers, Nasturtiums in variety, golden Tagetes, purple, white, and pink Candytuft, and clumps of Heliotrope (Madame Buzzard). At the end, just outside, is a pergola of Wistaria, in the centre a bower covered by Crimson Rambler Roses, and at the other end Crimson Ramblers again."

"What is the length of the border?"

"Sixty yards, and it is five yards wide."

"Now, shall we take the frames and houses?"

"Of Cucumbers and Melons, the varieties are Lockie's Perfection, Rochford's Market, and Telegraph Cucumbers. The Melons are Hero of Lockinge and Earl's Favourite. Geraniums for exhibition are also grown in frames, including King of Denmark, Charles Page, and Queen of the Whites. In the cold frames we grow Carrots for exhibition, Veitch's Scarlet Model and Sutton's new Red Intermediate."

"Do you grow Chrysanthemums for exhibition?"

"No. We have about six hundred of the Japanese and Incurved, but we merely go in for the varieties which suit our purpose for decorating. Of Carnations we have a whole bed of Old Clove and Raby Castle."

"Your stove appears to be a new house?"

"It was put up eighteen months ago. There is a good selection of Crotons and other tall plants. The contents also include Tobacco plants, Allamandas, Hydrangea paniculata, Dracænas, standard Abutilons, and Bougainvilleas. The back wall is covered with Mosses and Ferns."

Entering one of the Vineries, some magnificent Liliums in pots caught my eye.

"They are L. Harrisii and L. auratums for exhibition," explained Mr. Barson, "also the standard Fuchsias, Daniel Lambert, Scarcity, and Lustre."

"How old is your rod of Madresfield Court?"

"Only five years. The other varieties of Grapes in this house are Duke of Buccleuch and Hamburgh. The varieties in the late Vinery are Muscat of Alexandria, Lady Downe's, Mrs. Pearson, Alicante, and Gros Maroc."

"And Peaches?"

"In the early house, Hale's Early, Early Beatrice, and Royal George. I had eighteen dozen fruits on one tree of the last. In another Peach house are Pitmaston Orange Nectarines. Outside I grow the Lord Palmerston Peaches, with others, which are shifted in afterwards. Crimson Galande was shifted from outside last September, and is doing well; also Elruge Nectarine."

"You have a good crop of Sea Eagle?"

"Also of Barrington. The Tomatoes in this house are Sutton's Exhibition, Webb's Coronation, Jubilee, Cannell's King, Perkins' Gem, and Brooks' Freedom. In the late Peach house are Barrington and Stirling Castle; and Nectarines, Violette Hative and Lord Napier. Here, too, we have Pears, Margaret Mochelle and Souvenir du Congrès; Plums, Transparent Gage and Kirke's; and Brown Turkey Fig. I am going to bring a Bellegarde Peach tree into this house."

"There remain the fruit and vegetables outside."

"We grow all the Lancashire prize Gooseberries. I think they are the best."

"Peas appear to be a great feature?"

"They are. Perkins' President, Edwin Beckett, Alderman, Duke of Albany, Sutton's Centenary, Carter's Telephone, Carter's Torpedo, Webb's Senator and Autocrat are among the best. All the ground on which the Peas are grown was trenched four feet in the autumn and manured twice. But it has had no water on it, nor been fed since."

"How many varieties of Potato do you go in for?"

"There are thirty-two on one patch, including Northern Star, Duke of York, and Cigarette. Onions do well with us. We grow some in pots and others in boxes. Those in pots are slightly better. Some of Sutton's Exhibition came to two and a-half pounds each. Of Parsley, which is specially good, we grow Webb's Curled. We have a patch of Seakale for taking up and growing in the house. By keeping this patch for three years, we get more to cut from than we do from the young plants. There are twelve Asparagus beds, twenty-five yards long."

"Do you grow several varieties of Strawberries?"

"Royal Sovereign, Laxton, Mentmore, Veitch's Prolific, President, Sir Joseph Paxton, and Latest of All. I prefer Raspberries grown on the wires to those bunched. Our two varieties are Superlative and Hornet. We also grow the Loganberry on wire; it is a good fruit for dessert."

"You have Apples on cordons and as standards?"

"Yes. Some of the best varieties of Apples are planted in the orchard, which we made about eight years ago. The best of the dessert varieties are Cox's Orange, Charles Ross, Rival, King of Pippins, Worcester Pearmain, Beauty of Bath, Allington Pippin, Lady Sudeley, and Gladstone. Here are twelve of the best kitchen sorts:—Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lane's Prince Albert, Warner's King, Ecklinville Seedling, Golden Spire, Wealthy, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Loddington, Pott's Seedling, Alfriston, Lord Derby, and Tyler's Kernel."

"What about Pears?"

"They do not thrive with us so much as Apples. The best are Beurré Superfin, Doyenné du Comice, Louise Bonne, and Conference. The Plums on pyramids are bearing splendid crops. The varieties are Gisbon's, Early Rivers', Victoria, and Washington. On the walls we grow Coe's Golden Drop, Monarch, Kirke's, Transparent Gage, and Jefferson."

"Now, about the show. How long has it been held?"

"This is only the second year. There are 1,500 entries. Vegetables are particularly strong all round. There is very keen competition, and a considerable sum is given in prizes. Lord Sandwich is both the president and the mainstay of the show. He started it."

"Are prizes awarded for stove and greenhouse plants?"

"Yes, for six varieties in foliage and bloom. Prizes are also given for three double and three single Zonal Pelargoniums, distinct; for three standard Fuchsias; for twelve distinct Tea Roses; for twelve bunches of hardy, herbaceous, and bulbous flowers; for collections of six different kinds of fruit; for Cucumbers; and for Potatoes. Messrs. Sutton, Messrs. Webb, and Mr. Perkins also offer prizes for six distinct kinds of Potatoes. The table decoration competition, open to ladies only, excites a great deal of interest."

"You show a good deal, I think?"

"Ever since I came here, five years ago, I have shown at local and other shows, Sandy, Burton, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Huntingdon, Ramsey, St.

Ives, Hitchin, and Cambridge. I have also lectured on horticulture for the County Council."

"How many prizes did you take last year?"

"Twenty-five firsts, two seconds, and one third, or twenty-eight out of twenty-nine exhibits. I showed groups of foliage plants, Fuchsias, greenhouse fruit, and vegetables."

"Where did you commence your gardening career?"

"Under my father, in Norfolk. He was head gardener for a quarter of a century at Garboldisham Manor. I then went to the Rayner's, Buckingham, Sir Philip Rose's place, and was there for three years and a-half; next I was for two years at Osberton Hall, Worksop, and, prior to my appointment here as head gardener, I was foreman for five years at Eastnor Castle, Ledbury."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

ABOUT WICHURIANA ROSES.

Dear Kate,—Have you seen the new Wichuriana Rose, Dorothy Perkins? It is one of the best possible climbers, for it is extremely floriferous, every point producing a spray of exquisite little Roses, in a rich, bright pink tint, which is very uncommon. We put in a plant of this Rose last autumn, and it has been greatly admired, for it is already more than half way up the arch it is to cover, and it has been a perfect mass of bloom for several weeks.

The Wichuriana Roses are very useful in many ways, for they will grow upwards or downwards, hanging low over a wall, or climbing up it; or you can make a fountain of flowers by growing them with very little support, when they throw up their long shoots from the base yearly, which take the most graceful curves in reaching the ground again.

Then they are so easily propagated by layering them, like a Carnation, after cutting the stem half through, and this is a good time for the work. You should mix some spent soil (turned out in repotting plants) with sand and charcoal dust, and put it into a small hole just at the place where you mean to layer the shoot of the Rose, then cut the stem half through, slanting the cut so as to make a tongue-shaped slit, and peg this down firmly, covering it with a little heap of the compost. You should not remove the young plants until the following October, when they should be strongly rooted.

Jersey Beauty is another good Wichuriana Rose, with creamy blossoms and abundant yellow anthers, for it is single. I like the foliage of these plants extremely; it is distinct from that of ordinary Roses, very neat in growth, small, and shining; besides which most of them are evergreen, a great advantage in the winter. Jersey Beauty is thoroughly evergreen here, and its glossy leaves are lovely. Pink Roamer is a single flower with large clusters of bloom, but I don't like the shade of pink, which is too blue in tint, not a yellow pink, like that of Dorothy Perkins. However, the effect of the mass of little flowers, on an arch, if well away from scarlet flowers, is very bright, and those who are not so particular as to colours as I am will be pleased with it. There are a number of good hybrids of Wichuriana Roses (with larger varieties), just introduced, of which Edmond Proust, with copper-yellow double blooms, carmine-centred, is perhaps the best, but I have not yet seen it. Let me advise you to get two of these Roses in October, and if you have not room for them on an arch, plant them at the side of your lawn, in the sunshine, making a considerable hole for each, and laying the roots out horizontally in their natural position on fine soil. Don't add a lot of fresh manure to the soil when you plant them; if this is poor, have old manure dug into these places at once, when it will be right for the Roses at the end of October, or the first half of November; but if you can give them good, turfy loam, they will not require manure at present. Be sure to tread the roots in very firmly, and if the Roses are to cover an arch, tie them up to it before the wild winds of winter knock them about. Another important point is to see that the collar of the plant (*i.e.*, that point where the stem and the roots meet) is just covered with soil, and no more, for if it is uncovered the Rose will not thrive, and if it should be deeply placed below the surface, the same thing will occur. I saw a miserable Wichuriana Rose the other day, in a neighbour's garden, which was planted amongst a lot of young Fir trees, which, of course, exhausted the soil utterly, and the poor Rose was starving. When you put in a Rose or a shrub, I hope you will remember that it cannot possibly do well unless it is properly fed; all Roses (and especially climbers) must have a good mulch of manure every spring in March, when they start their growth after the winter's sleep, but they do not like their roots to touch anything of an impure nature, and, therefore, be careful to avoid this in planting them.

Dorothy Perkins.

Signs of autumn are beginning, and the berries of the Rowan tree (Pyrus aucuparia) are now lovely, like the brightest coral, all over the Rowan arch. I wish it were possible to keep some of them for winter decorations, but they are so easily broken from their stems that they fall in great numbers as soon as they are ripe. I have kept the beautiful triple pods of the dusky Iris, which grows abundantly in South Devon, by dipping them, before they are over-ripe, into strong, clear gum, when they last well through the winter, but Rowanberries are more difficult to manage, and you must gather them before they are quite ripe if you don't want them to fall off. The berries of the Japanese Rose (rugosa), and also of the Sweet Brier, Lucy Bertram (and others), are large and handsome; these should be gathered when scarlet, and dipped in strong gum, if you want them for winter decorations, and some of the prettiest to preserve in this way are Asparagus berries, for they are so light in effect for the dinner-table. Already the Virginian Creeper and Ampelopsis Veitchii are showing signs of brilliant autumn tints, and you can make a very effective dinner-table arrangement with their richly-coloured foliage, white Japanese Anemones, and the scarlet Asparagus sprays of berries. Japanese Anemones are so useful to cut now; ours have been left alone for some years, and have developed into large clumps, with hundreds of blooms. These plants take several years to get hold of the soil thoroughly, but when they do few perennials can be finer in effect. I have planted the new hybrid pink variety, Queen Charlotte, in front of the white Honorine Joubert, in a half-wild corner of the garden, where I expect it will be very effective in a year or two, for it has large, pale pink blossoms, semi-double, which, as they do not grow quite so tall as the white ones, they show up well in front of them. These Anemones are lovely in a rather shady corner, grouped with the larger British Ferns; both like to be left alone, and can be trusted to manage their own affairs when once well planted.

Wichuriana Rose—Jersey Beauty.

My shady corner is at the end of the lawn of which I sent you a photograph lately (August 6th), and we manage to make it very pretty with tall white and crimson Foxgloves, Canterbury Bells, etc., in spring, Hollyhocks later on, Japanese Anemones and Ferns, and, last of all, Red-hot Pokers (Kniphofias), but it does not do to forget to mulch these plants in spring, as they need plenty of good soil to make the fine growth which they should do.

In the conservatory the tuberous Begonias are still in fine blossom; these lovely flowers need to be often shifted on to a pot slightly larger than the last, and every time they are potted on they make fresh growth. In this way they can be induced to bloom till the end of October, when they go to rest for the winter, and should be kept dry and out of the way of frost until the middle of the following February, when a little syringing and sunshine will soon make them start, and we then pot up each tuber singly. The seed of double tuberous Begonias which we sowed in July has germinated perfectly, and the tiny plants must now be pricked out into boxes (see my letter of July 29th); we shall keep them growing as long as possible in winter, to give them time to form little tubers.

Your friend,

I.L.R.

Potatoes with haulm over six feet high have been grown this year by Mr. J. Hale, of Coombe Hay Park, Devonshire. The variety is not stated.

Collomia coccinea is a very pretty but little-known hardy annual, of the simplest culture. It is compact and bushy in growth, with neat heads of small, tubular blossoms of a soft salmony-red colour. It is perfectly hardy, and may be sown in the autumn.

not exist on the Continent, where many different kinds of fungi are eaten, and liked.

October 1st.—It would be interesting to ascertain, if it could be ascertained, what proportion of an ordinary man's knowledge he has personally tested, and what proportion he has taken upon trust. Life under modern conditions is so complicated that the former, as compared with the latter, must be almost infinitely little. The fact has its disadvantages, for it induces a habit of accepting without investigation statements which rest upon a very insecure basis. This applies, I think, especially to the domain of gardening. What our fathers thought and did, we are very apt to think and do unquestioningly. They, for example, talked glibly of the necessity of a thorough ripening of the wood if a fruit-crop was to be obtained in the following year; we do the same. Yet what is the evidence that such ripening is necessary? I don't say it isn't; I only ask for the evidence. Someone says, "But, really! Experience shows——" Just so. That was the evidence brought to prove the sun goes round the earth. We want something a little more definite—something more on the lines of the reply made by the Cambridge undergraduate, who, on being remonstrated with for saying that the distance from Dan to Beersheba was a Sabbath day's journey, staggered the examiner with, "But, my dear sir, I've walked it myself." This, if it had been true, would have been good evidence as far as it went. After all, one of the best tests for a supposed fact is whether there is a good reason for it or not. And here a possible reason does suggest itself. For it can be proved experimentally—by root-pruning, for example—that a check to the flow of sap promotes the formation of fruit-buds, and this flow would necessarily be less rapid through ripened wood than it would where the cell-walls were softer and more porous. But this by no means covers the whole ground. It is conceivable that in a full-grown tree the sap might be controlled by other agencies, quite enough to be independent of the amount of sunshine which at present we consider necessary. Here is a case in point. We have never had a worse autumn for ripening the wood, yet there are as many fruit-buds on my trees as I have ever seen on them. I could multiply instances, but, perhaps, have said enough to suggest further inquiry.

October 2nd.—"Plant trees at Michaelmas and command them to grow; plant them at Candlemas and entreat them to grow." This old saying, at any rate, has been pretty well tested. There can be no question that trees planted early in autumn, before root-action has quite ceased—and here we get the reason—are far more likely to grow and thrive than those planted some months later.

October 3rd.—The mosquitoes have been so excessively troublesome that I am anxious, if possible, to keep them away another year. There are about the place two ponds and several large open tanks, in which, no doubt, they breed. If the water is covered with a thin film of paraffin, as has been done with success in some mosquito-infested districts abroad, the pests ought to be destroyed. The difficulty is that the water is used for garden purposes. Can it be so used, when there is an oily film upon it, without injuring the plants? I can only try.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

Mr. A. C. Bartlett.

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 105.—Mr. A. C. BARTLETT, at THE GARDENS, PENCARROW, CORNWALL.

To horticulturists the gardens at Pencarrow are so varied and beautiful as to amply repay them for a journey to North Cornwall. By the courtesy of Mrs. Ford, the owner of the Pencarrow estate, who herself takes the utmost personal interest, not only in the gardens generally, but in individual plants and Conifers, I had the privilege of spending a day in the grounds and houses, under the guidance of Mr. A. C. Bartlett, who is responsible for their well-being. In spite of the fact that rain fell steadily, we were able to have a good look round. The lovely drive from the lodge gates, a mile and a quarter long, is noteworthy for its wonderful trees, and the remains of an old British camp, from which, Mr. Bartlett explained, the place itself derives its name, meaning "Head of the Camps." There are a series of these ancient camps in North Cornwall, and of these the Pencarrow example was the chief, or head. As I remarked on some of the fine Conifers we passed, Mr. Bartlett said:—

"There are considerably more than a hundred species and varieties represented here."

"I should like the names of some of the best specimens?"

"There is one very fine specimen of Abies cephalonia, and another of Abies nobilis. We are famous for our wonderful collection of Picea morinda (the Weeping Tree of Nepaul). A somewhat rare specimen is a variety of Pinus insignis, called ladiata, which differs from the type in being more flat at the top, with more spreading branches, and bearing a smaller cone. Equally rare, perhaps, is the specimen of Cupressus torulosa majestica. Abies firma is a fine tree; its cinnamon bark is very distinctive. We also have some fine specimens of Cryptomeria japonica; this is a most interesting tree. According to scientists, this, Gingo biloba (the Maidenhair Tree), Tree Ferns, Equisetums, and mosses, were the chief vegetation of our country in Eocene times, so that we now grow and prize, as an exotic, what once was indigenous, and (who knows?) the very coal we are burning may possibly be Cryptomerias in another form. The varieties of Larix include Americana and Europa pendula. One of the trees which the late Sir William Molesworth set great store by was the specimen of Fitzroya Patagonica, which is the finest of that species in the country."

"Do you know when it was planted?"

"It was bought and planted by Sir William in 1849, when he made the gardens. The house dates from early in the fifteenth century, and the estate has belonged to the family for generations. But Sir William designed and laid out the flower gardens, made the rockery, and planted all the trees. He tried all sorts of varieties, and many failed, but others were found suitable to

Pencarrow, Cornwall.

the climate. Among the finer specimens, that of Taxodium distichum pendula is unequalled, and the variety of Douglas Fir called laxifolia is very striking. A tree, not a Conifer, which we prize considerably, is a very fine-shaped specimen of Ilex dipyrena, the Himalayan Holly."

"You have splendid specimens on the lawns."

"Yes; one of the best is the Pinus insignis, a spreading tree, standing well; Picea Menziesii is very fine, and another, the fine Araucaria, which is coning very freely. From one point we counted a hundred and fourteen cones."

"Is it your experience that it is customary for Araucarias to cone?"

"Although it is commonly considered unusual, it is quite an ordinary occurrence, both here and in many other places. Next year's cones and catkins are just making their appearance now. The Araucaria, commonly styled 'Monkey Puzzle,' is most unsuitable for a small garden, and should always be planted where there is plenty of space."

"By the way," continued Mr. Bartlett, "the name of 'Monkey Puzzle' originated here. The tree next the rockery was brought to Pencarrow soon after its introduction into the country by Sir William Molesworth, who paid twenty guineas for it. At the time there was a large house party, and all the visitors came out in solemn state to see this rare tree, as it was then, planted; and Charles Austin, the famous barrister, ill-advisedly touched the prickly leaves and sharply withdrew his hand, feelingly remarking, 'It would puzzle a monkey.' The name 'caught on,' and the tree is now more generally known as the 'Monkey Puzzle' than by its proper name of Araucaria imbricata."

"You have also a fine collection of Retinosporas on the lawn."

"Yes; Retinospora filifera, with its slender, pendulous branches, is a very graceful tree. R. ericoides is noteworthy, as also is the silvery R. squarrosa. The Retinosporas are as suitable for small gardens, because of their size, as 'Monkey Puzzle' is unsuitable. Another very suitable tree for a small garden is the Umbrella Pine of Japan, Sciadopitys verticillata, which is ornamental, and does not take up too much space. It cones in its young state, and the cones should be removed. Unless they are removed their weight is sure to ultimately kill the specimen. Cunninghamia sinensis makes a fine tree here, but it is too tender for anywhere in the North."

"As Conifers are such a striking feature at Pencarrow, and thrive so amazingly, I should be glad of any advice from you."

"Conifers are mostly surface-rooters, and quick growers, so that after a score of years or so they have practically exhausted all available sources of nourishment. Then the trees greatly benefit by annual top-dressing; probably, road-soil is the best material for the purpose; the refuse from the potting-sheds is also useful. But I must warn your readers against the use of manure, natural or artificial, for this purpose, except, perhaps, in very slight quantities."

"Can you suggest any special precautions in planting?"

"In most cases it is desirable to plant Conifers on a slight mound, and always keep the 'crown' up. Be sure that the roots are thoroughly moist—neglect of this is fatal to the well-being of any tree. Remove with a clean upward cut any damaged roots; lay out the roots carefully, and as straight as possible; cover them with fine soil, plant firmly, and stake carefully."

"What is the extent of your perfectly-kept lawns?"

"They exceed eight acres. All the mowing is done with hand machines, which entails a deal of labour."

"And the flower garden?"

"Just over two acres. As you see, the flower garden is in the form of a large, sunken panel, with a large fountain and fish-basin, with Water Lilies (Marliac hybrids, chiefly), in the centre. Also in the centre is the sweet-scented Cape Pondweed."

"Lobelias seem to be popular?"

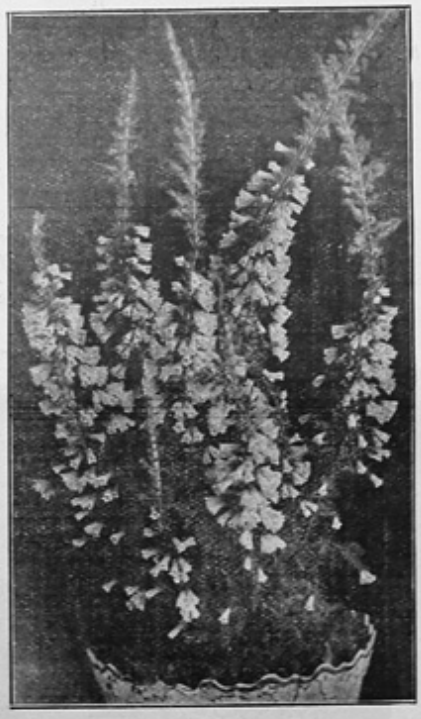
"We think that the Lobelia cardinalis Firefly, associated in two beds with the pink Ivy-leaved Geranium, edged with Gazania splendens, forms a striking feature. There are eight beds with the Lobelias as dot plants, the groundwork of the beds being the dwarf African Marigold—Legion d' Honneur."

"Close to the mansion, and on either side, I notice you have beds of Heliotropes."

"These beds have been filled with Heliotropes ever since the gardens were made, with a white Datura in the centre of each. Heliotropes were favourites with Sir William Molesworth, chiefly owing to the perfume, and Mrs. Ford likes the order to be maintained. Opposite the doorway, on each side of the gravel path, are beds of tuberous Begonias—the best of all bedding plants—and dot plants of Eucalyptus cordata."

"You have also two nice beds of the fibrous-rooted Begonias."

"They alternate with the striped Chlorophytum and dot plants of red and yellow Abutilons. Two other beds consist of Cannas and the Narcissus Gladiolus. The latter are gigantic



Erica hyemalis.

flowers. Quite as showy as these are the two beds of Rudbeckia Newmanni, and in the beds under the windows are some fine specimens of Dracæna australis."

"You have not mentioned the display of Calceolarias, the soft yellow variety, which I observed directly we got to the flower garden."

"I am glad you admire them. It is the variety amplexicaule, and edged, as they are, with the bronze variety, and alternated in two of the four beds with the old purple Verbena venosa—which is coming into fashion again—they are very effective. Calceolaria amplexicaule is superior to the Golden Gem, which is usually grown, as it flowers until late in the autumn, and until the frost comes. With regard to culture, when once you get it you should strike your own cuttings. The beds of foliage in the middle of the flower garden are filled with the Castor-oil Gibsonii and Iresines in variety."

"Then there are the gorgeous beds of Dahlias, close by. What are the varieties?"

"The Rising Sun, the dwarfest of all—only eighteen inches high—is the best of all bedding Dahlias. It is worthy of much larger cultivation, as it flowers freely from July until the frost comes. In these beds are also a few of King of the Cactus, the biggest-flowering Cactus Dahlia there is. In the two large mixed beds there are Golden Rod, single Sunflowers, Cactus Dahlias in variety, Stocks, Asters, the Autumn Crocus (Colchicum), herbaceous Phloxes, and Nicotiana sylvestris, which opens in the daytime, and the African variety, which opens only in the night."

"Have you any idea how many plants you use for summer-bedding?"

"About twelve thousand. Every variety is selected with the view of having it at its best from July onwards, when Mrs. Ford is in residence. Mrs. Ford prefers to have the show of flowers in the garden rather than in the house. The principle is to get a great quantity of plants in a little space. We are now preparing the plans for next year, in order that we may have ample time to get out the stock."

Having paused a moment to look at two fine, old-fashioned Fuchsias, fulgens and corymbiflora, in beds with scarlet Geraniums (the Aurora Borealis variety), we proceeded to the rockery.

"Where," I enquired, "did you get the enormous boulders which constitute the rockery?"

"At Bodmin moors, twelve miles distant. Between forty and fifty carts were employed at the same time in bringing them. Sir William Molesworth's tenants assisted for weeks after hay and corn harvest; and Sir William himself superintended the placing of each stone. He studied the natural formations before starting."

"Where was the cross in the top corner obtained?"

"That is an old Cornish cross, and it was buried for centuries in a farm hedge, and lately brought to light. Its diameter is two feet ten inches, which gives some idea of the size of the boulders themselves. The rockery, which is a hundred and forty yards long and twenty-six feet high in the centre, was, of course, built before rock plants were in vogue, and is quite different from the modern kind."

"What should you say are the leading features?"

"Himalayan Rhododendrons, Gaultheria Shallon, Andromeda floribunda, and other varieties, Cotoneasters, Yuccas, which stand out boldly, Camellias, of which the best for outdoor culture are C. reticulata and C. Lavinia Maggii, Heaths in variety, especially Erica Mediterranean and Erica compacta, Daboecia polifolia, scarlet Fuchsias, and hardy Ferns in abundance, some very rare. Along the banks of the stream near by are Bamboos, and Gunnera manicata, with leaves more than ten feet across."

"You have another variety?"

"Yes, Gunnera scabra, which has pink ribs to the leaves, while manicata has white ones. Scabra comes from Juan Fernandez, and it was from this plant that Robinson Crusoe took water when he was almost dying with thirst. It had collected in the gigantic leaves, which he also employed for roofing his hut, and for domestic utensils. Here, too, are noble clumps of the Osmunda regalis (the Royal Fern), the Bulrush, with brown flowers, an enormous Copper Beech, masses of the Himalayan Balsam, two big Palms, twelve to fourteen feet high, in an old house, once the home of aquatic fowl."

"How long have they been there?"

"Three years. They were planted out from the conservatory, and are now thoroughly established. To prevent them from being blown over by the wind, I placed large slabs of stone over their roots after they were planted, and when they were rooted in the soil I took the slabs away."

Before we arrived at the American garden we passed two ponds with Arum and Water Lilies growing in them, while on the banks were Bamboos, a fine specimen of the Silver Weeping Willow, and also one of the Sugar Maple, Acer saccharinum."

"You have Azaleas in the American garden?" I observed.

"Notably Azalea indica, which usually grows in the house, but flourishes here in the open. Rhododendrons and Camellias thrive in this garden, and Fuchsias and Ferns on the banks of the stream. The purple and yellow Loosestrife flourish, and there are some fine specimens of Conifers dotted about. The Oak trees, with Ferns growing on them, thirty to forty feet from the ground, are very interesting."

"Your shrubbery includes some masses of Hydrangeas, both pink and blue. What is your view as to the cause of the difference of colour?"

"It is entirely a question of light. Where the flowers are fully exposed to the sunlight they are pink—the normal colour—and where they grow in the shade the colour is blue; if in partial shade you notice a reddish tint in the blue. In proof of this theory, I may say that there are no blue Hydrangeas in a glasshouse, unless they are in a shady corner where the light does not penetrate."

From the shrubbery we made our way into the houses. The Water Lily house is the first of an extensive range.

"There are no pots in it," I remarked.

"No; that is a point. I re-arranged this house, and I had everything planted out. The varieties of Lilies in the tank are Dauberryana (blue), stellata (blue), dentata (white), Ortigiesii (red), and Devoniensis (red). In the tank is the Sacred Bean of Egypt, and at the end of the house, attached to a tree stump, is the tropical climber, Monstero deliciosa. In the photograph you can see the four fruits of it. Entwined amongst its leaves is the Hoya carnosa, which flowers early in the spring, and again in the autumn. The flowers in the spring should never be cut, or you lose the autumn ones. The roof plants include Bougainvillea glabra, Gloriosa superba (scarlet and yellow), Allamanda Schottii, a number of tropical Gourds, including Momocordica and the curious snake-shaped variety, and the Luffa Egyptiaca, which is used as a sponge."

"Which do you consider the features of the stove?"

"The Anthuriums are rather fine, and there are two big pots of Eucharis, as well as Crotons and Dracænas in variety. Behind the stove is a bit of tropical rockery."

"I should like the names of some of your varieties of late Grapes?"

"Appley Towers, West St. Peter's, Lady Downe, Black Alicante, Lady Hutt, and Mrs. Pearson."

Next to this Vinery is the conservatory, which was bright with many flowers, and Mr. Bartlett pointed out, on the roof, Tecomas in variety, particularly T. grandiflora, with enormous brick-red flowers, the new Honeysuckle, Lonicera Hildebrandii, the golden Cestrum aurantiacum, now flowering for the second time this year, and the sweet-scented Rhyncospermum jasminoides. Arranged up the pillars were Begonias fuchsioides and B. Knowlesiana; while in season there are in the house such plants as Francoa ramosa, Salvias splendens and Betholi, Begonia Weltoniensis, double Balsam, with many others.

In an adjoining house, devoted to Coleus, and containing fine varieties of colour, I inquired if they are easy to raise.

"Quite easy," rejoined Mr. Bartlett. "The seed should be sown early in the spring, in heat, to produce nice plants in the summer. A beautiful variety can be got from one packet of seed. Coleus require generous treatment and full exposure to the sun, to bring out the colour."

"Do you go in for Orchids?"

"Our Lapageria house was Sir William Molesworth's first Orchid house. He was devoted to Orchids, and used to pot them himself. But they are not grown now. It is a remarkable coincidence that Sir William, who was the first Colonial Secretary, had a notable collection of Orchids; and Mr. Chamberlain, the late Secretary to the Colonies, is, as everyone knows, very strong on Orchids. The Lapageria rosea on the roof, the Maidenhair Ferns, and the standard Geraniums are the features of this house. The next is the Fuchsia house, and also contains Geraniums. The varieties of the Fuchsias include Phenomenal, Phenomenal White, Phenomenal Rose, Earl of Beaconsfield, Rose of Castile (one of the best), and Beauty of Exeter. The well-known F. V. Raspail is one of the brightest of the Geraniums. There is also a house devoted to Camellias, and in the kitchen garden there are two large Vineries in which Black Hamburgh and Muscats are grown; a Cucumber house, heated pits for Melon-growing and forcing Beans in the spring; and three long rows of Potato pits, which are also used for growing early Turnips, Carrots, Radishes, etc."

"How large is the kitchen garden?"

"Four acres. On one wall there is a fine old Pomegranate, which was planted when the gardens were made. The Peaches on the walls include Waterloo, Early Beatrice, Sea Eagle, and Golden Eagle. The last two do extremely well in Cornwall. On the north wall Morella Cherries are grown. Figs flourish on trees, and, as to vegetables, the garden is noted for fine Celery, Leeks, and Lettuces. We have had good crops of Peas and Beans. Strawberries have

Epacris Delicata.

been a grand crop. The kinds which do best here are Royal Sovereign, President, and Waterloo—the last-named is a magnificent late kind. But to get good fruits on our light soil the beds must be renewed every three years."

"You have a nice garden facing your own pleasant house."

"Yes; my quarters are very comfortable. The herbaceous border contains the usual varieties, and borders of the lawn facing the windows are of flowering Veronicas. I am making a collection of all the Cornish Ferns I can find."

"Finally, as to your own experiences?"

"I have been at Pencarrow for five years. I started under my father, who was gardener and bailiff for Lady Hotham, at Knightleys, Exeter. I was three years at Parker's Well, Exeter, under Mr. Rowland, a well-known exhibitor. Then I went to Dropmore, where I remained seven years, chiefly as foreman, and I am greatly indebted to Mr. Herrin for all I learnt from him. I next went to Kew for two years, most of which I spent in the hospital houses and the house for tropical bulbs. At Kew I was under Mr. Watson. On leaving Kew, I had a season at Finsbury Park, North London, to gain an insight into that branch of gardening."

Alfred Wilcox.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 62.—OVERCROWDING.—VIOLETS AND HEATHS.

Dear Kate,—You say you have taken my advice, and potted up your half-hardy plants, and now your greenhouse is so full that you don't know what to do! Well, that is a misfortune which can be remedied without much difficulty, but overcrowding is so bad for plants that some of them must be removed, or all will suffer.

Some of the hardiest plants will survive in a frame if the glass is well covered with mats on frosty nights; but you will have to keep a sharp look-out for fading leaves, and cut them off at once, or the plants will suffer badly from mildew. Plenty of air, too, must be given to the frame in mild weather, but heavy rain should not enter it, and the best way to give air in wet weather is to raise the lights on a stone (or a small pot) on the upper edge of the frame. Then a few plants may do well in the cellar, if it be frost-proof. These are Dahlias, Salvia patens, Cannas, Fuchsias, and large plants of Brugmansia suaveolens (Datura), and of Hedychium Gardnerianum, which take up a lot of room in a small place. Scarlet Geraniums will winter well in a kitchen window, for they enjoy a dry, warm air, and generally die from mildew in a cellar; Phyllocacti can be kept safely in any frost-proof place in the house—in fact, they do much better when allowed to become quite dry, and kept very cool in the winter, than if they have much fire-heat. If you are not quite sure which of your plants are hardy enough for a frame in winter, I advise you to keep a few of the best specimens of each in the greenhouse, and only risk the others in a frame. Calceolarias, Cinerarias, Myrtles, Roses, Carnations, and Spiræas will all stand a good deal of cold, however, though of course they will not bloom so early as if kept in the greenhouse.

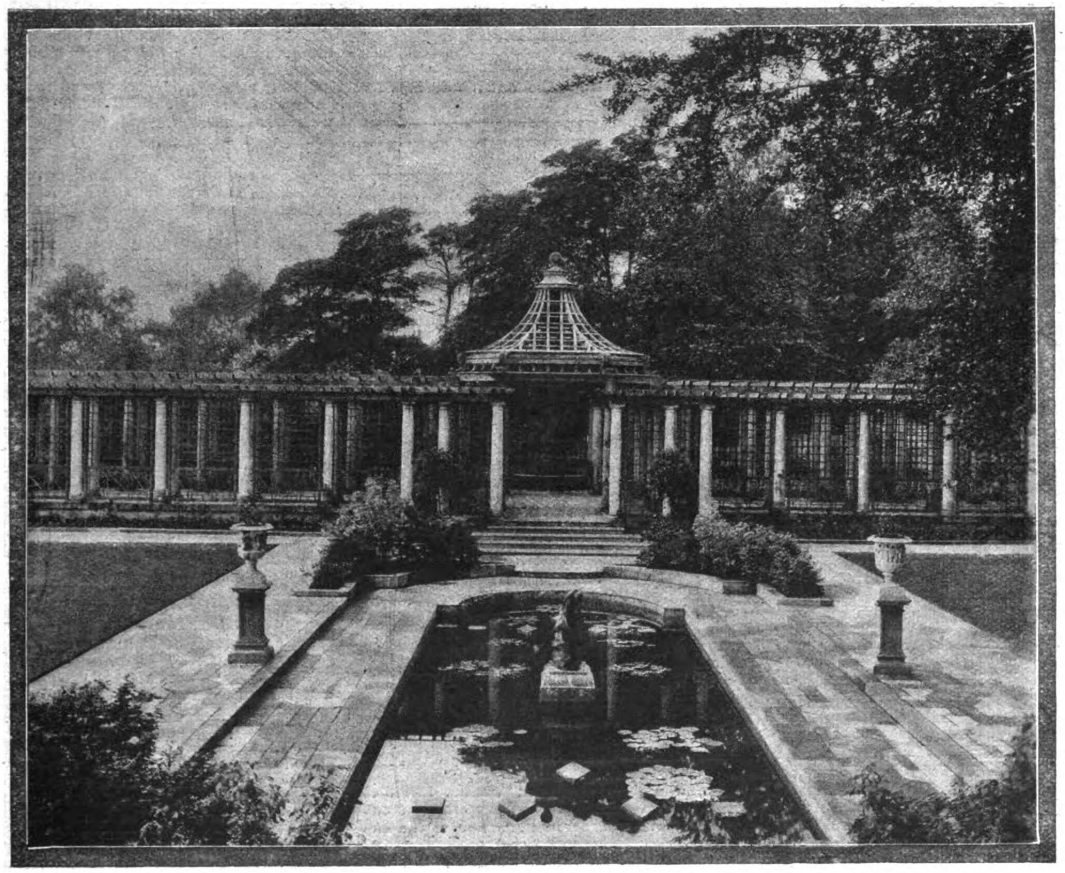
By the time you have sorted out all these plants, I think you will find plenty of room left for the rest; but none of them should quite touch its neighbours. When the Chrysanthemums are over you can cut them down, and put them in the frame, bringing in, at the same time, such of the other plants as are likely to flower, or need more warmth.

Our Violets are already in bloom, the Neapolitans being the earliest to open their buds, with Marie Louise, de Parme, and the double white Comte di Brazza to follow. We are potting up a few of the strongest clumps for the glass porch, where they do better than in a warm conservatory, as fire-heat soon injures them. But they must not be over-watered, and every failing leaf is cut off with the scissors (not dragged off, mind), for fear of mildew setting in, as this is fatal to success. They should be kept near the glass, and have all the sunshine they can get, with tepid water only when really dry, and plenty of air; then they give the sweetest welcome to our friends as they stand at the door. The Violets out of doors are now covered with a frame. We make a fresh bed, just the size of the frame, every year in April; then it is easy to have the frame (which has been used for Melons) lifted over the Violets at this time, cutting away the edges of the borders so as to bring the glass within six inches of the flowers. This plan saves the work of preparing frames for the Violets, and also saves the plants the check of transplanting; and we find it answers well, for we cut plenty of Violets all the winter. Princess of Wales Violet, treated in this way, produces enormous and very fragrant blooms; we have just top-dressed the plants with a mixture of loam, leaf-mould, dry cow-manure, and soot, and the toad (which we keep, usually, in the Vineries) is now paying a visit to the Violet frame, where he will make a clearance of all the slugs, wood-lice, etc. He is very tame, and we indulge him with a shower-bath of tepid water

J. Barton

AN ITALIAN GARDEN IN LONDON, AT THE HILL, HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

THE garden of Sir W. H. Lever, Bart., at The Hill, was designed by Mr. T. H. Mawson, of Conduit Street and Lancaster, and is quite unique. It is an Italian garden in London, on a scale of great splendour. By the courtesy of the owner, I had the opportunity of seeing it since the completion of an extension, which has materially augmented its beauty. Mr. J. Barton, who is in charge of the garden, and, under the direction of Sir William and Mr. T. H. Mawson has done a great deal towards rendering it attractive, showed me round, and afforded me the fullest information. The garden consists of a succession of terraces, planned with consummate skill, carried out with brilliant success, and decorated, at every point, with remarkable taste. These are all at the garden front of the handsome mansion on the slopes of the Heath, and the moment the lounge outside is reached, it becomes possible to appreciate the wonderful results which have been achieved by a combination of generous expenditure and artistic gifts.



AN ITALIAN GARDEN IN LONDON.—A VIEW FROM THE LOUNGE AT THE HILL, HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

THE LOUNGE AND LOGGIAS.

The lounge itself runs the whole length of the mansion, one hundred and thirty yards, and has a loggia at each end, one in front of the billiard room, which is in the shade when the other, in front of the music room, is bathed in sunshine. The columns in the lounge, which, like the garden, faces west, are all in one piece of stone, and are decorated with various evergreen and deciduous climbing plants, with Hops hanging over the roof, which have stood the heat better than anything else tried, while suspended from the roof are several hanging baskets filled with flowers of one colour, according to the season. The lounge, which is wide enough to use for dining purposes, is adorned outside and inside with climbers, chiefly Roses, but nothing half-hardy, because the position is too cold for half-hardy subjects to flourish. Just in front of the billiard room is a fine bed filled with Rose Killarney; though look which way you may from the top terrace, there are masses of colour to be seen. I commented on this result to Mr. Barton, and he rejoined that it was maintained all the year round, more or less.

"One of our main objects is to keep the garden bright through all the changing seasons. For example, in the central walk, the beds now full of Wallflower Vulcan will be a mass of yellow Calceolarias and Tropæolums; and the beds above, now devoted to Wallflower Belvoir Castle, will be occupied by pink Ivy-leaved Geranium Madame Crousse. Last year we had scarlet Paul Crampel after yellow. Wherever we can we observe this principle; and the Look-out, with figures on each column, is smothered in blue by the blooms of Ceanothus divaricata."

THE NEW DORIC STRUCTURE.

"Tell me, please, as we proceed, what you consider the most notable features."

"Perhaps we had better proceed at once to the new feature, and inspect the others on our return.

"During the winter," continued Mr. Barton, "an army of men were employed in converting some old stables into a fine Doric structure, which we call the pergola extension. It is three hundred and sixty feet long, with a rotunda in the centre, and a garden-house at the end. In order to secure privacy, there are patent blinds in the garden-house, which is panelled in English Oak, and you can see all that is going on outside without being seen. The creepers on it are limited to three varieties, which do not cling to the dresses of the ladies. They are Clematis Belle of Woking, a Patens type; Lonicera aurea reticulata, a golden vein on a

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green leaf, oval in shape; and Wistaria brachybotrys. The creepers help to form a screen without excluding the light. The same may be said of the row of golden Elms below the steps."

"But the Roses are the glory of the pergola?"

"Quite so. There are no fewer than fifty varieties of Rambler and pillar Roses, including all the newest. Every other single column is decorated with Roses, and where the double columns are, there are red varieties at one end and pink at the other. For the trelliswork, where I needed a big spread, I put Ramblers, and for the columns, the pillar varieties. Right through the pergola there is a line of Roses, all of one colour. The idea is not to fuse colours, but to centralise them. Thus, we get four reds, four pinks, four yellows, and four whites in succession, not either of them together."

"When were the Roses planted?"

"We only finished planting in April, and on May 9th, Captain Hayward began to show flower. It is a very strong grower."

ROSES FOR PERGOLAS.

"Of course, you have chosen varieties specially adapted for the purpose of a covered pergola, and I think that in the circumstances it would be interesting to give their names."

A VETERAN CHESTNUT TREE.

This fine old Chestnut, which looks like a number of trees, is on the lawn at Langley House, Abbot's Langley. It measures 36 yards through.

"American Pillar, Barbetta, Coronation, Ethel, Excelsa, Klondyke, Liberty, Tea Rambler, Rene Andre, Ards Rambler, Ards Rover, Climbing Captain Christy, J. B. Clarke, Captain Hayward, Frau Karl Druschki, Victor Verdier, Bouquet d'Or, Caroline Testout, Mrs. W. J. Grant, and Gloire de Dijon; Madame Alfred Carriere, Longworth Rambler, Ariel, Blush Rambler, Christian Curle, Crimson Rambler, Delight, Dorothy Perkins, Flower of Fairfield, Hiawatha, Lady Gay, Lady Godiva, Minnehaha, Mrs. F. W. Flight, Mrs. O. G. Orpen, Paul's Carmine Pillar, Philadelphia, Purple East, The Lion, The Wallflower, and Tausendschon. In most cases a couple of these, but sometimes four, have been planted. In a pocket to hide a back wall, are half a dozen standards, each of Dorothy Perkins and Caroline Testout, another mass of pink."

THE INTERPERSED CLIMBERS.

"Then there are the climbers, which are interspersed amongst the Roses?"

"Wistarias are one of the most important, and are represented by eight varieties. Of Loniceras there are five; of Ceanothus four; and of Jasminum three. Next to Roses there are the most of Clematis, the varieties being Earl of Beaconsfield, Gipsy Queen, Jackmannii, Jackmanii superba, Lady Bovill, Madame Grange, Madame Baron Vellard, magnifica, Othello, Red Jackmannii, Snow White Jackmannii, Calyxena, three varieties of montana, Lord Londesborough, and Belle of Woking. There are two varieties of Ampelopsis, three of Bignonia, seven of Ivy, three Passiflora, and other varieties are Bridgeria spicata and Polygonum Baldschuanicum."

"What is the width of the pergola?"

"Eighteen feet, and there are seats at intervals of five yards. There are three hundred and sixty columns, and forty-two pilasters, so that you may imagine it took some time to decide upon the varieties. If all the columns were laid down, they would reach a mile in length, as the total length of all the pergolas is two hundred and sixty-seven yards. With regard to Roses, the real art in growing them is to half-reveal and half-conceal, and they have all been planted with that object in view."

"I notice that the roof of the rotunda is made of copper?"

THE ORIGINAL PERGOLA.

"Yes, and seen from the outside it is very fine. The bronze lamp in the rotunda is of great age. Surrounding the bridge, which runs over a public roadway, are Elms, edible Chestnuts, and Beeches, and the recesses in the lower part will later on be smothered with pink Rambler Roses. You will now have an opportunity of comparing this pergola with the original, which prompted Sir William Lever to erect a second one. In this pergola you can also see what the other will be like at the end of three years. There is one important difference, the pagoda in the centre of the original pergola has been omitted in the new one, with the idea of obtaining a better light."

"Are the varieties much the same as in the extension?"

"They are very similar. The pagoda itself is decorated with Wistaria sinensis and Clematis Jackmannii, Clematis montana alba, Roses Dorothy Perkins and Crimson Rambler. Under each dome is a hanging basket filled with scarlet Geraniums."

"Much as I admire the pergolas, it is a pleasant change to survey your series of enchanting lawns. How do you keep them in such perfect condition?"

"With a motor. No pains are spared to keep the lawns as you see them, and the various expanses of green are always very much appreciated by visitors. The effect is heightened by the pavement, which is all in Portland stone to a design."

DAHLIAS RETARDED.

"It must tax your resources to fill the border which runs the whole length of your original pergola, its only break being the bank of Roses on either side of the entrance to the pergola?"

"After Wallflowers, and May-flowering Darwin and Parrot Tulips, we follow on with Liliums in variety, Pyrethrums, Spiræas, Irises in great variety, including Spanish and Italian, Tritomas, Border Carnations, perennial Poppies, and Delphiniums, of which I have raised many seedlings—in fact, most of the plants in this border are grown from seed. In November, Chrysanthemums are conspicuous in the border. These, with Dahlias and Sweet Peas, are arranged in groups. We keep Dahlias back by plunging them in pots. This does not, however, retard their growth when the time comes to transplant them. We go in for the best Sweet Peas, but they are grown, like everything else, for decorative purposes."

"Are the Lilies in the Lily basin named?"

"No, but they flower very nicely, and with the goldfish in the water make a show. In the centre of the basin is a fountain representing a dolphin, and in each corner of the design are Japanese Acers, of which the reflection in the water is rather fascinating. The Acers just here are a striking contrast to the green trees above and below them.

"Another of the borders," continued Mr. Barton, "now filled with blue and white Hyacinths and London Pride coming out, will later contain the scarlet Geraniums, and you will observe that for the trees round which the grass will not grow, we have planted Ivy."

"We must not forget to mention the arbour, which forms another very fine feature of the gardens, with its statues on either side?"

"It was made by the Gardens Crafts, Ltd., and is of frail material. It is therefore necessary that heavy plants should not be used for the purpose of covering it, and we find that Honeysuckle and Clematis Lord Londesborough, being frail plants, suit the purpose excellently. On each of the steps down to the original pergola is a mass of pink Roses, and in the bottom border they are mixed, while on the retaining wall are W. A. Richardson and Gloire de Dijon."

A GARDEN INDEPENDENT OF WEATHER.

Here we turned aside for a little time in order to glance round the range of glasshouses, and I asked Mr. Barton how long he had been in charge of the gardens at The Hill.

"Four years; and before that I was eight years and a half foreman in Sir William Lever's gardens in Cheshire. I have been gardening for twenty-four years. I started when I was eleven, and I am now thirty-five.

"With respect to the houses, in the two Vineries Black Hamburgh, Muscat, Alicante, and Foster's Seedling are grown, and in the Peach house Royal George, though we use it chiefly for Tomatoes. In the warm plant house Palms, Orchids, Crotons, and Ferns are the principle features. The Ferns include a very beautiful and rare specimen of Nephrolepis Marshallii. The houses are chiefly used to supply the bedding, and all interest is, of course, secondary to that of the terraces and pergolas. So far as they are concerned, every detail has been considered, and statuary, seats, and steps from terrace to terrace have been arranged to harmonise with the surroundings, and to give enjoyment to visitors. There is nothing to tire either the feet or the eyes, and the whole of the garden, including the new pergola, may be explored without any sense of weariness by anyone who is easily fatigued. There is also so much of it under cover that it can be enjoyed no matter what the weather is like. I believe there is no other Italian garden like it in England, and you will agree that the architect, Mr. T. H. Mawson, is to be congratulated upon his success."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week: Interview with Miss C. Agnes Rooper, Pen Selwood, Bournemouth.

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the ground, and marked so that they can be readily found again, examined, and, if they contain any of the insects, destroyed. As regards next year's fruit crop, the outlook is far from bright. Many of the trees, Apples especially, have been so badly crippled by aphides that it will take them a long time to recover.

Rose Classification.

September 20th.—It is difficult to see how the present classification of Roses into Hybrid Perpetuals, Teas, Hybrid Teas, and so forth, can be maintained. Already they are extraordinarily mixed, and with every year the complication increases. Frau Karl Druschki, for example, is called a Hybrid Perpetual, but it really resulted from a cross between the Hybrid Perpetual Merveille de Lyon and the Hybrid Tea Caroline Testout, and it is probably to the latter that it owes its late-flowering quality. I do not know the parentage of Merveille de Lyon, but I can follow the other parent of our finest white Rose a little farther. Caroline Testout was obtained by crossing the Tea Madame de Tartas with the pollen of the Hybrid Tea Lady Mary Fitzwilliam, and by the latter by crossing the Tea Devoniensis and the Hybrid Perpetual Victor Verdier. Here, then, among the immediate known ancestors of Frau Karl Druschki we find only two Hybrid Perpetuals against three Teas and one Hybrid Tea, yet it is classed as a Hybrid Perpetual. Take the case, again, of the so-called Hybrid Tea, Gruss an Teplitz, It was obtained by crossing first the Bourbon Sir Joseph Paxton with the Noisette Fellenberg, then the selected seedling with the Tea Papa Gontier, and finally the selected seedling with the Bourbon Gloire des Rosomanes. The result of thus crossing a Noisette, a Tea and two Bourbons is called a Hybrid Tea. The fact of the matter is there has been so much crossing that the old classes no longer exist, and no useful purpose is served by retaining them. For the ordinary gardener it would be better merely to divide them into Roses which flower only once, and those which flower a second time.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Secrets of Successful Vegetable Cultivation.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. A. BASIL, AT THE GARDENS, WOBURN PARK, WEYBRIDGE.

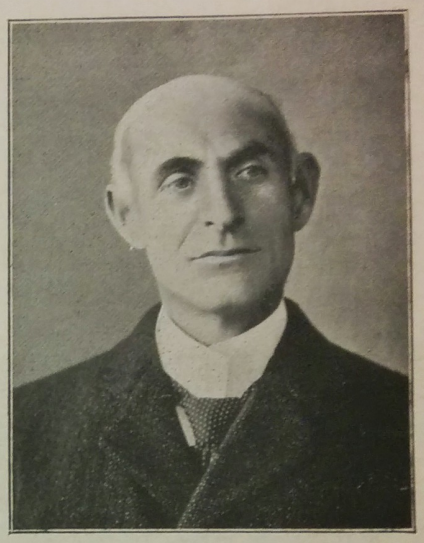
OF both the gardens and the gardener at Woburn Park, which I visited at the end of July, it may be said that they are exceptionally interesting. Woburn Park itself has a place in history. The estate formed part of the lands granted by St. Edward the Confessor to the Abbot and monks of the Benedictine Abbey at Chertsey. It passed through the hands of many owners since that period, until, in 1834, it was purchased by Lady King, and a few years later by Lord Kilmorey, who almost entirely built the present fine mansion in white stone. In 1876 it returned to the Petre family, who had formerly possessed it, and in 1879 Monsignor Petre, afterwards the thirteenth peer, made important additions, notably the block of buildings in red brick in Queen Anne's style. Under his auspices the whole place was fitted up with all the requisites for a first-class educational establishment. In the summer of 1884 both the estate and schools, which are known as St. George's College, were sold to the Very Rev. Father General of the Congregation of the Josephites. Amid all these changes, the charms of the beautifully-wooded grounds have been preserved, and the rare and curious trees planted by the then owner, Mr. Southcote, a hundred and seventy years ago, still enrich it. As to the gardener, the fame of Mr. Basil as an exhibitor and vegetable grower is known far and wide, and especially in the South of England, where he has carried off hundreds of prizes. But, when he met me at the entrance to the gardens, where some stately Horse Chestnuts do sentinel duty, our talk was, first of all, about the trees which are even more ornamental than the massive gateway which formerly adorned the palace of the Duke of York.

ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE, WOBURN PARK.

"You appear to have a very fine collection," I said, as we walked through a long avenue of Limes.

A Collection of Rare Trees.

"Woburn Park is credited with having one of the best collections of trees in this country," rejoined Mr. Basil, "second, perhaps, only to Kew Gardens. You may be interested to know that the largest in girth of the Limes has a circumference of twenty-one feet, the tallest reaching to a height of a hundred and twenty feet."



MR. A. BASIL.

"It would interest me to hear, as we proceed, any details of particularly notable trees."

"The alley of Lombardy Poplars and Cypresses we are passing might be mentioned, and the Hornbeam, the Yew, and the white Poplar at the foot of the hill are worthy of notice. Then, there are the Willow and the Aspen, the latter being about fourteen feet in circumference."

"What is the height of the Beeches on the slope?"

"Nearly two hundred feet, and they are twenty feet in girth. The Yews in the avenue on the brow of the hill are several hundred years old; the largest has a girth of nine and a half feet, and the tallest is fifty feet high. Among the fine specimens of Sweet Chestnuts is one with a trunk twenty-six feet round."

Shrubs and Conifers.

As we descended the slope, from which a good view of the senior and junior houses of the College and of the boys' playground is obtained, I noticed a lofty Scottish Pine.

"That Pine," observed Mr. Basil, "has a bole of over a hundred feet in length, and, as you see, it towers far above its neighbours. The Cedar of Lebanon to the right is nearly two hundred and fifty years old. It was one of the first planted in England, and its girth (sixteen feet) far exceeds that of the Cedars at Kew, while its spread covers an area of close upon five hundred square yards."

"You appear to have in the plain a garden devoted to shrubs."

"It is a winter garden, between six or seven acres in extent, and is planted chiefly with Laurels, Rhododendrons, Bay Trees, Junipers, Hollies, Holm Oaks, and various Conifers. The object is to have this part of the park fresh

and green and full of life all the year round. Rhododendrons thrive as well as in their native soil, and stretch for over a mile, and some shrubs attain a height of fifteen feet, and bear bunches of blossoms eight inches in diameter.

"In other portions of the park," continued Mr. Basil, "all varieties of Hawthorn are grown, and also about twenty different kinds of Oaks, the largest crown being fifteen feet in diameter, and the thickest bole fourteen feet in circumference. There is an Alder with a girth of seven feet, probably the biggest in England; an Elm twenty feet in circumference, and about a hundred and twenty feet high; and a splendid Tulip-tree. Many of the trees were planted by Philip Southcote, who acquired the property in 1735, and brought it to such a degree of ornamental beauty, as had not been previously attained."

The Bedding.

We next turned our attention to the bedding, quite a feature being nearly forty vases containing Ivy-leaf Geraniums, Marguerites, and Petunias. The combinations in the beds included Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock) and a border of Alternantheras; Roses (Mrs. W. J. Grant), mixed with black Nasturtiums; mixed Begonias and blue Lobelias. But the most important part of the bedding just here are the Rose beds, standard and dwarfs, edged with Pyrethrum.

"How many Roses do you grow," I inquired.

"About three hundred in thirty varieties, of which the best, in addition to Mrs. W. J. Grant, are Prince Camille de Rohan, Gloire Lyonnaise, Merveille de Lyon, Mrs. John Laing, Paul Neyron (the biggest Rose), La France, Alfred Colomb, Souvenir de Malmaison, Captain Hayward, Catherine Mermet, Fisher Holmes, Gustave Piganeau, Maman Cochet and the white variety, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, and Viscountess Folkestone."

"You have standard Roses also near the White House?"

"Yes, in the long flower beds under the conservatory, which, by the way, is full of Tomatoes. These beds are made up of combinations of Geraniums (Flower of Spring) and Alternantheras; Fuchsias and Pyrethrums; Sweet Williams; Palms, Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock), and Alternantheras; cultivated Foxgloves (six feet high); and Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock) and Nasturtiums, the border being of mixed Pinks."

"And the pretty Italian garden with the fountain in the centre?"

"The aim here is to have plenty of colour, but not two shades of colour, so as to avoid one shade being killed by the other. The two beds, with statue and vase, are composed of Cannas planted two and a half feet apart, interspersed with Phlox Drummondi and Coreopsis; there are two beds of Stocks and Asters, with a border of Alternantheras and Pyrethrums; two of earlier Stocks, and a border of Nasturtiums; two of Geraniums (Vesuvius), white Marguerites, yellow Coreopsis, and a border of Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock), mixed with Perillas; two beds of Geranium Lemoine, and Geraniums Archduke Rudolph, edged with Pyrethrums and Iresine Lindenii. The fourfold border consists of Geraniums (Flower of Spring), and Alternantheras of varied colours."

The Cultivation of Sweet Peas.

Passing the shrubbery, and a long, mixed border, with a hedge of Yews, and Dahlias, Pæonies, perennial Phloxes, Asters, three varieties of Lilies (L. auratum, longiflorum, and tigrinum Fortunei), Sweet Williams, Foxgloves, Coreopsis, Mignonette, Stocks, etc., in front, we made our way into the kitchen garden, where a magnificent display of Sweet Peas claimed my attention. These I was not surprised to see, for, just before my visit to Woburn Park, Mr. Basil had received at the exhibition of the National Sweet Pea Society seven first prizes and one third, including the Horace Wright silver challenge bowl and the silver medal.

THE STATELY ENTRANCE GATES OF WOBURN PARK.

"Have you shown Sweet Peas frequently?" I asked.

"This is my first year, but my firm conviction is that anyone who can grow good culinary Peas can also grow Sweet Peas; and, as you probably know, I have grown and shown culinary Peas to a very considerable extent."

"What is your system of growing Sweet Peas?"

"They are planted in a double row, eighteen inches apart, each plant being a foot distant from the other. These, in this plot, were sown in February, and put in pots in a cool conservatory, twelve seeds in a pot. They were kept in the conservatory until they were two inches high. I then transferred them to a frame, where they are about a foot from the glass. Just a fortnight before planting out in April, I took the lights off. By the way, I strongly recommend putting twelve seeds in each pot, but thinning out to six when they are one inch high, because the seeds do not always germinate, and if I only put six seeds, I run the risk of having only half."

"How should you describe the soil?"

"It is neither light nor heavy, but very fertile, and always good. For Sweet Peas I trench three feet deep. On the bottom of the first spit I put six inches of cow manure; on the second I generally have the leaves and refuse of the garden, leaf-mould, chicken manure, and a small quantity of lime; and on the top part a good dressing of bonemeal, with a dressing of soot before planting. In fact, I make the ground as rich as possible without the aid of any artificial manure. Sweet Peas do not require much artificial manure."

"Can you tell me the height of some of your beautiful plants?"

"They are from fourteen to fifteen feet high, and the stems are an inch and a half wide, and flower stems about two feet long."

"How many varieties do you go in for?"

"There are here about forty-two, six of which are my seedlings. The taller are Woburn Park White, a white flower developed from Helen Lewis, white, with picotee edge. The other is an improved Miss Willmott."

"Of the other varieties, which do you consider the best?"

"King Edward VII., Dorothy Eckford, Black Knight, Countess Spencer, Helen Lewis, John Ingman, Gladys Unwin, Mrs. Walter Wright, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Jeannie Gordon (a very strong grower), Dainty (the best of the Picotee edge), Helen Pierce, and Agnes Johnston (a very strong grower). In addition to these varieties, I am growing, on trial ground, Paradise, Enchantress, Phenomenal, Evelyn Byatt, Unique and Shasta, some of which I may grow for show next season. Speaking of showing, I also exhibited at Norwich this year, and took second prize."

"Do you care to say anything more about Sweet Peas?"

"Only this, perhaps, that, if you want the blooms to travel, they should be cut six or seven hours in advance, during which period they should be put in water. At the end of the time they will have absorbed sufficient water to last for twenty hours without withering. A little tissue-paper should be put round the stems."

Grafted Pear Trees.

"Would you prefer now to speak of vegetables, or to tell me a little about the fruit, which appears to be grown in great quantities in your garden?"

"We might dispose of the fruit here first. Twenty years ago we greatly enlarged the size of the kitchen garden, which is now three and a half acres in extent, and as nearly square as possible, in order to work it easily. In addition, we have four acres of orchard, three acres under glass, and in one acre, between the fruit trees, are grown Black and Red Currants, Gooseberries, Strawberries, and Rhubarb. I planted all the fruit trees when I came twenty-two years ago."

"How many varieties of Pears do you grow?"

"About fifty-four. They are grown on the walls, as cordons and as pyramids, and at least fifty of the trees have been grafted on the other good varieties. That is to say, there are many trees of good variety, such as Marguerite Marrilat with Conseiller de la Cour, Baltet with Beurré Bachelier, and Charles Ernest with Beurré Dumont."

"I should like the names of the twelve best bearing varieties."

"Citron des Carmes, Souvenir du Congres, Marguerite Marrilat, Beurré de Mortillet, Good William, Nouveau Poiteau, Baltet Pere, Emile d'Heyst, Durondeau, Duchess d'Angouleme, Beurré Bachelier, and Pitmaston Duchess. My

best twelve for exhibition are Beurré Diel, Glou Morceau, Doyenné du Comice, Nouveau Poiteau, Conseiller de la Cour, Emile d'Heyst, Durondeau, Duchess d'Angouleme, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurré Alexander Lucas, Beurré de Fonqueray, and Beurré Bachelier. I am very pleased if I can get these varieties for my October or November show. Four good varieties for September and October are Beurré de Mortillet, Marguerite Marillat, Souvenir du Congres, and Triomphe de Vienne. I bought last year and grafted twelve new Pears from M. Baltet in France, the varieties being:—President Roosevelt, Belle Guerandaise, Beurré de Lindauer, Dorset, Eva Baltet, Jeanne d'Arc, Martin Clavier, Madame Ernest Baltet, Virgenie Baltet, Professeur Grosdemange, Professeur Bazin, and Bergamote Arsene Sannier."

Favourite Apples.

"You grow even more varieties of Apples, I conclude?"

"About sixty. Of dessert, the twelve best include Beauty of Bath (of which, if I had only two acres of ground, I should grow one acre), Cox's Orange, King of Pippins, Quarrenden, Duchess's Favourite, Lady Sudeley, Blenheim Orange, Worcester Pearmain, Duchess of Oldenburgh, and Sturmer Pippin. The best six for show are Cox's Orange, King of Pippins, American Mother, Charles Ross, Allington Pippin, and Gascoyne's Scarlet."

"What are your favourite cooking Apples?"

"Ecklinville Seedling for autumn, and Wellington for winter. Here are twelve kitchen Apples which do well here, and are best for show:—Peasgood's Nonsuch, Emperor Alexander, Lord Derby, Prince Albert, Tyler's Kernel, Beauty of Kent, Bismarck, Bramley's Seedling, Ecklinville, Warner's King, Gloria Mundi, and Loddington."

Exhibition Peas.

"Now, I think we had better talk about Peas, taking the exhibition varieties first."

"Here is my trial ground, on which I have twelve or thirteen varieties, including Gladstone, Daniels' Distinction, and The Bell, which got first-class certificates at Wisley. Then there are the Scotsman, Recorder, Competitor, Matchless (one of the best for size and productiveness), Stourbridge Marrowfat, Duke of Albany, and the Centenary."

"Which do you consider your best Pea?"

"Recorder, which was brought out by Messrs. Daniels, and which I may mention should be put in a fortnight earlier than the ordinary mid-season Pea. I showed some this year, at Norwich, about seven and three quarter inches long, and eleven Peas in a pod."

"I suppose you have shown frequently at Norwich?"

"For fourteen years in succession, in twelve of which I took first for Peas, and two seconds. The shows are open to all Messrs. Daniels' customers in the United Kingdom, and, on one occasion three hundred and twenty-three dishes of Peas were exhibited. There are always a hundred competitors."

"You must have won a record number of prizes for vegetables, Mr. Basil."

"In fifteen years I have taken six hundred and eight prizes, mostly for vegetables and fruit. I have ceased for six or seven years to exhibit at local shows, because I took all the prizes; but I continue to exhibit at the leading distant exhibitions."

THE CONSERVATORY AND PART OF KITCHEN GARDEN, WOBURN PARK.

"What varieties of Peas do you grow for kitchen purposes?"

"Twelve beds of improved Ringleader, six of Duke of Albany, and six of Autocrat. As to treatment, I grow Peas exactly in the same way as Sweet Peas, except that I give them more water in the summer."

"Do you grow many Onions?"

General Vegetables.

"In autumn I sow eight rows of Ailsa Craig, and as many of the White Elephant Tripoli, as both grow very large Onions; for show, we grow two beds, containing about three hundred and fifty Ailsa Craig, and about a hundred and fifty Improved White Spanish. The ground is worked in much the same manner as for Sweet Peas. Some of the best bulbs weigh two to two and a half pounds each. We also grow about twenty bushels of maincrop Onions, Brown Spanish and White Spanish being the best keepers."

"Do you grow Runner Beans for show?"

"Yes, Giant White, Giant Scarlet, and Best of All, show Beans being often from twelve to fourteen inches long. Of Dwarf Beans, Canadian Wonder, which we get nine to ten inches long, is our favourite. A second sowing is made, of Perfection Stringless Beans. Beans I treat much the same as Peas, save that I give them even more water.

"Beets," continued Mr. Basil, "are another vegetable which we show, and I have grown them fourteen to sixteen inches long. The three varieties are Praynell's Exhibition, Blood-red and Cheltenham Green Top, the last being the favourite for showing. As to my culture for show Beet, I make holes two and a half to three feet deep, fifteen inches apart, in rows eighteen inches asunder. Each hole at the top should be from four to six inches. I use good loam and vegetable refuse, a little kainit, and wood ashes, sifting it fairly fine, in order to fill each hole."

"Which variety of Cauliflower do you show?"

"Autumn Giant, but I also grow Early Erfurt and Early Giant, as well as the Michaelmas Broccoli. I get Autumn Giant six to eight inches across."

"How do you manage that?"

"They are sown early in January, in a box in the conservatory, and then lightly transplant to a frame, where they become accustomed to open air. Towards the end of March, or early in April, they are planted out. The later kinds I sow in March in the open, and transplant at the end of May or early in June. These bear in November. Similar treatment is given to Broccoli."

"How many Sprouts do you grow?"

"About three thousand plants in two varieties, Exhibition and Defiance."

The System With Tomatoes.

"Tomatoes, I see, are grown very largely?"

"We grow inside Daniels' King Edward and Sutton's Perfection. There are fifty-two plants in one house. Outside is a long border, planted along the wall of the conservatory. Every year I lift all the soil in the houses where the Tomatoes are grown, and supply new loam. The latter is mixed with bonemeal, which is placed on the bottom, with rough turf, loam being used to fill up. I have shown Tomatoes at Norwich weighing nearly one pound each. As I am speaking of the conservatory, I may say that this is in five compartments, which are devoted to flowers and early vegetables. We have forty-two frames, which are used for early vegetables and some flowers, and later on in the year we use them for Melon growing. In the Vineries Black Hamburgh is chiefly grown."

Turnips and Celery.

"But, to revert to vegetables, what about Parsnips?"

"We grow the Hollow Crown and The Student, which are both good for showing. The culture is similar to that of Beet, but the holes should be made deeper and larger, and more leaf-mould should be used; also river sand and a little soot should be added. I show Parsnips about three feet long. We grow three varieties of Turnips, starting with Early Milan, proceeding to Snowball, and finishing with White's Stone, which is the favourite, because of its excellent shape. As to cultivation, I work short vegetable refuse in the ground, mixing with it a small quantity of lime. Before sowing seed I give the ground soot, and I throw plenty of wood ashes over the leaves while the plants are growing."

"How many varieties of Celery do you grow?"

"Four: Ivory White, Giant Red, Wright's Giant White, for exhibition, and about twenty-five hundred plants of Standard Bearer, which is the best for winter use. I sow in the conservatory in February. In March, when the young plants have become large enough, I prick them out in frames, give them a little heat, and plant out in May the beds being four feet apart, the plants at intervals of two

feet. The Celery is grown in trenches eighteen inches wide and one foot deep. I dig up the bottom of the trench, in which is put about six inches of cow manure; and a few days before planting out some lime and a little poultry manure are worked in. Celery wants a great deal of watering, and with water I always give a certain proportion of a fertiliser. Brown paper is used for blanching exhibition plants."

Leeks and Cabbages.

"Your Leeks appear to be thriving."

"We grow the Monstrous and The Lyons, which is the largest of all. I sow at the end of January in the conservatory, transplant when big enough in boxes three inches apart, put them in a frame in March, and plant out in May. I plant in trenches fifteen inches apart, and earth them up from twelve to fifteen inches. One hole is made between each plant, for watering and feeding. The ground is prepared in a similar manner to that for Celery, but a little leaf-mould is used to make the earth lighter."

"Which is the best Carrot for exhibition?"

"The best for showing in autumn is Improved Intermediate, which is also a good keeper. The other varieties used are Scarlet Horn and Early Nantes. The culture varies little from that of Beet, but I mix more leaf-mould, and add river sand and a little soot. We grow about eighty Vegetable Marrows, the varieties being Long White and the Green. The best for colour of red pickling Cabbage is the Nigger Head, of which we grow two hundred and fifty. As to Cabbage, four sowings are made. First we sow Ellam's Early at the end of July, then Flower of Spring about August 15th, Daniels' Defiance in March, and Flower of Spring again at the end of May. The last are planted after early Peas, and the variety is very useful for November and December. The soil suits Cabbage remarkably well. Daniels' Defiance, to distinguish it from two other Defiance Cabbages, which do not resemble it, is the biggest Cabbage I know of. I have grown some seventeen pounds each. I am always sure to obtain good show Cabbages if I can plant them where my show Peas have been grown. As to culture, before planting I give lime, and put every Cabbage three feet apart each way. Plenty of liquid and a good dusting of wood ashes are given during their growth."

The Best Potatoes.

"Of course, Potatoes are a very big feature?"

"I grow about thirty-six varieties. I buy the seed from three different English firms, some from Scotland, and some from Ireland. All the crops of the English varieties are poor and suffering from rust, with haulms only about one foot long. As you see, the Scotch seed has produced some very healthy plants, with haulms two feet long, but the Irish seed has turned out very much the best. All the plants are healthy, and are a foot taller than the Scotch. This seems to show that Ireland is the best country for seed Potatoes."

"Do you grow Northern Star?"

"I have grown it and another famous Potato, the Eldorado; but as they only made four inches of growth, they will not be planted in Woburn Park any more."

"You might give me a dozen of your best varieties."

"Express, Duchess of Cornwall, Factor, Up-to-date (the very best), Royal Kidney, Sir John Llewelyn, Royal Norfolk, Satisfaction, Dalmeny Beauty, Snowball, Warrior, and Snowdrop."

"What is your system of cultivation?"

"I dig the soil in autumn about fifteen inches deep, put some good cow manure at the bottom, and keep the surface as rough as possible for winter. In the autumn I put a heap of leaf-mould together, which I mix with some bonemeal and wood ashes. In spring I plant out in rows three feet apart, and two and a half feet from plant to plant. Holes are made six inches deep, half of each hole being filled up from the prepared heap of leaf-mould."

Mr. Basil's Career.

"I need hardly ask if you like to grow vegetables?"

"I never become tired of seeing anything grow well. But, though I like to grow fruit and flowers, I love growing vegetables, and the contemplation of the humble Cabbage or Turnip successfully grown gives me as much satisfaction as a beautifully-grown Orchid affords a lady."

"You are, I think, a native of Belgium?"

"Yes, and I spent the first thirty-five years of my life in that country. I suppose I may call myself a gardener born, as my father, from whom I received my first lessons, was for nearly forty years head gardener to the Burgomaster of Tirlemonte, a little town in the province of South Brabant. When I was fourteen I became a pupil of Mr. H. Millet, one of the most experienced pomologists of the country, with whom I remained for five years, during which time I took my diploma at the Vilvorde Government School of Horticulture. At the age of nineteen I obtained my first appointment as gardener at Rebec Rognon. A few months later I was offered the post of head gardener at Jette St. Pierre, one of the most celebrated botanical districts in South Belgium, where I remained for five years. I continued my studies at the State Botanical Gardens, and became a member of the Royal Linné Society at Brussels, and of the Society of Horticultural and Arboricultural Progress at Ixelles. Then, for six years, I was chief gardener in the agricultural school belonging to the Josephite Fathers in the Flemish town of Grammont; and in 1884, when the Josephite Fathers came to England, I came with them, as gardener of St. George's College."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 268.—PEARS, MONTBRETIAS, AND ROMNEYA COULTERI.

DEAR KATE,—At last we have summer weather—late indeed, yet most valuable for next year's crops of fruit. The Plums and Pears here are laden heavily with fruit, and we shall have something to do to gather it in safely. No doubt the great abundance of blossom this spring was due to the fine, warm weather of last autumn, which ripened the new growths thoroughly, and so enabled them to bear fruit; and, although this spring was cold, and some fruit trees were blighted in consequence, yet much blossom escaped, and I believe the Plums have been extraordinarily abundant.

There were few bees about when the Pear trees were in bloom, and I helped the blossoms to set by means of a long cane, on the end of which I tied a piece of swansdown (or two rabbit's tails will answer), with which the flowers fully open at noon on each fine day were gently rubbed, so as to disperse the pollen. This is always a desirable thing to do with early-blooming Pears, for there are seldom enough bees about then to fertilise the flowers properly, and certainly it has answered well in my garden, so that we shall have quantities of those delicious Pears Louise Bonne, besides Duchesse d'Angouleme, Doyenné du Comice, and, for late work, Belle d'Angerin, those great fruits which come in so usefully at Christmas. But we are not going to leave the gathering-in of them to fate; for I fear that more than half of the fruit crops of Great Britain are wasted in this way, and it is really sad to think how careless we are, as a nation, in not making the most of the good food which Nature provides.

The Ripening Period.

Perhaps you don't know that Pears and Apples never ripen on the tree, but that there is a short three days in the case of each variety during which the fruit is ready to drop from the bough, although it must still spend some time (varying in different cases from a few days to several months) in coming to perfection. The great thing, then, is to gather them during this dropping time; if you pick them before it arrives, the Pears will shrivel and never come to perfection, but if you don't get them in safely before they drop, they will become rotten from bruises before they ripen.

So you see that the utmost vigilance is necessary; and I advise you, if you want perfect dessert fruit, to examine your Pears and Apples each day at this time of year, to ascertain the psychological moment in which they must be gathered in. Then take a broad, flat basket, in which you have laid a soft cloth, and try your fruit. To do this, lift up a Pear in the hollow of your hand with a slight jerk, from the perpendicular to the horizontal position; if ready to drop, it will be left in your hand, but, if not ready, it will still be attached to the stem. When it comes off, lay the Pear gently in the basket, and so on until you have a basketful; but do not place one fruit upon another, and, whatever you do, don't pinch the fruit to see if it is ripe, for the smallest bruise is fatal, and moreover it never is and never can be ripe on the tree, as I have explained above.

There will, of course, be some Pears on the ground; these must be gathered up separately, and will make excellent tarts, or stews, but are of no use to lay down for dessert, as they are certain to be bruised. In the case of high trees, which you cannot reach to the top of, it is a good plan to place nets beneath them stretched on stakes, to catch the fruit as it falls without bruising it; for it is disgusting to go out into your garden on the morning after a storm, and find that most of your fruit has been ruined.

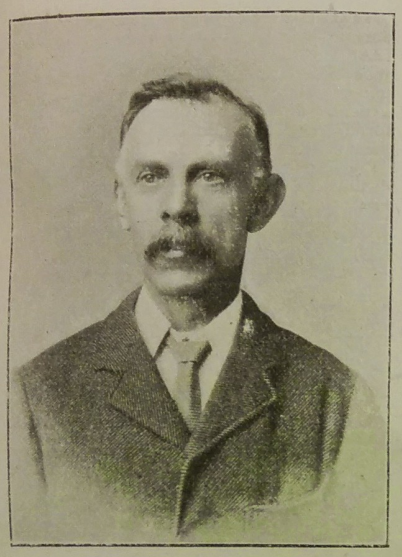
But, to return to your basket—when it contains one layer it should be emptied in the fruit-room, or a dry, airy cellar, laying each fruit down with the hand, on clean newspaper, not rolling it out of the basket as I have seen done, when every fruit will be more or less bruised and spoiled.

Each variety should be laid by itself, and you should not leave the choice of the Pears for dessert to careless hands, for it needs a sharp eye, and a good nose, too, to determine exactly the time when each fruit is fully ripe, yet has not become "sleepy" in the middle. Moreover, that deadly pinch is almost certain to be given in a doubtful case; so choose your dessert fruit yourself every day, and you will be rewarded by perfect specimens, which are not, unfortunately, too common on our tables.

The temperature of the fruit-room should be always moderate; frost must not penetrate it, but a high temperature is not desirable, and darkness is better than light. The air should be dry and pure, too; a close, damp place is too favourable to mildew, which, if it once sets in, will run through the fruits very quickly, and this enemy should always be guarded against by removing every fruit which is bruised or injured, before mildew sets in. Have the top of the window always open, to keep the air fresh; this is a rule which is equally applicable to ourselves, and to flowers and fruits, for stuffy rooms are most unwholesome, and all deadly germs flourish in them in a very unpleasant way.

a knee. In such a position they would be quite useless to it.

March 17th.—Very beautiful is Gentiana acaulis in spring. Its flowers have the deepest blue of any in the garden. A native of the Alps and the Pyrenees, the long, narrow throat suggests that it comes from a place where butterflies are more abundant than bees, for, while the former can easily reach the honey with their proboscis, the latter cannot do so at all, or only with difficulty. Like most, if not all, Alpine plants, the Gentian is a perennial. If it were an annual it



Mr. George Baskett.

would long ago have been exterminated, for many of the seeds would be killed during the severe winter amid snow and ice, and but a small proportion of the remainder would afterwards find suitable conditions for germination and growth. As it grows naturally in colonies, it can be seen from a considerable distance, thus making a show in much the same way as the Compositæ do, by grouping their small flowers on a single stem. The same object is gained in either case—the attraction of insects. In one respect conspicuousness must be considered a disadvantage, for it would also attract browsing animals. In order to protect itself, therefore, the Gentian has developed an exceedingly bitter principle in its leaves, and it is probably to this fact that it owes its continued existence, for no animal would care to eat it. The genus is a very large one, containing over a hundred and eighty species, one of them (Gentiana verna) a native of this country.

March 18th.—It does not appear to be generally known that a large number of the bulbs sold as Roman Hyacinths are really ordinary Hyacinths in an early stage of their existence. They are sometimes called "Dutch Roman." There is not very much difference between them and the true Roman, except that the latter will always remain dwarf, whereas the flowers of the former will increase each year until they attain their full size. The Dutch are cheaper, so if they are bought, the purchaser should obtain the benefit of the difference in price.

H. C. Davidson.

Now that many hardy fruit trees are in bloom, or rapidly expanding, it may be as well to call attention to the fact that thinning out the trusses of bloom freely often increases the crop. If heavily laden with bloom, the trees often exhaust themselves, and have but little energy left for fruiting.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 181.—Mr. George Baskett, at the Gardens, Wood Lee, Virginia Water.

Wood Lee, the Surrey seat of Mr. E. W. Beckett, M.P., at present occupied by Mr. Spiers, is one of the most charming places in the neighbourhood of Windsor, and the gardens have many attractive features; while among the varied experiences of Mr. Baskett, the head gardener, the fact that he was gardener and Rose-grower to the late Lord Penzance, at Eashing Park, Godalming, from September, 1886, until the time of the death of that famous amateur Rosarian in 1900, enables him to speak with special authority on, at any rate, one fascinating horticultural question, the cultivation of the Brier Rose.

A native of Suffolk, Mr. Baskett started his gardening career under his father, at Claydon Rectory, his first important position being at Shrubland Park, under the late Mr. Thomas Blair In these gardens, then among the finest in England, he remained for four years, proceeding next to Ringwood Hall, Derbyshire, noted for its magnificent Heaths. He was next transferred as foreman to Port Eliot, St. Germans, for twenty months, and subsequently took charge of the gardens at The Priory, King's Heath, during the illness of the late Mr. Crawford, a noted Grape-grower.

Leaving King's Heath at the end of four years, Mr. Baskett was foreman for another period of four years at a large market establishment in the South of England, where Roses by the thousand, and Grapes, were grown for Covent Garden market; and, resuming private gardening, he served as chief at Parkstone House, Poole, where he laid out and remodelled the grounds.

"And your work at Eashing Park?" I said, on the occasion of my visit to Wood Lee the last week in January.

"Lord Penzance and myself carried on a great deal of experimental work in the hybridisation of the Roses, in order to ascertain what a progeny would bring forth. The first line we struck out was the crossing of the Rose with the common Sweet Brier, the idea being to get a glorified flower with the perfume of the Sweet Brier."

"Did the result satisfy your expectations?"

"It was beyond our expectations. Not only was the experiment a success, but extra vigour was obtained in the Sweet Brier itself."

"Can you tell me a few of the principal varieties raised?"

"First of all, of course, there were Lord and Lady Penzance. Lord Penzance was a cross between the Sweet Brier and the Persian Brier Harrisonii, and Lady Penzance between the Austrian Brier and the Sweet Brier. We next proceeded to cross Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Chinas with the Sweet Briers, to see the result. Amy Robsart was crossed with a Hybrid China Chenadole; Anne of Geierstein, with La Rosiere and all the dark crimson varieties of the Hybrid Sweet Brier were, by the way, crossed with the same pollen parent. Green Mantle was a cross from Catherine Bell (a bright, rich pink Rose, with a touch of white round the anthers), also Jennie Deans, from La Rosiere (a semi-double scarlet-crimson). Minna, the dwarfest of all the varieties, which was crossed with a Scotch Rose, had a band of pink round the outer edge of the petal. Another cross was Lucy Ashton with Rosa lucida. I think that I have given you a fair sample of the varieties."

"Did you make any unsuccessful experiments?"

"Yes, we tried to cross the Hybrid Perpetual with Rosa Camelliæfolia, with the view of obtaining a glossy foliage, which would withstand mildew. A number of seedlings were raised carrying the foliage of the Camelliæfolia, but the most astonishing point was that we were never able to get the flower to open. The buds were as large as the top of an ordinary egg-cup, but they would not expand. They were just like stone, and ultimately we threw threm away. We also worked hard to get a yellow Brier Hybrid Perpetual, by crossing the Persian Brier Harrisonii and Persian Yellow with the Hybrid Perpetual, but although we obtained several yellow and crimson flowers, the constitution of the plants was so poor that in a few seasons they disappeared altogether. Still, I think that if the cross were proceeded with, making Harrisonii the seed

Wood Lee, Virginia Water.

parent, a yellow Rose with the constitution of the Hybrid Perpetual might be raised. As you are aware, the results of the crosses have been proclaimed all over the world. We received various certificates and medals from the Royal Horticultural Society, in fact all but the coveted gold medal. I lecture at the meetings of the local Mutual Improvement Society on the Brier Rose."

"Do you go in largely for Brier Roses here?"

"You shall judge for yourself, but, first, perhaps, you would like to look round the lawns."

Accordingly, we strolled along the pleasant drive between the lodge and the mansion, noticing the number of Rhododendrons which are backed by Laurels. The property, Mr. Baskett mentioned, as we proceeded, including the gardens and private golf links, is between sixty and seventy acres in extent, and the name of Wood Lee is due to the fact that it is situated under the lee of Clock Case Wood.

"You have fine specimens of Holly," I remarked, as we passed in front of a tree of Ilex Marshalli.

"Yes. Hollies, like Rhododendrons, do well in this soil, which is devoid of lime. So do Araucarias, Wellingtonias, and Cupressus. But we do not love the latter, because there are plenty of heavy trees in the wood, and we want all the light and air we can get. As you see, on the south side of the carriage front there is a rather good specimen of Abies Douglasi."

"Can you tell me the age of the Arbutus on the east side of the house, and is there one stem only?"

"The age is about thirty years, and there is only one stem, but it is split. The tree is twenty feet high, and twenty feet through."

"I notice that there is a bronze sea lion on the terrace lawn."

"There is another on the croquet lawn opposite. They came from Japan. Mr. Beckett bought them when he was travelling in the Far East. The statue close to the conservatory, which, just now, is covered with straw, is of white marble."

"Is there anything special in the conservatory?"

"Not at present. In addition to Palms and Bamboos, there are Cyclamen and spring-flowering bulbs. The roof is covered by Tacsonia. The lawn on the east front is bordered with a sloping bank of American plants, down which there are steps down to the Dutch garden."

"You must be on high ground here?"

"This is probably the highest point in the locality. On a clear day we can see the Crystal Palace."

"I suppose you have a large number of varieties in the American border?"

"They include Kalmias, Azalea mollis, Spiræas, Syringas, Deutzias, standard Magnolia, and standard Brooms."

Passing the south end of the grounds, where the stables and the dairy are situated, and which is bordered by Rhododendrons, with Tulips and other spring-flowering bulbs in the front, my attention was attracted to the summer-house in the corner, containing a striking Japanese curiosity, in the shape of a wooden image. It bears the name of Kobo Daiski, and was made nearly two centuries ago for a Japanese Temple. Then it passed into the hands of an Osaka merchant, whose great-grandchild sold it to Mr. Beckett three years ago. The image, which has the Lotos-flower in its hand, is a wonderful piece of wood carving, painted to represent stone, and the eyes are strangely realistic.

Adjoining the summer-house are old clumps of ponticum Rhododendrons, and Kalmias, and at this point Mr. Baskett observed that he had just been cutting down a bank of old Laurels which stood twenty feet high, and replacing them with a Holly hedge.

Noticing another notable curiosity in the form of an image of Buddha engaged in thought, which also came from Japan, we came to two features of this portion of the grounds, the Brier Walk, by the side of the wall bordering the Dutch garden, and a collection of Tree Pæonies.

"How many varieties are there in the collection of Tree Pæonies?" I inquired.

"About fifty, and there are two hundred plants. All of them are named in Japanese, and came direct from Yokohama two years ago. Providing they are not injured by late frosts, they flower grandly during May. Every colour, from white to darkest crimson, is represented, except yellow, and the flowers are as large as a dinner plate. I have never seen Tree Pæonies do so well as at Wood Lee, and this, I believe, is one of the best collections in England."

"What is your treatment?"

"We give them deep cultivation, and plenty of cow-manure. The soil is good loam."

"I conclude that the Brier Walk is mainly composed of Penzance Briers?"

"Yes, intertwined with a few Roses of the Crimson Rambler type. Alister Stella Gray also works in well. There are about three hundred trees along the walk, which in June is fragrant with perfume. But I think that you have heard enough about Brier Roses already.

"Just here," continued Mr. Baskett, "we have done away with another bank of Laurels, and planted the ground with named Rhododendrons, filling in with Primroses and bulbs for spring flowering. Beyond is the rock garden, which is entirely new. On the bank facing north will be a bank of hardy flowering shrubs; and a part of the rock garden will be planted with Alpine varieties which particularly require shelter, because there is a wall. In the centre there will be a tank for Nymphæas. As you can perceive, this was a part of the old kitchen garden, but we are increasing the space devoted to the pleasure grounds."

"What do you grow chiefly in the borders east of the rock garden?"

"Carnations and hardy annuals, to supply cut blooms for the house. I should have pointed out that the north side of the lawn is bordered by clumps of Pampas Grass, Hollies, and various Conifers."

"How do you fill the Japanese bowl on the lawn?"

"We put in a large plant of Platycerium, in keeping with the character of the bowl."

"There is one very unusual feature towards the bottom of the lawn, I mean the Apple trees?"

"They were formerly in the kitchen garden, and are doing remarkably well transplanted. The varieties are Cox's Pomona, Ribston Pippin, and Ribston Russet. There are also some Pear trees which thrive in this new position. The Pitmaston Duchess had fruit on it over two pounds in weight last year. Other varieties are Williams's Bon Chrétien and Winter Nelis. In the orchard close by are the cream of dessert Apples, such as Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, King of Pippins, American Mother, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Herefordshire Winter Queening, and Cockle's Pippin."

Then we inspected the new Rose garden made on the site of the old glasshouses, which is the latest of all the additions at Wood Lee.

"What is the length?" I asked.

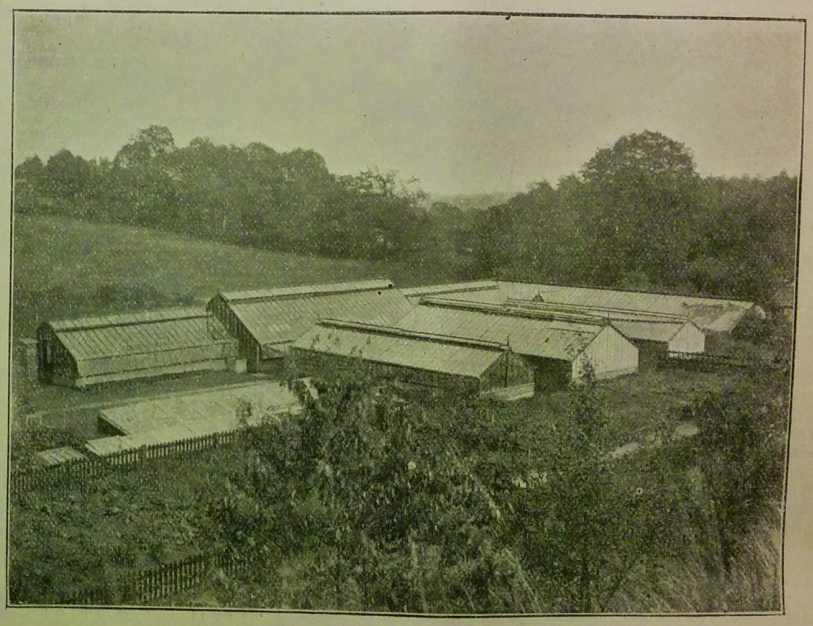
"About forty yards by thirty wide. In planting, I proceeded on the principle of selecting Roses that make a big show, and I have only one variety in each bed. As to numbers, two dozen of L'Argent and Bessie Brown, four dozen of La France, three dozen of Ulrich Brunner, and three dozen of Mrs. John Laing form one half; and two dozen of Fisher Holmes, Horace Vernet, Mildred Grant, Captain Hayward, and Gustave Piganeau, the other half. The raised border all the way round is planted with Teas and Hybrids, chiefly Teas, in batches of not less than a dozen. They were planted from pots last spring, and include Souvenir de Madame Eugene Verdier, Ernest Metz, Papa Gontier, Madame E. Perrin, Marie van Houtte, The Bride, Madame Lambard, Niphetos, Catherine Mermet, Comtesse de Nadaillac, Maman Cochet, the white Maman Cochet, Mrs. B. R. Cant, Perle des Jardins, and Madame de Watteville, which, you see, in an east position is doing well."

"Do you believe in planting some of the tender varieties exposed to the east?"

"Yes, I do, because I have lost a lot of tender Roses when they have been planted south, and kept them when they have been planted east. They are not cut about in the spring so much in the north or in the east as in the south. Often, when I was with Lord Penzance, we lost all our plants in the north. The other varieties are Souvenir de S. A. Prince, Anna Olivier (one of the best for cutting purposes), Waban (an American sport from Catherine Mermet), and Francisca Kruger."

"And the varieties on the walls?"

"On the north wall there are Cheshunt Hybrids and Longworth Rambler, and on the south Madame E. Resal (China), Fellenberg, and Laurette Messimy. On the twenty-two poles are



The Glasshouses at Wood Lee, Virginia Water.

Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Alister Stella Gray, William Allen Richardson, Waltham Climbers No. 1 and No. 2, Madame Berard, Bardou Job, and others."

"Is the Rose garden your own design?"

"Yes, including the steps by which it is approached, also the tank in the centre containing gold and silver fish, with the figure representing the goddess of Roses, and a seat to match the steps."

"The gates between the Rose garden and the Dutch garden are very handsome."

"They are old hammered iron, with Roses on them. The Dutch garden, which dates back many years, is divided into three sections. The beds at the north end are filled with three varieties of Wallflowers, yellow, blood-red, and Ruby Gem, edged with dwarf Yews."

"What are the centre beds planted with?"

"Tulips (Prince of Austria and Chrysolora), and red, blue, and white Hyacinths. The ten beds which comprise the south side are planted with yellow, white and coloured Primroses, also Polyanthus. With regard to the latter, I am selecting a strain of my own. The borders all round are full of bulbs and herbaceous plants, the walls are covered with Ivy on the outside, and up the centre of the garden are Yew trees representing snakes climbing up poles."

Outside the Dutch garden is a singularly representative collection of Japanese Iris.

"There are two hundred clumps in fifty varieties," said Mr. Baskett, "and last June some clumps had as many as forty flowers. I intend, however, to transfer them to cooler quarters so that the roots may be nearer the water."

"Do you put Sweet Peas in the two broad strips facing the Japanese Iris?"

"Yes, planted in clumps of a single variety. Here, too, we plant Delphiniums, Hollyhocks, Antirrhinums, and Cactus Dahlias. There are also three rows of Roses (Hybrid Perpetuals), edged with Mrs. Sinkins Pink, and arches at each end. At the back of the Roses are Delphiniums and Lilium candidum. Then, there is a row of Japanese flowering Cherries, about fifty trees on each side; and, finally, a herbaceous border, a hundred yards long, containing all the latest varieties."

The new ranges of houses are some little distance from the pleasure grounds, and are in the valley. One of the ranges—which were erected by Messrs. Foster and Pearson, of Beeston, Notts, and were only finished in May, 1903—consists of three Peach and Nectarine houses, a large Muscat Vine house forty feet long, and a Fig house. The second comprises Melon and Cucumber houses, a Carnation house, an intermediate house, a stove, an Orchid house, and various pits. They are built of Teak, and are exceedingly light and elegant.

In the first Peach house I asked what varieties had been planted.

"Alexandra Noblesse, Dymond, and Royal George Peaches, Cardinal, Early Rivers, and Rivers' Early Orange Nectarines. We started a fortnight ago. In this house are Abutilons, Plumbago, and Fuchsias, to go into the Dutch garden later on; and I have just struck Chrysanthemums, of which we grow about five hundred of the Japanese and Incurved varieties, for decorating and exhibition purposes. They include all the newest varieties, and are quite an up-to-date collection."

"The Muscats look thriving?"

"They are doing extremely well, bearing in mind that they were only planted from eyes in June, 1903. Here we have Strawberries, Royal Sovereign for forcing, and bring them in about fifty at a time."

"How many varieties of Figs do you grow?"

"Brown Turkey, White Marseilles, Negro Largo, and White and Black Ischia. There are fifty plants of Japanese Maples in this house, and quite a dozen varieties. In the late Peach house, Nectarines, which Mr. Beckett prefers to Peaches, are more the feature. The varieties are Pineapple, The Rivers, Stanwick Elruge, Rivers' White, Spenser, and Violet Hative. The Princess of Wales is the only Peach. There are a few Cherries in pots, which yield a good crop of fruit. The house is filled up with Azalea mollis, Bamboos, and some of the Japanese trees which stand out in the open from April to the end of November, and are only injured by frost."

"Are your Orchids imported varieties?"

"Nearly all. There are some very good varieties of Dendrobiums and Cattleyas. In the stove are Dracænas, Crotons, Pandanus, and small Palms, which are all used for table decoration."

"Which Carnations do you go in for most largely?"

"Malmaisons, of which we have twenty varieties. But I am going to reduce the number. We grow three Tree varieties, Cecilia (the yellow), and Mrs. T. W. Lawson and America. In the intermediate house are Palms, Gardenias, and Lycaste, an Orchid which yields a fine lot of white flowers suffused with pink, no two being alike. Cypripedium insigne is grown here, and we are just starting batches of Streptocarpus, Gloxinias, and Begonias. These are for the mansion and the conservatory, and I bring them in in batches, not in driblets. We apply the massing principle, which is the fashion of the day, to bowls of flowers, and also to foliage."

"You have Primulas and Cyclamen in the Melon house?"

"Yes, and Amaryllis throwing up two spikes to a bulb in the Cucumber house. Here you see eight plants of Isoloma. I grew them from a cutting given me three years ago. By throwing up an offset, they can practically be grown all the year round. Isolomas want stove treatment. The flower is orange-scarlet, with striped lips and spotted throat. The foliage is fine. The frames are filled with Violets and bedding plants."

Returning to the pleasure grounds, we looked in the fruit-room, and I specially noticed the fine colour of Gascoyne's Scarlet. In fact, for the end of January, there were many fine specimens of Apples. The new kitchen garden, which is a quarter of a mile in another direction from the mansion, is two acres in extent, and contains a general variety of vegetables and bush fruit.

"About an acre," resumed Mr. Baskett, "is also planted with Apples on the Paradise stock. A speciality in vegetables are the Peas; the early varieties are Gradus (which is a wonderful Pea), and Chelsea Gem. Queen of England is an old variety, good in almost any kind of weather, and other varieties grown are Criterion, Duke of Albany, Stratagem, Chelsoni, Autocrat, and Sturdy. We pick the second week in June, and go on, according to the weather, to the end of October or the beginning of November."

"What are your varieties of Cauliflowers?"

"Veitch's Early Forcing is grown in frames and in pots, seconded by Sutton's Purity; after that Early London and Autumn Giant. We grow Veitch's Exhibition and Paragon for the main crops of Brussels Sprouts; Ellam's Early, Veitch's Maincrop, and Enfield Market Cabbages; Veitch's Scarlet Model, Parisian Forcing, and Early Nantes Carrot. Of Celery, there is nothing to beat Major Clark and Standard Bearer. Veitch's Golden Queen Cabbage Lettuce has the crispness of the Cos Lettuce, and is more readily blanched; of Onions we grow a large quantity, the three varieties being Veitch's Maincrop, James's Keeping, and Ailsa Craig."

"Have you done much showing?"

"When I was with Lord Penzance, I showed Chrysanthemums and table plants largely, taking as many as eleven firsts out of thirteen exhibits at Godalming show. I never grew Roses for showing—they were for the decoration of the garden. At present I have not done much showing here, but last year I was second with garden Roses at Windsor, first with herbaceous plants, and second with Melons and Cucumbers. At the Chrysanthemum show at Windsor I was second with Incurved varieties, and also at Ascot and Reading. At Wokingham I was first with Japanese varieties, and second for eighteen blooms in vases. As time goes on, and we have everything in full order, I may be heard of again."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 137.—COOL GREENHOUSE CLIMBERS, AND MULCHING.

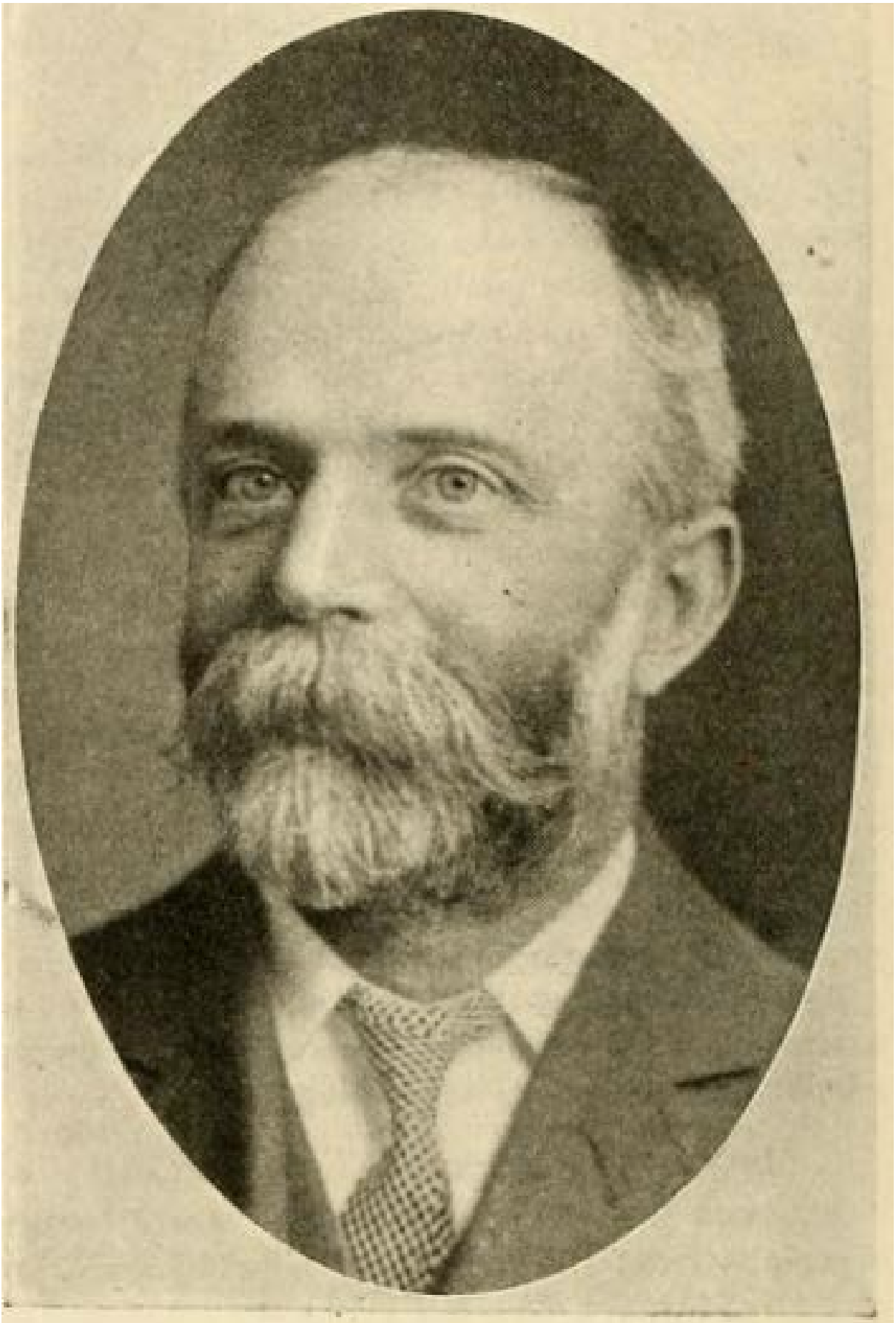
DEAR KATE,—We are now planting climbers in our new greenhouse porch (without hot-water pipes), and as you may like to do the same in yours, I will give you a list of them. There are a number of beautiful things which will do well in such a place if planted in the spring (so that they are able to get a good hold of the soil before next winter), but, of course, we just keep the frost out, by placing a good, well-trimmed lamp (full of oil) on the floor at night whenever the weather is frosty.

PLUMBAGO CAPENSIS.

First of all, Roses—and we have planted the new Field-Marshal, a hybrid, I believe, between the old China Rose (R. semperflorens) and a large red Rose. The flowers are in brilliant crimson, large and well-shaped; and it is said to produce them (as all the China Roses do) in winter as well as in summer. This I can tell you later; if it does, it will be valuable indeed under glass in January.

William Allen Richardson, too, blooms up to Christmas outside, so that it is a good Rose for a cold greenhouse, as it will then go on opening the buds which otherwise get cut by the frost; Madame Falcot, too, is almost a perpetual bloomer, and both these are amongst the loveliest "buttonhole" flowers that can be, so I advise you to put them in (from pots) at once. Then the blue Plumbago (capensis) is a great favourite of mine; the delicate tint of its blossoms is so lovely, and as it is almost dormant in winter, it will stand the cold well, if under glass, and it begins its summer growth in April. It should be pruned rather severely every year, directly after flowering; then it makes fine, fresh growth in spring, with abundance of flowers.

In the most shady corner of the porch we are planting a pink Lapageria; I daresay you know the exquisite wreaths of waxen bells it produces, but it is not an easy plant to manage in a warm greenhouse, for all the blights attack it in such a place, and it seldom thrives under their attentions. It is almost hardy, and can be grown in



MR. W. L. BASTIN,
Gr. to SIR ALEX. HENDERSON, Bart.,
Buscot Park.

THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

OUR PORTRAITS.

IN connection with the Vegetable Exhibition and Conference held on Tuesday last at Chiswick, we have reproduced the portraits of a few British gardeners who are good "all-round" cultivators, and who have shown a special preference and interest for the cultivation of choice vegetables and fruit. In the present day, when there appears to be an inclination in some quarters to regard the cultivation of kitchen garden crops with a certain degree of indifference, it is good policy on the part of the Royal Horticultural Society to endeavour to show by the proceedings of the past week that kitchen gardening forms one of the most important departments that can be undertaken by a first-class gardener. When a gentleman is about to engage a gardener, he very naturally expects that, whatever additional capabilities the candidate may possess, he at least will be able to produce first-class crops of fruit and vegetables.

As examples, therefore, to young men about to commence their work, the careers of the following gardeners may be studied with profit :—

MESSRS. ED. BECKETT, J. GIBSON, &c.

The two lions in the Vegetable world to-day, especially from the exhibition point of view, are of course Mr. Ed. Beckett, gr. to Lord Aldenham, Aldenham House, Elstree, and Mr. J. Gibson, gr. to R. W. Hudson, Esq., Danesfield, Marlow. But it is not necessary to publish separate portraits of them in this issue, as, being members of the Committee responsible for the Gardeners' Dinner, their photographs appear on our Supplementary Illustration. The same may be said of Mr. James Hudson, who was the author of a paper read at the Conference on the cooking of vegetables, Mr. James F. McLeod, Mr. Owen Thomas, Mr. Geo. Woodward, Mr. Norman, Mr. Fyfe, Mr. Markham, &c.

MR. BEN ASHTON.

The following particulars, furnished us by Mr. Ben Ashton, gr. to the Earl of Lathom, Lathom House, Ormskirk, Lancashire, are interesting :—

"A native of Nottinghamshire, I commenced my gardening career at a very early age in the gardens of Babworth Rectory, near Retford, in March, 1867, under the late Job Smith, who was a pupil of the late T. Speed, of Chatsworth. Mr. Smith was a very able gardener but a very severe taskmaster, which was perhaps a good thing for a somewhat mischievous youngster. After serving an apprenticeship of four years I went to Little Ponton Hall, Grantham, under the late Jos. Towers, but remained only a few months, going afterwards to Nocton Hall, Lincoln (at that time one of the seats of the Marquis of Ripon), as kitchen-garden foreman under Mr. Ridsdale, where I stayed nearly two years. From Nocton I went as journeyman under that celebrated Pine and Grape-grower, the late Joseph Jefferson, Carlton House Gardens, Worksop. If space permitted I should have liked to give some details of Mr. Jefferson's method of Pine-growing. I had not been with Mr. Jefferson many months before he gave me charge of the Pine-stoves and Vineries, and I need hardly say that I was then in my element. I remember his sending me to a noted local show with a quantity of fruit, and his joy at my coming back with eleven 1st and two 2nd prizes for thirteen entries. After serving Mr. Jefferson a little over two years I went as first journeyman at Ashburnham Place, Battle, Sussex, under Mr. Maxton, where I gained much useful knowledge in hardy fruits, &c.

"From Ashburnham I went as flower-garden man to that fine old gardener, Mr. Jno. Derricutt, Pye Nest Park, Halifax, who I am happy to say is now enjoying a well-deserved pension from the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, of which he was a staunch supporter for many years. After five months I was made foreman. I may here say that Mr. Derricutt was the finest propagator and plantsman that it was ever my good fortune to serve under. He was also an expert Pine and Grape grower, which will be readily understood when I say that he grew in 11-inch pots Black Prince Pines weighing as much as 10 lb. 8 oz., a photo of which I possess at the present time. I left my kind master and friend at Pye Nest after two years' service to go as foreman to another noted gardener, Mr. Robt. Milne, Vale Royal, Northwich, Cheshire, and while with Mr. Milne I created a mild sensation by growing in 7-inch pots Poinsettias with bracts measuring 22 inches in diameter. Many other things were at that time grown well at Vale Royal, notably Calanthes, specimen Mignonette, Eucharis, Begonia Ingrami, &c., in addition to fine Grapes and Peaches; carpet bedding was done on a large scale.

"From Vale Royal I went as foreman to Thurcroft Hall, near Rotherham, where I only remained a few months; after which I went as head gardener and manager to the late Selina, Viscountess Milton, Kirkham Abbey, York, in March, 1881. Her ladyship dying in 1883, I remained with her son, the present Lord Hawkesbury of Hazelbech till March, 1885, when I left to go as gardener to Lord Howard of Glossop, Glossop Hall, Derbyshire, where I remained eleven years. I may here remark that Glossop, from a gardener's point of view, is one of the worst districts in the British Islands, being wet, cold, and the atmosphere soot-laden; successful vegetable cultivation there was quite out of the question.

"I left Glossop to come to Lathom in January, 1896, and, as the story says, 'have lived happily ever since'—happy because I found at Lathom a soil that with good cultivation will grow most things fairly well, and because I found most kind and appreciative employers, who were ever ready to recognise and give a word of praise for whatever is good upon their table, whether fruit, vegetables or flowers.

"Of all vegetables the one perhaps that I cultivate best is the Potato, of which I grow every year about fifty varieties, and for which I have won many prizes, including the Silver Cup (of which I own two) of the Liverpool District Farmers' Club show, which has perhaps the finest Potato show in the country."

MR. W. L. BASTIN.

Mr. W. L. Bastin, gr. to Sir Alex. Henderson, Bart., Buscot Park, Berkshire, is well known as an exhibitor of kitchen-garden crops and fruit. The particular difficulty with which he has to contend is due to the soil of the garden being of a very heavy nature, and resting on a subsoil of clay. He says :—

"I have had the privilege of serving in good all-round gardens since I was fifteen years old. My aim has been to become a good practical and theoretical gardener. I have gained my experience as journeyman and foreman at Preston Hall, Maidstone, Kent; Swyncombe Park, Henley-on-Thames; Haydon Hall, Eastcote, Middlesex; Fetcham Park, Leatherhead, Surrey; and Ashgrove, Sevenoaks, Kent. For some years I was gardener to Admiral Pringle, Digswell, Hertfordshire; and I left that place to take charge of the gardens of Sir Alex. Henderson, Bart., M.P., Buscot Park, in 1897. These are good gardens, and we have a great demand for fruit and vegetables. I have also given some attention to the growing of vegetables for exhibition at the principal shows—London, Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, Bristol, Cardiff, and Reading—where I have won gold and silver medals and numerous other prizes; also Silver Cup and other high honours at the Temple for fruit and vegetables. I was awarded a Silver Knightian Medal by the deputation from the Royal Horticultural Society in July, 1903, at Cardiff, for a collection of six varieties of vegetables, which I was told was an unusual distinction to be awarded a collection of only six varieties."

MR. NORMAN DAVIS,

although specially well known as a first-rate cultivator of Chrysanthemums, has distinguished himself also in the growing of culinary Peas under glass for consumption in the month of May, being the only cultivator nearer than the Channel Isles who has grown such a crop in anything like the quantity (see *Gardeners' Chronicle*, June 13, 1903, p. 369). He says :—

"I was born at Brixton in 1850, which at that time was principally inhabited by City merchants, and horticulture flourished. My father and grandfather were merchants and keen gardeners, and my love for gardening was inherited. Before I could be started in life misfortunes had overtaken us, and on leaving school at the age of fourteen I had little to depend upon but my own energies. I was, however, placed with an uncle, also a City merchant, where I remained some twenty years, gaining considerable experience in commercial life. Then, upon losing my mother, the home was entirely broken up, and I found myself in lodgings at Walworth; and it was here that my fate as a Chrysanthemum grower was decided. My landlord was a keen amateur ''Mummist,' exhibiting in his small way at the local shows; and it was not long before I was as keen as he. I spent in his garden much of my spare time, and together we often visited the then far-famed Temple Gardens, as well as such nurseries as those of Messrs. Salter, Adam, and Forsyth, bringing home cuttings or plants of the novelties. Upon marrying in 1872 I found more scope for the practice of my hobby, but my sympathies were not confined to Chrysanthemums. I have reared collections of many kinds of florists' flowers. Finding gardening expensive and beyond my means, I started as many others have done, and made my hobby pay for itself; and finally left City life and started as a professional grower. My success as a Chrysanthemum grower, however, is not the interest of the moment.

"After 1890, finding competition growing keener every year, I decided upon extending my business, and came to Framfield, in Sussex, in 1896. I tried market gardening under glass; scarcity of skilled labour in country districts rendered progress slower than I wished, but I think I can fairly say I have turned out various crops with some amount of success. Strawberries (these without heat), French Beans, and Tomatos, all paid well, and always will do, so long as they are well grown and properly marketed. My chief success, however, and what has proved most interesting to me, has been the growing of culinary Peas under glass for marketing in May; these I have grown for six years in succession, and no crop has paid me better: I have been able to

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FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

IV.—Interview with Mr. W. L. Bastin, at Buscot Park, Faringdon, Berks.

UP to about twelve years ago, exhibits of choice fruit and vegetables from Buscot Park were a feature of the leading horticultural shows in various parts of the country, and the highest honours were frequently awarded them, culminating with the gold medal at the Temple Show in 1905. Nowadays Mr. W. L. Bastin, who has had charge of the gardens for the last twenty years, does not exhibit, but that his right hand has not lost its cunning I had ample proof on the occasion of my visit early in June.

Buscot Park, the seat of Lord Faringdon (formerly Sir Alexander Henderson, Bart.), is situated between the small towns of Faringdon and Lechlade, amidst some of the most delightful scenery in the north-west corner of Berkshire. From the terrace magnificent views can be had over the surrounding country, and away into the neighbouring counties of Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, and Gloucestershire. The mansion is an imposing edifice of stone, built some hundred and fifty years ago, and since added to by its present owner; while the estate runs into many thousands of acres, which were until recently farmed by Lord Faringdon himself. Here were bred the famous Buscot cattle and Shire horses, which carried the prestige of British stock-raisers into all parts of the world, and which realised very high prices when dispersed a short time back.

Before going to Buscot Park in 1897, Mr. Bastin had had considerable experience in all branches of his profession. He commenced his gardening career at the age of fifteen (he is now nearly sixty years old), and as journeyman and foreman acquired both practical and theoretical knowledge, first at Preston Hall, Maidstone; then, in succession, at Swyncombe Park, Henley-on-Thames; Haydon Hall, Eastcote, Middlesex; Fetcham Park, Leatherhead; and Ashgrove, Sevenoaks. His next move was to Digswell, Hertfordshire, as head gardener to Admiral Pringle, relinquishing this after some years to take up the position he now holds. Since he has been at Buscot Park he has wrought considerable improvements, and has made his mark alike in the gardens, pleasure grounds, and greenhouses.

A drive of some four miles along a tree-fringed road, and we arrive at the entrance nearest to Mr. Bastin's house. Half-way on our journey he had indicated the principal gates, where starts a winding drive, two and a half miles long, through a beautiful park, leading up to the mansion itself.

"As food production is our principal aim," said Mr. Bastin, "perhaps we had better begin with the houses and kitchen garden, for this is where we are concentrating our available labour. The flower gardens take second place. I might say that the kitchen garden has always been a feature here, and is more so now than ever."

"What staff have you?" I asked.

"At present there are three men and a boy, four women and a girl. Before the war we had eighteen men, but the younger ones joined up in the early days. Boys are just as difficult to get, and the one I have is leaving shortly, though I have another to take his place. The women are extremely willing, and are useful in many ways, but of course they cannot do the hard work, such as trenching, staking Peas, and so on."

The Nectarine range was the first place to which my guide took me, and here I saw several trees giving promise of good crops.

"In this house," said Mr. Bastin, "we have just finished lifting early Potatoes. The Peach is Duke of York; next to it is Nectarine Humboldt, one of the best for second cropping. Cardinal is also on this wall, and is now stoning—we are not forcing it."

"You have Tomatoes now in front, and I see they have some splendid trusses of fruit. What variety do you favour?"

"For early work there is nothing to beat Sutton's Winter Beauty. As you suggest, the fruit is not a good shape, but it is a sure cropper, and the flavour is excellent. For maincrop I know of none superior to Carter's Duke of York."

"This is another fine lot of Nectarines you have in this house," I remarked, as we passed on.

"That is Milton, a second early, which is as good as Humboldt. Here also we have had early Potatoes," said Mr. Bastin.

Outside this range of houses is a long and wide bed, which I was informed is usually devoted to annuals. These have now given way to Potatoes, and I commented on the fine, upstanding haulm, and the general appearance of the plants.

THE BEST EARLY POTATO.

"This variety is the same as we have had in the houses—Sharpe's Victor. As an early it is by far the best I have tried. You can see for yourself what sort of a cropper it is"—and Mr. Bastin cleared away some of the soil, and revealed a fine lot of well-shaped tubers.

"What distance do you allow between the rows?" I asked.

"Twenty-two inches," was the reply.

The next house we entered used to be given over to Cypripediums, but these show the exigencies of the times, and far more flourishing was a batch of well-grown Hydrangeas, some in full bloom, others coming on.

"The Hydrangea is one of Lady Faringdon's favourite flowers," explained Mr. Bastin; "and we provide a certain number for the decoration of the town house. The variety is the good old Dr. Hogg. The Cypripediums are a very fine lot, but you can see they are in want of attention in the way of repotting. They will have to take their chance; but although they may be neglected I shall not allow them to spoil entirely. I have to do all the repotting myself, and the boy does the watering. He has not had time to get round here yet to-day, and the leaves of the Hydrangeas are drooping for want of water."

Passing to the next house, now full of Melons, I asked Mr. Bastin if he was growing the variety he himself raised, Buscot Park Hero, for which he obtained an Award of Merit some years ago.

A BEAN FOR FORCING.

"No," was the reply; "I am not growing it this year, as I am not doing so much with Melons as usual. The variety here is Hero of Lockinge, from which we get twenty-one fruits from nine plants. Not bad, is it? Owing to the food scarcity I have been growing an extra lot of Beans, and have only just got this house cleared of them. I made a special feature of growing Beans last winter, although as a matter of fact we have not been without them for nine years."

"You have, of course, a favourite?" I said.

"Yes, Sutton's Climbing Runner Bean Tender and True. I used to grow Princess of Wales, but I consider this is now broken up in constitution."

Another lot of Orchids—this time a batch of a hundred Calanthes—next engaged attention. "These seem in good condition, and not so distressed as the others," I observed.

"I am trying to keep them all alive," replied Mr. Bastin, "for they are valuable. We used to make a great feature of Orchids. Here is another lot of Cypripediums calling for attention, but vegetables and fruit must come first."

Having visited the second Melon house, we next made our way to the Vineries. A house of Alicante, another of Madresfield Court, and a third of Muscat of Alexandria—the Vines looking most satisfactory, and carrying very fine bunches—were inspected in turn; and then we came to a house of Black Hamburgh.

MR. W. L. BASTIN AND HIS STAFF OF HELPERS.

The photograph includes some who have just joined and others who were leaving, the actual number being as stated in the text.

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ONE OF THE OLDEST VINES.

"This Vine," said Mr. Bastin, "is one of the oldest in England. By some people it is said to be the very oldest; others say it is the third oldest. It is supposed to be over a hundred and fifty years old."

"That is about the age of the Hampton Court Vine, is it not?" I asked.

"I believe it is," was the answer; "and it is a question whether that or this is the older."

"It still bears excellent crops," I see.

"Yes; it is a splendid Vine. In 1906 I won the first prize at the Cardiff Show with Grapes cut from it."

"How many Vineries have you altogether?"

"There are six all told. This we are now entering is the early house, and we should be cutting Grapes now, but they will not be ready for another four or five weeks."

"Why is that?"

"Because of the scarcity of labour, and lack of fuel."

Going next through the second-early house, where Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling are carrying heavy bunches, I remarked to my guide:

"You must cut an enormous quantity of fruit during the season!"

FRUIT FOR THE WOUNDED.

"We do, indeed," was the answer. "Much of it is sent to the hospitals for the wounded; and we send regular consignments of vegetables to the Fleet. A local society collects it every week."

The stove, which we next visited, was practically empty, save for some Crotons, Anthuriums, and Ferns.

"The Ferns," said Mr. Bastin, "could do with repotting, for they have not been done for three years; but they will have to go, as I cannot spare the time. We have had a nice little lot of Statice profusa, which is now going off."

"You make a feature of Perpetual-flowering Carnations?" I asked, as we entered the next house.

"Lady Faringdon is especially fond of them, and we use a lot of them for decorations, both here and at the town house. Since February I have been cutting a hundred blooms weekly from four hundred plants. We have all the best varieties, but the favourite is Baroness de Brienen—it is a lovely shade of salmon-pink, and is exquisite on the table."

"Who looks after the Carnations?" I asked.

"I attend to these myself," was the answer; "only this morning I potted up a big batch of young plants, which I will show you when we get outside. They are, of course, in frames."

Leaving this house, we moved on to the cool houses, where more Peaches and Nectarines are growing, with Pears in pots, also Tomatoes. Here, as in the next house, devoted to Brown Turkey and White Marseilles Figs, indications are not wanting of the great difficulties under which work is carried on, and of the highly creditable fashion in which they are surmounted.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

This completed our round of the houses, and we proceeded towards the kitchen garden, which is about six acres in extent, and is divided into three parts, enclosed by outer walls. But first Mr. Bastin directed my attention to a number of plants of bedding Geraniums, put out between two of the houses.

"These," he said, "are being kept for stock. They include all the best varieties, such as Paul Crampel, Salmon Paul Crampel, Mrs. Pollock, Marshal MacMahon, West Brighton Gem, and Flower of Spring. This is all we are retaining of a very large quantity that used to be employed for bedding out."

In the middle garden—the largest of the three—it was apparent that Potatoes were the principal subject, and I asked what quantity had been planted, and the sorts used.

"We have made a point," was the reply, "of Potatoes, and have planted eight thousand sets. The varieties are Carter's Advancer, which I consider the best second-early there is; and for maincrops, Arran Chief, Up-to-date, Long Keeper, and Golden Wonder. We have also made good sowings of Peas."

"And what are the varieties of these?"

PRODUCTIVE PEAS.

"For early crops, Sutton's World's Record and Early Giant. These are the best and most productive I have tried. For maincrops we have Duke of Albany and Superlative; and for the latest, Gladstone, also a few Autocrat. Gladstone I find does best with us, and seems to suit our soil, which is very heavy, and over a cold clay. I have one special bed, where I am testing the four varieties side by side, under identical conditions—this is the only way to make a fair trial."

Resuming our walk, I was struck by the splendid appearance of all the crops, and inquired what was the yield of Potatoes.

"We have had as many as twenty to twenty-five fold," was the answer; "but this was on specially prepared land, and we cannot expect anything like that for an average yield this year."

Moving on to the next garden, where Celery was being planted out in trenches, a large hot-bed caught my eye, and Mr. Bastin explained:

"This is made up principally of leaves, with a proportion of manure. We utilise the frames first for Asparagus, then for Lettuce—of which we cut eight hundred—then for Vegetable Marrows."

In this garden, too, Raspberries, Currants, and Gooseberries were bearing well, as were the Peaches, Cherries, Pears, and other fruits on the walls; but the flowering plants which bordered the walks, though doing their best to making a brave show, gave proof by their condition that labour was too scarce to give them the attention they required.

Continuing our walk, I was greatly struck by the thriving appearance of a bed of Potatoes, planted by themselves on a square plot.

POTATOES ON HARD SOIL.

"They are planted on the top of the soil," was the explanation, "and are covered by six inches of leaf-mould. This was done as an experiment, to save the labour of digging, as the soil is so hard. The variety is Advancer, and there is another field of it farther round."

In the kitchen garden is a long range of cool houses, in which more Peaches and Nectarines, together with Figs, Pears, Apricots, and Cherries are growing; while the fronts of the houses are used for Tomatoes, Cauliflowers, and salad plants.

"The Cauliflowers are Purity and Magnum Bonum, both excellent varieties," said Mr. Bastin.

Looking across this garden, a couple of rows of Sweet Peas next attracted attention.

"This large bed was to have been full of Sweet Peas, which are another of Lady Faringdon's favourite flowers; but, as you see, we are now growing only the two rows, the rest of the bed being filled with Carrots, Beet, and Parsnips."

"And what are those long rows of Beans which look so flourishing?" I asked.

A BEAN FOR PRESERVING.

"It is a variety which is not grown so much as it should be—Carter's Climbing French Bean, and it comes in very useful for preserving for winter. It can be gathered throughout August and September, and is preserved whole, not sliced. You cannot preserve Scarlet Runners in this manner. Of course, the work of preserving is done by the housekeeper."

"And the Onions, of which I see you have many excellent rows?"

"The first bed is Long Keeper, the other is White Leviathan, which I can recommend for winter work."

"Your Apple trees suggest that you will have enormous crops this year."

"Yes, they are giving wonderful promise. We have all the best varieties here."

Before leaving the kitchen garden we stayed for a few moments to look at the Water Lily pond in the centre. This is a very prominent feature, and contains many choice Nymphæas, Marliacea Laydekeri and Exquisite being particularly noticeable. As the bottom of the pond is cemented, all the plants are in tubs.

We now passed on to the old Rose garden, where the beds are cut on the grass, and intersected by gravel paths.

"It grieves me to see the paths so overrun with weeds," said Mr. Bastin; "but Lord Faringdon is keen on food production, and desires that nothing shall come in the way. So the paths must go untended."

"You manage to prune the Roses," I remarked.

"My daughter has done all that," was the answer; "and she has also given me considerable help in the houses. Mrs. Bastin tried to help me, but she found she had so little time to spare from the household duties."

A MAGNIFICENT PROSPECT.

And now we come out upon the lawn in front of the mansion, and make our way through the long grass, gaily bedecked with Buttercups, Daisies, and other weeds. The grass, owing to lack of labour, cannot possibly be cut, but is by no means unlovely.

Looking across the lawn, one gets lovely vistas on all sides. Nature has been generous, and has endowed the prospect with well-wooded slopes, which give a glorious play of light and shade with the varying hues of green, while here and there is caught a glimpse of the silvery Thames, in this place narrowed to a gently-flowing stream. Cattle browse peacefully in the fields that lie between, and the whole scene is one of infinite charm. But though so natural in every feature, much of the effect is due to the skill of Mr. Bastin, who, by judicious thinning in one place, and planting in another, has opened up to view beauties that would otherwise be hidden, or accentuated them where necessary. Nearer to the house are noble specimens of Cupressus macrocarpa and aurea, Cedrus atlantica, Abies pangutica glauca, and many others.

But time pressed, and tearing ourselves away from the contemplation of this scene, we walked further round to another side of the house, where a series of steps lead down to a pergola covered with climbing Roses of all the best sorts, and from that to the water garden, which terminates in a natural lake some thirty acres in extent. The water comes from the surrounding hills, and finds an outlet in a stream that flows into the Thames.

"The paths along the side of the water gardens are the best kept of all," I remarked to Mr. Bastin.

"We have an old pensioner who makes this his work," he replied. "He spends his time in keeping this place tidy, and would not do anything else if he were asked. But the plants in the water have received no attention for three years, and are showing the effects badly."

POTATOES AS BEDDERS.

Retracing our steps, and passing the north front of the house, we came to what was formerly the flower garden. Now, however, utility has ousted ornament, and where bedding plants have hitherto been grown Potatoes are coming up.

Making our way again towards Mr. Bastin's house, I had time for but a cursory glance at the shrubbery (but that glance revealed a mass of growth rapidly getting out of hand), and none at all for the orchard of eight acres, where, in addition to ordinary fruits, quantities of cider Apples are grown. Then, after noting that in the beds surrounding his house my guide had Beet and Carrots in place of the customary plants, I bade him farewell, congratulating him on the success of his efforts to "keep his end up" in this somewhat out-of-the-way corner of Berkshire. W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week the gardens of the Marquis of Ripon, Coombe Court, Kingston Hill, will be described.

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Tobacco-plant, to which I have previously alluded, appears in most of them, and no doubt will be largely grown. Schizanthus Wisetonensis, though placed among the novelties, ought surely to be moved on, for it was brought out two or three years ago. It is a very charming plant either for beds or for pots. If the seed is sown in September it will flower during the winter in a cool greenhouse. A "white Wallflower"—White Queen—figures in some lists, but in reality it is a pale yellow, fading to white. Personally, I prefer the stronger colours with which we are more familiar. They are, to my mind, one of the two great charms of the Wallflower, the other, of course, being the scent. In one list is offered seeds of a new Rhubarb, Monarch, which we are told produces stalks sixteen inches long and more, from three to three and a-half inches thick, and one and a-half pounds in weight, yet "extremely tender and juicy, and of a very mild and delicate flavour."

Mr. W. Batchelor.

March 24th.—Why do not the owners of mossy lawns try the effect of sulphate of iron? It is strongly recommended for that purpose by Dr. Griffiths. "In 1888," he says, "a large number of experiments were performed in France, which conclusively prove that iron sulphate is the best substance to use for eradicating moss in pastures. The iron sulphate (one and a-half to two cwts. per acre) should be powdered and then mixed with two or three times its weight of sand or dry soil, and distributed by hand, a manure distributor, or the Strawsonizer. The sulphate may also be applied by means of a water-cart; that is, one and a-half to two cwts. of iron sulphate are dissolved in forty gallons of water, and that quantity used per acre." The amount of sulphate here mentioned should not be exceeded. Indeed, it would be safer not to exceed one cwt. per acre, especially if there is any iron present in the soil.

March 25th.—Time was when Orchids were always kept in a house by themselves. Whether they were better grown under that system is doubtful; they could hardly have been finer than some of the specimens, such as the one shown in the illustration, which are to be seen in mixed collections. It is a very great gain to find that they are not so exacting as they were supposed to be; now almost everyone can grow a few.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 182.—Mr. WILLIAM BATCHELOR, F.R.H.S., at THE GARDENS, STOKE BRUERN PARK, TOWCESTER.

ALTHOUGH when I wrote to Mr. Batchelor asking him, with the consent of Mr. B. Wentworth Vernon, the owner of Stoke Bruern Park, to receive me, he said that it was a very bad time to visit a garden, I found this far from being the case. Of course, the historic seat and its beautiful surroundings are seen at their best in the late spring or early summer; but, partly because on the occasion of my visit the weather was fine and bright, and mainly because of the many features of interest, I did not in the least regret that I saw the place early in February. Mr. Batchelor met me at the entrance to the Nut Walk, where I alighted, after driving from Roade, the nearest station. Here, in fact, the estate, extending to some four hundred acres, begins, and a very charming beginning it is. The length of the Walk is about four hundred yards, and the trees, which are all of the common wood Nut, are of great age. In the springtime, when the ground is carpeted with Bluebells, Primroses and Wood Anemones, the appearance must be certainly attractive. Approaching the mansion by a drive nearly a mile long, passing many noble Oak and Ash trees, and noticing on the walls of the handsome dairy the inscription: "To endure and to pardon is the wisdom of life," we paused for a minute to discuss the flowering shrubs which are grown by the side of the drive.

"They include," said Mr. Batchelor, "Marie Legraye, Madame Lemoine and Souvenir de Louis Spath Lilacs, Forsythias viridissima and Fortunei, Deutzias crenata fl. pl., Lemoinei, Watererii, and gracilis, Hibiscuses amaranthus and Ardeni, Anthony Waterer Spiræa, Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora, yellow, white, and Andreana Brooms, Philadelphus coronarius and P. Lemoinei, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Cistuses, Chimonanthus, and Prunus."

"How large are the pleasure grounds?" I inquired, as we made our way into one of the houses, which are close to Mr. Batchelor's own pretty residence.

"About six acres. This forcing house, which was only put up by me in 1903, is used chiefly for vegetables. We force a large number of Potatoes in pots."

"I see that you have some of Sharpe's Victor. Which do you consider the best?"

"There is, I consider, no Potato better than Sharpe's Victor for forcing. I have tried several, and prefer it to any of them. Last year we started new Potatoes on January 31st, and continued them till they were ready in cold frames. I may mention that Dobbie's Factor is one of the best Potatoes for outdoor purposes; its cooking and cropping qualities are excellent. We also grow a few of Northern Star and Eldorado. I like the appearance of Eldorado much better than Northern Star. Last season we had a hundred and ninety-four pounds of Northern Star from fourteen ounces of seed."

"What else do you force in this house?"

"Asparagus, Seakale, French Beans, and Rhubarb. We started Asparagus at Christmas, and French Beans the third week in January. Of the latter, I think Ne Plus Ultra equal to any variety. Canadian Wonder is good, but it takes so much more room to grow than Ne Plus Ultra. As you observe, we force Strawberries here, about two hundred plants of Royal Sovereign."

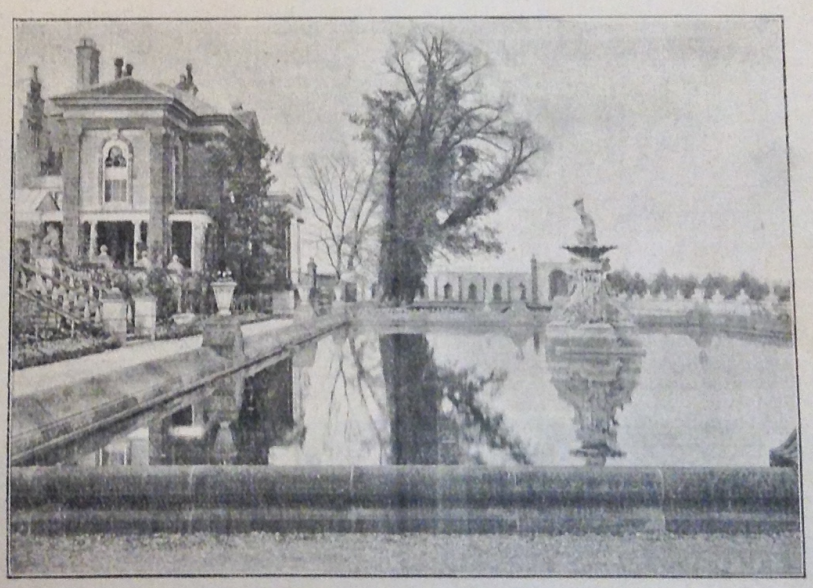
"I suppose that Tomatoes are a feature in summer?"

"This house is filled with them. Last year we had about eight hundred pounds of fruit. The varieties are Dobbie's Champion, Lord Roberts, Sutton's Winter Beauty, and Up-to-Date."

"How long is the house?"

"Nearly sixty feet, and twelve feet wide. Its strong point is economy of space, and the Mona boiler, by Messrs. Foster and Pearson, is extremely useful."

The next house we entered was a blaze of colour, and I realised that Mr. Batchelor is an ardent lover of Cyclamen. Having congratulated him upon the fine show, I asked how many were grown.



Stoke Bruern House.

"About twelve dozen. They are all seedlings from various sources, and the colours include white, pinks of various shades, rose, red, purple, very deep crimson, and salmon. The rose and salmon colours are not quite so robust as the others."

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"You seem to get a great quantity of flowers from a single plant."

"We get from sixty to eighty flowers on a plant in a 6-in. pot, and as many as sixteen in a 4-in. pot."

"When did they begin to flower?"

"The second week in December, and they last until April."

"It would be very interesting and helpful if you would describe your treatment of Cyclamen for the benefit of amateurs."

"The seed is sown in September. It is sown very thinly, and is placed in a cool house. When the seedlings are up, they are put near the glass, where they remain until ready for potting into single pots. This is done when they have made the second or third leaf. The plants are kept growing from the time they are up until they are in flower. When the plants have done flowering, they are placed in frames, and they are never allowed to get quite dry. About July they are repotted and then returned to the frames. In September they are taken into the greenhouse, and put as near to the glass as possible. But the secret of success with Cyclamen is to keep the plants clean by means of the water-can, and to feed them liberally. Dry, light, rich soil suits them. Cyclamen are grown on the front stage, and on the back stage a group of fifty fine Arums. These are all taken out of the pots, and planted out for the summer. This saves a lot of work in the way of watering, and the plants grow much stronger. Trained up the back wall is a William Allen Richardson Rose, from which we have been cutting since Christmas."

"When the Cyclamen are done with, what do you grow here?"

"We fill the back stage with Fuchsias, and the front with various flowering and foliage plants. I find Torenia Fournieri very useful for summer decoration. Seed sown in March will produce fine plants in July, and with very little trouble. My son, who is one of my assistants, takes a great interest in the cultivation of Fuchsias. We first commenced with standards, of which Lord Beaconsfield is one of the finest. The treatment is to take the cuttings about August, keep them growing through the winter, and then in the summer they will form a good head on a 4ft. stem, carrying their large leaves right down to the pots."

"How many Fuchsias do you grow?"

"About a hundred. There are two new single varieties, Dobbie's Andenken and H. Henkel. The flower is pink, verging on red, and the foliage is very pretty. Other singles are:—Princess May, Earl of Beaconsfield, Fascination, Rose of Castile Improved, and Royal Purple. The doubles include White Phenomenal, Rose Phenomenal, Mr. Gladstone, Ballet Girl, Madame Carnot, and Professor Rontgen."

"Azalea indica appear to be another feature?"

"We grow about a hundred. There are from twelve to fourteen varieties, of which the most useful are Deutche Perle, Paul Webber, Madame van der Cruyssen, Simon Mardner, Vernaeneana, and Bernard Andre alba. Azaleas are very useful for buttonholes."

"Do you go in largely for buttonholes?"

"Yes, very largely. Mr. Vernon likes all his staying guests to have buttonholes every day, and many plants are grown with this object in view."

"How many Freesias do you pot?"

"About fifty pots, and about a hundred plants of Streptocarpus, with the same number of Cineraria stellata. Bulbs, except Hyacinths, whose perfume Mr. Vernon does not like in the house, are largely grown. The Daffodils include Figaro, Narcissus, Ajax princeps, Barri conspicuus, Emperor, and Sir Watkin; the Tulips, Cottage Maid, Lorraine, Chrysolora, Rosa Mundi, and Scarlet Duke."

"What about Chrysanthemums?"

"They are grown for cut blooms, about three hundred in all, and buttonholes are kept in view in the case of these also. I find the following varieties very useful for decoration:—Cannell's Favourite, Princess Victoria, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Filkins, Sunstone, White Jitsujetui, Sam Caswell, Madame Felix Perrin, and Phœbus. The singles include King of Siam, Elsie Andrews, Miss A. Holden, Miss Cissy Briscoe, Eureka, and Queenie Gordon. For early flowering I prefer Marie Masse, Ralph Curtis, Mrs. E. V. Freeman, Notaire Groz, Market White, Horace Martin, and Albert Casson. We grow the large-bloom Japanese, but they are not so useful to us."

"How many Dahlias do you usually have?"

"About fifty varieties. Our best Cactus varieties are:—F. H. Chapman, H. J. Jones, Clara Stredwick, Ena, Aunt Chloe, Alpha, J. H. Jackson, Mrs. J. Crowe, J. W. Wilkinson, Maid of Honor, Minnie West, and Mary Farnsworth. Of Pompons we grow Amber Queen, Arthur West, White Aster, Bacchus, Douglas, and Whisper; also a seedling of my own—Willie Batchelor."

"For which you have had a certificate, I believe?"

"Yes, in 1895, from the Royal Horticultural Society. Its colour is bright pale scarlet, with white bloom and tip to petals, a very dwarf grower and very free. Another Dahlia for which I received a certificate at the same time was Mrs. W. F. Gore Langton, a single cerise-crimson, with maroon round the eye. Mr. R. Dean, writing to the 'Gardener's Chronicle,' at the time, described Willie Batchelor as distinct in character and decidedly promising."

"Another feature," continued Mr. Batchelor, "is our Ivy-leaved double Pelargoniums. We grow about fifty in pots. The six best varieties are Beauty of Castlehill, Mrs. W. H. Martin, Miss Gulliver, Baden Powell, Resplendent, and Leopard. Of single Zonals we grow Oliver, Lady Chesterfield, John Gibbons, Lilacina, Ampion, and Jessie Moir. The double Zonals are Decorator, Fire Dragon, Hermione, Golden Glory, L. Constable, and Madame Leon Dalloy."

Then we went into the fruit houses, which include two Vineries, with Muscats of Alexandra in one and Black Hamburgh, Sweetwater, and Appley Towers in the other—the latter is a fine late-keeping Grape, and colours well—and in the Peach house I noted Early Alexandra and Royal George Peaches, and Lord Napier and Pineapple Nectarines. In the same house I also observed a quantity of Pears in gutter spouts.

"There are four varieties," said Mr. Batchelor. "Sutton's Bountiful is one of the best of the early Peas. The others are William I., English Wonder, and The Sherwood, which I am trying for the first time this year."

"How many seasons have you raised Peas in gutter spouts?"

"This is the third year. I sow them about the middle of January, and when they are about two inches high I put them into frames. During March I plant them out in the garden, and protect them with Fir-boughs. To prove the advantage of starting the Peas in spouts, I may tell you that last year Peas raised in pots on January 12th were planted out March 14th, and the first dish was picked June 7th; whereas the same varieties sown in the garden about the same time were not ready for picking until June 25th."

"You use the stove for propagating purposes?"

"Chiefly, except in summer, when it is filled with Melons. Sutton's Superlative is one of the best, and Royal Sovereign another. Last year one plant of Royal Sovereign continually produced twins, and one pair came to perfection, growing almost exactly alike. When we weighed them, the fruit came to just over six pounds the pair. We also grow Hero of Lockinge. In this house Ferns are grown in quantity for buttonholes, including, among others, about sixty Maidenhair. Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Gloire de Sceaux, and Poinsettias are also largely grown, and I find Abutilon Savitzi very useful for decoration. I am trying to grow a standard."

"I see that you have Azalea mollis and Rhododendrons in pots?"

"Yes, and another plant which is useful for decoration is Coleus thyrsoideus, which forms a pleasing contrast to Salvia splendens. Speaking of Salvias, I dot them about in Asparagus Sprengeri on the tables."

"You are fond of decorating?"

"Very. In addition to the house, we decorate the church on festivals. The windows are a feature. We work in texts in flowers. White Marguerites on moss, filled in with various Cactus Dahlias, are effective for that purpose."

Proceeding to the Colonnade, we first had a look at the mansion, which is very striking in appearance. It was built, as Mr. Batchelor explained, by Inigo Jones, in the seventeenth century, Stoke Bruern Park being formerly Crown property, and was almost surrounded by Royal forests, many thousands of acres of which still exist. Charles I. made it over to Sir Francis Crane, from whom it passed to the Arundels; the Arundels were succeeded by the Wentworths, and finally it passed, by marriage, to the family of the present owner, the Wentworth-Vernons.

"When Sir Francis Crane was the owner," continued Mr. Batchelor, "the mansion was entirely in the Tudor style, but in 1886 a fire destroyed the centre block. The present owner rebuilt it in 1891, and it is now divided with a terrace between the two wings, which is laid out as a Rose garden."

"What is the length of the terrace?"

"About two hundred yards. Visitors, whom Mr. Vernon allows to see the gardens in the summer, and who come from all parts, as well as the villagers, to whom they are opened on Sunday afternoons, are always much interested in the words worked in on the balustrading, and sometimes puzzle themselves as to the English."

"You mean 'Tout casse, tout lasse, tout passe'—'All things break, all things weary, all things pass away'?"

"Yes, and while we are standing here, overlooking the park, I may add that different groups of trees in it represent different regiments of soldiers in their respective positions at the Battle of Waterloo. Vases, of which there are about forty, are a great feature. They have all to be filled. I find Sutton's spreading Lobelia (mixed colours) useful for vases."

"What varieties of Figs thrive on the borders at the end of the terrace?"

"Several, including Brown Turkey and Brunswick. There are only Ivies on the mansion, but Wistarias run along the bottom of the Colonnade."

"How are the six beds under the dining-room windows filled?"

"With Tulips, Myosotis, double Arabis, and a hedging of Violas. I suppose we use about ten thousand plants for spring bedding, and for summer about twelve thousand. The large sheet of water in front of the mansion is to be planted with Nymphæas and other species adapted for the purpose, and the rockery underneath the fountain in the middle is to be planted with Ferns."

"And outside the Colonnade?"

"Under the wall there are standard Roses in beds filled with Pansies, Wallflowers and Tulips. All the Pansies are seedlings. In the Rose garden there are sixteen beds, four very long, all filled with spring bedding."

"You might please mention any special varieties?"

"There is one Wallflower, Sutton's Earliest of All, now in bloom, which does particularly well; and one of the best Pansies is Madame Perrett."

"How many Roses do you grow?"

"About a thousand, including a hundred Crimson Ramblers. The Hybrid Perpetuals are:—A. K. Williams, Mrs. John Laing, Prince Camille de Rohan, Earl of Dufferin, Dr. Andry, and Duke of Edinburgh. The Hybrid Teas are: La France, Caroline Testout, Captain Christy, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, and Grace Darling. The last is one of the principal Roses under the Colonnade, which grows with large plants of scented Verbenas trained to the walls. Other Roses are:—Teas: White Maman Cochet, The Bride, L'Ideal, Francisca Kruger, Madame Lambard, and Maman Cochet; Hybrid Sweet Briers: Lady Penzance, Lord Penzance, Jeannie Deans, Meg Merrilees, Lucy Ashton, and Julia Mannering; climbing Roses: Paul's Carmine Pillar, Aimèe Vibert, Reve d'Or, Gloire de Dijon, Niphetos, and Dorothy Perkins. I consider Dorothy Perkins a useful and effective

climbing Rose. Our plants were only put in last March; they commence to bloom in July, and continue until cut down by frost."

"What number of Violas do you use?"

"Some two thousand. We take the cuttings in October, and keep them in frames until spring. Our varieties are Florizel, Pembroke, Bullion, Countess of Kintore, Marchioness, and Archibald Grant. Violas are a great feature in all parts of the garden. Florizel is the most useful. It is light mauve, and a very dwarf grower."

"Sweet Peas seem to be another feature?"

"We grow forty sorts, including Dorothy Eckford, King Edward the Seventh, Miss Willmott, Hon. Mrs. E. Kenyon, Dainty, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Lottie Eckford, Agnes Johnson, Mrs. Walter Wright, Lovely, Coccinea, and Lady Nina Balfour. We sow Sweet Peas some time in February in pots, about six seeds in each pot; and plant out in April, about eighteen inches apart. They then fill up and form a good row. A better show is obtained by sowing far apart than by sowing close together."

"Do you grow many Geraniums?"

"Forty varieties of singles and doubles. One of the best single is Olivia (red with a white eye), and Lilacina is a very pretty lilac. Three of the best doubles are Hermione (white), L. Constable (pink), and Decorator (red). Among other plants we have from four to five hundred Begonias and Gloxinias in pots. Some of the former are crested Begonias, and all seedlings. I am very fond of Gloxinias. Ours are principally seedlings, Sutton's and Dobbie's, with great variety of colour. In the summer one of the Vineries is filled with Gloxinias and Begonias. The Hybrid Gesneras are very useful, treated in the same way as Gloxinias; they well repay for a little trouble, if only by their beautiful velvet foliage, of various shades. Double Arabis is very useful for growing in pots, but it must be kept cool. We grow about three dozen plants in pots, and a large number outside."

"Have you many Carnations out of doors?"

"A fair number. One of the most useful is the Marguerite Carnation, which can be grown from seed and flowered within four months. Many of them are very fine doubles. Last year I had two hundred plants, and the Marguerites were doubles of all colours, and sweetly-scented."

"Then, there are the frames."

"Of these sixteen are devoted to Violets, principally Marie Louise and Swanley White (doubles), and Princess of Wales and La France (singles). I like the latter better because it is more compact. One frame contains Christmas Roses, another blue Primroses, and two cuttings of Pentstemons. We cannot rely upon Pentstemons living through the winter, so we always take cuttings, and I am also growing a batch of seedlings, which will make about five hundred for planting round the kitchen-garden walks. I strongly advise people to grow Pentstemons."

"Do you grow many Michaelmas Daisies?" I inquired, as we strolled along the kitchen garden.

"The collection is tolerably representative, and we have nearly forty varieties, including Lady Trevelyan, Robert Parker, Densus, Coombe Fishacre, and Elegans."

"Your herbaceous and flower border here must be a considerable length?"

"It is about three hundred yards long, and contains a large number of varieties. Here are a few names:—Achillea The Pearl, Tritoma, Statice, Solidago, Alstrœmeria, Anemone, Saxifraga, Rudbeckia, Pyrethrum, Ranunculus, Physalis, Phlox, Pentstemons, Aubrietia, Bupthalmum, Campanula, Delphinium, Dielytra, Doronicum, Œnothera, Montbretia, Lupinus, Lathyrus, Iris, Hypericum, Iberis, Heuchera, Hesperis, Helleborus, Hemerocallis, Gypsophila, Geum, Galega, Echinops, Eryngium, Helianthus, Gaillardias, and Verbascum olympicum."

"You might mention a few of the varieties in the charming Pear Walk adjoining the mansion."

"All this kitchen garden, which is overlooked from the house, was planned with a view to appearance as well as utility. Many of the Pears are not worth growing; the best we have are: Pitmaston Duchess, Souvenir du Congres, Doyenné du Comice, Doyenné d'Ete (very early), Josephine de Malines, Beurré Diel, Easter Beurré, and Catillac (stewing)."

In the lower kitchen garden are grown fruits of all sorts, including about sixty varieties of Apples, a number of which are now not often seen.

"Many of these are useless," Mr. Batchelor said, "and we intend to replace them with some of the following varieties:—Dessert: Cox's Orange Pippin, Beauty of Bath, American Mother, Blenheim Orange, Lady Sudeley, and Allington Pippin. Cooking: Lane's Prince Albert, Mere de Menage, Loddington, Wellington, Newton Wonder, Golden Noble, The Queen, Bismarck, and Schoolmaster. This year we are planting seventy-two bush trees of Lane's Prince Albert, a variety which is also sent out under the name of Perkins' A 1. I consider it the best cooking Apple for our soil."

"Can you grow Apricots successfully?"

"Yes, we have five trees of Moor Park, and they do well. Plums are grown on the walls, chiefly, Victoria, Coe's Golden Drop, Early Prolific, Orleans, Jefferson, and Pond's Seedling. Of Peaches on the walls, Hale's Early and Walburton Admiral are the best. The only Strawberries grown are Royal Sovereign and Laxton's Latest of All; and Raspberry Superlative."

"You have some fine clumps of Phlox here."

"They make a good show during the summer. Some of the best are La Neige, Offenbach, Salon, Torfilleur, Stanley, and Rachel."

"We have still to deal with the vegetables."

"I ought to have said that Cucumbers are grown mainly in the frames. Sutton's Every Day is a very useful variety, also Telegraph. To those who care for novelties, I can recommend the French Sugar Pea."

"Which, in your opinion, is the best Broad Bean?"

"The two best are Beck's Dwarf Green Gem and Johnson's Wonderful. Of Runner Beans, I like Sutton's Best of All, and Neal's Ne Plus Ultra. In Brussels Sprouts we have nothing to equal Sutton's Dwarf Green. Ellam's Early Dwarf is a fine Cabbage, and of Carrots I prefer Perkins' Model, Sutton's Early Gem, and New Scarlet Intermediate."

"Do you like the white Celery?"

"Clarke's Early Market White is the best I have ever had. The growth is very quick, and the flavour excellent. Standard Bearer is also a good variety. For summer use, I consider Sutton's Favourite Cabbage Lettuce the most useful, for it stands a long time before running to seed; and Dean's Early Snowball Cauliflower may be cut within four months from the time of sowing."

"Did you start gardening early in life, Mr. Batchelor?"

"I have always been in gardens. My father was head gardener at Elm Bank, Walton-on-Thames, for a quarter of a century. I commenced under him, and then went to Captain Spence, Riverside, Walton, as foreman, and remained four years. I was asked by Captain Spence, my employer, to go out to the Cape of Good Hope as head gardener to him; but, instead, I went as head gardener to Money Hill, Rickmansworth, for a time, and then to Harefield Park, Uxbridge, under the late Lieut.-Colonel Vernon. I was there for fourteen years. Three years ago I came here, but I still look after the present Mr. Vernon's interests in the Harefield estate."

"Have you done much showing?"

"I did a good deal when I was at Harefield. We took first prize at the Uxbridge show for groups of Chrysanthemums four years out of five, and came off very well in respect to fruit and vegetables. We also showed at Chalfont St. Peter, Moor Park, and Harefield Cottage shows, but not for competition. I have taken second prizes at the Royal Aquarium, and I have also shown on several occasions at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows at the Drill Hall, Westminster, and been awarded the Banksian medal. Since I have been at Stoke Bruern, I have shown, though not for competition, collections of fruit, flowers, and vegetables, at Paulersferry and Cosgrove. Last year I made a speciality of Dahlias."

"Finally, I should like to have the details of your summer bedding."

"Geraniums, mixed, principally Henry Jacoby, Flower of Spring, Golden Harry Hieover, Jubilee, and Marten Christine; Salvia patens, Perillas, whose dark foliage is always effective; Petunias, Marguerites, Verbena Miss Willmott, Heliotropes, and various annuals. For edging we shall use Mesembryanthemum, Alyssums, Ageratums, and Echeverias. Last summer we used Lilium longiflorum as dot plants all over the drawing-room beds, and they proved very effective. Under the Colonnade we had all our best sorts of Zonals, and the effect, with all the colours mixed, was always good."

Alfred Wilcox.

Eupatoriums.

These are not so showy as some flowers, perhaps, but there are a few which are desirable for the amateur's greenhouse, being easily cultivated, and flowering freely where many things might fail. They are useful for cutting from, and also for the conservatory. The most showy of those I am acquainted with is E. ianthenum; this is strong-growing, with rather large oval, serrated leaves, with a woolly surface. The blue-purple flowers are produced in large terminal clusters, or racemes, and in a moderately warm house they open about January, and last a long time. After the flowering season is over, the tops may be cut off, and the plants will soon break out and give good cuttings.

The strongest possible cuttings should be secured, and in any light, sandy soil they will root freely if placed in the close propagating pit; any fairly rich compost will suit them. After they are well established, they will do well in a frame or other cool position. To secure short, sturdy growth, plenty of light and air is necessary, and during the winter any moderately warm house will suit them. If the plants are not very strong, three may be grown together in each pot.

E. petiolare.—This is very distinct from the above, having much smaller leaves, and a free, branching habit; the creamy-white flowers have a pleasant perfume, and are produced freely in loose, branching panicles from all the shoots. It is a comparatively new introduction, and I believe it was last year that it gained an award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. It has recently been shown again in fine condition. It makes a large plant in quite a small pot. If treated too liberally, it makes too much growth.

E. Weinmannianum is somewhat similar, but does not branch so freely, and has larger heads of bloom, which are also nicely scented; unless stopped during the early part of the season, this grows very tall, but with a little attention will make a nice bushy plant. Late-struck plants may be grown three in each 5-in. pot, but plants of equal strength should be selected for each pot.

E. riparium is an old favourite; with attention to stopping, compact, bushy plants may be had. It has dark stems, and rather small, deep green leaves, and produces a mass of bloom. Cuttings of all the Eupatoriums root freely, and, if put in about March or April, will make good plants the same season, which will be far more satisfactory than keeping any old plants over. As soon as sufficient cuttings have been secured, the old plants may be thrown away to make room, which is always wanted in the spring. A second batch of cuttings may be obtained from the tops of the young plants. H.

Owing to the early season, Daffodils (Narcissus) of several kinds are now coming in freely from the Scilly Isles, and elsewhere, and the price consequently rules low. The Tenby Daffodil (N. obvallaris), "Stella," and others of this class are among the most noticeable.

Obituary.

JAMES BATLEY.—The death of the above-named gardener, at the ripe old age of eighty-two, took place on May 11 at the Gardens, Wentworth Castle, near Barnsley. The whole of his working life was spent in the services of the Vernon-Wentworth family, owners of the Wentworth Castle estates. For over forty years he was head gardener, having succeeded his father in that position. Some years ago Mr. James Batley had to resign his position from failing health, the family very kindly giving him a pension. At that time his son, Mr. George Batley, the present gardener, was his father's successor. It is an event worth noting that three generations of gardeners served the same family for a large portion of the past century. The writer of this note well remembers being sent by the late Mr. Law, gardener at Wortley Hall, in Yorks, with a note to Mr. Batley asking him to accompany him to Trentham to get the dimensions of some upright ridge and furrow Peach-cases, then much thought of by Mr. Fleming, gardener at Trentham—this was in 1857. If I remember rightly, it took two days to do this, though probably not more than 70 miles distant. As a sound, practical gardener of the old school, Mr. Batley was one of the very best. Very fine crops of fine fruit, both of Grapes, Pines, and Peaches, were annually produced at Wentworth Castle, or Stainborough Hall, as it is more familiarly known in Yorkshire. Like many more men with real horticultural grit, Mr. Batley was content to remain in what may be termed the background of gardening. All the same, he was a most intelligent, well-read, and well-informed man on all subjects connected therewith. The oaken casket that contained his mortal remains was made from timber grown on the estate where his life had been spent. I ought to mention that Mr. Batley had artistic tastes of no mean character, as some of his oil paintings will testify. *H. J. C.*

1902.

BATLEY James of the "Gardens" Wentworth Castle Barnsley Yorkshire died 4 May 1902 Probate **London** 31 May to Frederick Batley fruiterer and George Batley gardener Effects £951 3*s.* 11*d.*

BATLEY Josiah of Prospect-house Luck-lane Marsh Huddersfield gentleman died 11 April 1901 Probate **Wakefield** 25 February to Clara Annie Batley spinster Effects £301 12*s.* 7*d.*

BATSON Alfred late captain of H.M. 107th-regiment Alderney died 31 August 1880 at Ebberly-house Roborough near Torrington Devonshire Administration **London** 4 June to Thomas Batson esquire Effects £100. Former grant November 1880.

BATSON Sibella Vernon of the "Rookery" Ramsbury Wiltshire spinster died 8 August 1902 Administration **London** 3 October to the reverend Alfred Stephen Batson clerk Effects £5173 9*s.* 10*d.*

BATSON Tryphena of Sherborne Dorsetshire widow died 23 December 1901 Administration **Blandford** 26 February to Matilda Adams (wife of Abel John Adams) Effects £246 10*s.*

BATT Caroline Maria of Courtenay-place Teignmouth Devonshire spinster died 20 December 1901 Probate **Exeter** 6 January to Henrietta Louisa Batt spinster Effects £192 5*s.*

BATT Charles Chapman of 155 Lower Richard-road Putney Surrey died 25 August 1902 Administration **London** 13 November to Eustatia Batt widow Effects £269 4*s.* 5*d.*

BATT Charles Frederick of Manchester-house Totton Hants died 23 November 1901 Probate **London** 24 January to Eliza Mary Batt widow Effects £2741 10*s.* 3*d.*

BATT James William of 17 County-grove Camberwell Surrey died 28 June 1902 Probate **London** 19 July to Anna Batt widow Effects £215 12*s.*

THE GARDENS OF COLONEL PLATT, C.B., AT GORDDINOG, LLANFAIRFECHAN.

Interview with Mr. James Baxter.

IT was my good fortune, during July, to visit two notable gardens in North Wales. First, I asked Colonel Platt to allow me the opportunity of seeing Gorddinog, and, receiving a most cordial answer, I travelled to Carnarvonshire in order to spend a few hours in one of the loveliest demesnes in that lovely county. Situated a couple of miles from Llanfairfechan, one of the most charming watering places on the coast, with mountains behind and sea in front, Gorddinog has been richly endowed by Nature, and the owner has obviously spared no effort to maintain and enhance its attractions. One of the chief of these claimed my attention immediately on my arrival.

"Yes," said Mr. James Baxter, the gardener, who showed me round, "the rockery on the slopes is one of the features of Gorddinog, though at this season of the year you do not, of course, see it at its best."

"You mean that some of the most decorative plants have done blooming? But there remain so many in flower that gaps are scarcely apparent. What is the aspect of the rockery, and is any system observed in planting?"

"The aspect is due north, and with respect to planting the rockery, which was made sixteen years ago, Colonel and Mrs. Platt prefer the free and easy style. Schemes and formalism have no place in the gardens, but we do our best to make and keep them beautiful."

"As we go along, will you kindly tell me the families which you value most highly, taking the plants first, and the shrubs—which so immensely add to the effect—later?"

"In addition to the families, I will mention some of the rarer plants. With respect to those whose flowering season is over, the dwarf Almond—Amygdalus rana—is beautiful in spring. Then, there are the Aubrietias, which are represented by Bridesmaid, Dr. Mules, Fire King, græca, Moerheimi, and Prichard's A1. These are all good, and give a wealth of colour for some weeks. Aubrietias should be cut back after flowering, to ensure healthy flowering growths for the following season."

"Campanulas seem to be strongly in evidence?"

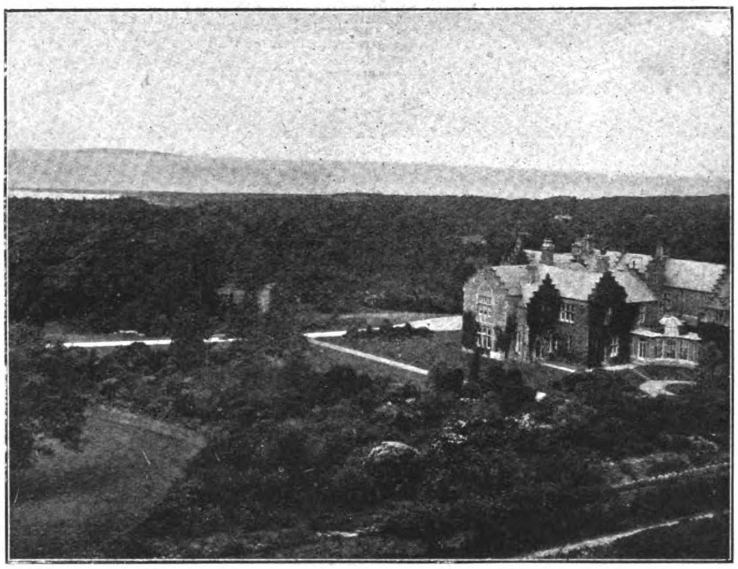
"The varieties are fragilis, garganica and g. hirsuta, isophylla, muralis, and pusilla. The Alpine Phlox is also well represented by divaricata, Laphami, Daisy Hill, lilacina, Newry Seedling, and Seraph; and members of the Primula family include Cockburniana, farinosa, japonica, rosea grandiflora, Sikkimensis, and pulverulenta."

"You must also have a great variety of Saxifrages?"

"We depend upon Fergusoni, Guildford Seedling, oppositifolia, o. alba, Wallacei, Clibranii, peltata, umbrosa, and pyramidalis."

"I notice that you make good use of your walls."

"Wherever we can get anything to do well we grow it. There are varieties of Erinus, which seed themselves freely on the walls, namely, alpinus, a. albus, and a. carmineus. Arctostaphylos alpina is very good for a wall garden; so is Linaria alpina, and old walls suit the silvery foliage of Artemisia brachyphylla, splendens, and sericea."



GORDDINOG, LLANFAIRFECHAN.

"You might point out some of the subjects which flourish in a shady spot."

"One of the best is Corydalis cheilanthifolius. Daphne blagayana flourishes in semi-shade, and moist ground. For a shady nook, Haberlea rhodopensis is admirable; and Mertensia virginica is specially good in cool, partial shade."

"Do you grow some plants for the sake of the berries?"

"Yes, particularly Gaultheria trichophylla, which has the double advantage of being rare and of yielding purple berries. Margyricarpus Setesen is a pretty, rare, creeping evergreen, with white berries, which are persistent in winter. Frankenia cævis is uncommon, and one of the prettiest of trailing plants is Hipponepis cornosa. In an effective situation, Magnolia stellata is hard to beat; Parochetus communis has charming indigo-blue flowers, but it requires moist, peaty soil; Hutchinsia alpinus thrives in sandstone, and Hellipene Saleirotti is a small, evergreen, carpeting plant for wet spots. For free flowering, Gentianas acaulis, asclepiadea, and verna, have to be frequently repeated."

Treatment of Soil.

"Before you pass on to the shrubs, I should like to know how you manage to obtain such good results with the plants. Is the soil congenial?"

"No; the staple soil surrounding the rockery is poor and dry. We have frequently to transplant many of the subjects, introducing in the process soil suited to their needs. Copious watering is given in dry weather. This is the general treatment."

"I need not ask if some shrubs do well, as, for instance, the Brooms."

"The Brooms, especially præcox—other varieties are Daisy Hill, Dragon-fly, and Firefly—are very much at home; so are Azaleas Alphonse Lavalle and Anthony Koster. All the dwarf sorts of Cistus flourish, and Eupatorium Weinmanniana is hardy here, and flowers profusely."

Lovely Flowering Shrubs.

"Speaking of profuse flowering, what is the shrub whose bushes resemble heaps of snow in the distance?"

"Eurybia Gunnii. Solanum crispum is another beautiful flowering shrub. Buddleia auriculata is very fragrant. Corokea cotoneaster is a rare and curious bush. The number of flowers of Desfontainea spinosa is quite remarkable. One of the best autumn-flowering plants is Escallonia floribunda; we have E. sanguinea also. Eugenia lignei is an uncommon shrub, resembling a Myrtle. Veronica Hulkeana is splendid under a sheltered wall."

"But all your Veronicas are magnificent."

"Yes, the bush Veronicas do well in the open, and are effective. Other successful shrubs are Carpentaria californica, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Choisya ternata, Cotoneaster horizontalis (good for autumn colour), Garrya elliptica, Leycesteria formosa, Olearia Haastii and ilicifolia, and Spartun lanceum."

Deciduous Shrubs.

"We ought to add some of the most thriving of the deciduous species."

"These include Berberis Thunbergi, Helenia tetraptera, Fuchsia gracilis and Riccartonii, Hydrangeas hortensis, Philadelphus sanguineum, S. atrosanguineum and speciosum, Spiræas and Weigelas in variety, and Viburnum plicatum

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and tomentosum. The most highly appreciated of the numerous Heaths are Erica stricta carnea, mediterranea alba, glaucus, and hybrids, and vagans alba, pallida, and rubra."

Then, having observed that Roses play an important part in the ornamentation of the rockery, particularly Rambling Rector, a good old white variety, and some of the crimson and pink varieties, we strolled into the woods beyond, which form a grand background to the gardens, descending subsequently, and pausing for a moment at the Lily pond and fountain adjacent to the house.

Colonel Platt's Favourite Conifers.

"The creepers on the mansion," continued Mr. Baxter, "which was built, all but the loggia, about forty years ago, are Escallonias, Roses, Ampelopsis, Garrya, and a rare variety of Cistus."

"You have some fine specimens of Abies," I said, as we crossed over a rustic bridge, with a water garden in the making.

"Especially A. ajanensis, Brewayana, Engelmannii, excelsa aurea, Menziesii nigra, omorica, Smithiana, and Tsuga Albertiana. Other Conifers which are making good growth in different parts of the grounds are Cedrus atlantica glauca and Deodara aurea; Larix europea, leptolepis, and siberica; Picea amabilis, brachyphylla, bracteata, firma, grandis, and sachalienensis; and a Wellingtonia gigantea over eighty feet high. Colonel Platt's interest centres in the Conifers, and Mrs. Platt is most fond of the flowers. We are now passing through a little garden which is planted with bulbs, the Rose arch consisting of Blush Rambler. The next feature at the far end of the gardens is the Rosery, though you will observe rock plants wherever you go."

"What is the variety of Penzance Sweet Brier, of which you have such a delightful break just here?"

"Lucy Bertram. Others are Amy Robsart, Anne of Geierstein, Green Mantle, Jeannie Deans, and Meg Merrilies."

Tropæolum and the Yew.

"And how do you get the glorious scarlet mass that I can see some little distance off?"

"You mean the Tropæolum speciosum, which was planted at the bottom of a Yew tree, and has now climbed up nearly to the top. Yews and Hollies, of which we have twelve golden and green varieties, do wonderfully well."

"Likewise, I think, your climbing, rambling, and pillar Roses, whatever their form, or their combinations. It would, perhaps, be convenient at this point to refer to the herbaceous borders, which form another most attractive feature in many parts of the gardens, with the charm of being planted in an informal manner."

The Herbaceous Borders.

"They extend to a total length of one thousand five hundred yards, and were formerly very narrow. In recent years they have been widened, which entails a large amount of extra labour in staking and other details. The aim is to secure as extended a season of bloom as possible. Something of interest is usually to be seen in the borders from January till Christmas."

"How do you begin the year?"

"It is heralded in with Primroses, and closes with late Chrysanthemums. The principal planting in the intervals are Delphiniums Anthemus and E. C. Buxton; Erigeron glaucus; Phloxes; Chrysanthemum maximum in variety; Lilium candidum and others; Spiræas of sorts; Calceolarias; Roses, bush, pillar, and standard; Geranium pratense; Helleborus, hybrid Sweet Williams, and Pentstemons."

"Which at present make a great blaze of colour."

"Pentstemons are no trouble at all, so long as they get a good soaking now and again. The main borders on either side of the carriage drive look their best in the spring, the effect of the various bulbs which then make their appearance being heightened by the grass paths. There is yet another feature outside which will complete your description of the flowers."

Mr. Baxter then led the way towards one of the kitchen gardens, and the ranges of glass. Here, under one of the walls, was a border, in which large, informal groups are grown to flower in October.

"It would be very useful," I remarked, "to have the names of varieties which yield quantities of bloom in North Wales as late as October."

"You may begin with Pentstemon Newbury Gem, and Dr. Hogg. Aster Robert Parker also flowers in October, and amellus bessarabicus, likewise A. ericoides and A. cæsius. The Chrysanthemums flowering in the border include Horace Martin, Mrs. J. W. Scott, Madame Desgranges, Sœur Melaine, and Ambrose Thomas. Other plants are Hollyhocks, Calceolaria amplexicaulis, Lobelia cardinalis, Antirrhinums Sutton's Orange King and White Queen of the North; Pyrethrum uliginosum, Galtonia candicans, Schizostylis coccinea, and late Peas."

"What about Sweet Peas generally?"

"We merely grow a number of standard varieties, but do not make a feature of them."

Fruit Under Glass.

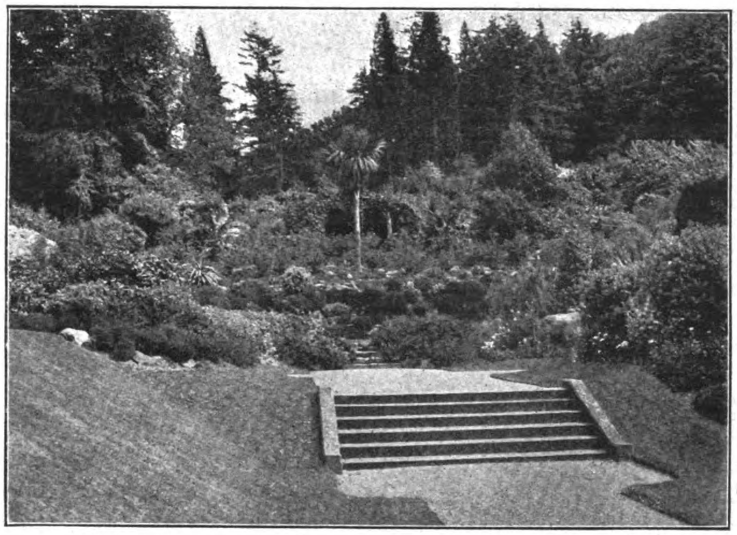
"How many houses are there?"

"Fifteen. They are chiefly fruit houses, though in the stove we have a few Orchids, and a certain number of Malmaison Carnations are grown."

"The Vineries seem to be on a large scale."

"We grow in the different houses Black Hamburgh, Muscat of Alexandria, Canon Hall, Lady Hutt, Mrs. Pince, Alnwick Seedling, Appley Towers, Alicante, Muscat Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, and Lady Downe. In the Peach houses the varieties are Royal George, Violet Hative, Rivers' Early York, Crimson Galande, Sea Eagle, and Gladstone. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Elruge, Victoria, Humboldt, and Pineapple. The Peach season lasts from June till October, a few late varieties being grown on the walls outside. Here is a house devoted entirely to Runner Beans. They are planted in the borders, not in pots, and we pick them daily for three months."

Proceeding presently to the larger kitchen garden adjoining Mr. Baxter's residence, I saw



THE ENTRANCE TO THE ROCK GARDEN, GORDDINOG.

THE ROCK GARDEN, GORDINNOG.

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a quantity of outdoor fruit, and very large stretches of vegetables.

"The Pears," he said, "which do well out of doors are Beurre d'Amanlis, Beurre Diel, Beurre Easter, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Rance, Bon Chretien, Doyenne Boussoch, Doyenne du Comice (the best Pear), Glou Morceau (good near the sea), Jargonelle, Josephine de Malines, Knight's Monarch, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Olivier de Serres, Pitmaston Duchess, Souvenir du Congres, Thompson, Winter Nelis, Bergamotte d'Esperen, Chaumontel, Beurre Clairgeau."

"And Apples?"

"The best dessert varieties are Mr. Gladstone, Lady Sudeley, Devonshire Quarrenden, James Grieve, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Adams' Pearmain, Annie Elizabeth, and Magnum Bonum. One of the best bearers of kitchen varieties is Cox's Pomona, and one very prolific, Stirling Castle. The small fruits consist of Strawberries, Raspberries, Gooseberries, Red, White, and Black Currants; of the Black, Boskoop Giant, and of the Red, Lee's Prolific are most esteemed."

Vegetables All the Year Round.

"Do you grow vegetables throughout the year to serve the establishment?"

"Yes, and the abnormal drought has made the task this season severe. But, notwithstanding the weather, Peas have been up to the present time very good. For gathering early in June, a good selection of the old variety, William I., is still relied upon, owing to the fact that it can be sown as early in January as the state of the soil will permit. Gradus gives a good succession, but this variety cannot, as a rule, be sown outside with safety before March. Other standard varieties grown are Daisy, Duke of Albany, Telegraph, Dickson's Lord Lieutenant (a grand maincrop), Fillbasket, and Autocrat. Ne Plus Ultra and Canadian Wonder are our chief Dwarf Beans, but for climbers we have Veitch's Climbing, Dickson's Excelsior, and Champion Longpod, which all give satisfactory results. Dickson's Superlative Red and White Celery and Mathless White are our only two varieties. The latter has been of invariably good quality, and most reliable."

"How many years have you been at Gorddinog?"

"Seven years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE gardens of Mr. J. B. Joel, at Childwickbury, St. Albans, will be described next week.

The Amateur's Frame.

XII.—TOMATOES IN A COLD FRAME.

IT is quite possible to have a good crop of Tomatoes in a cold frame, though necessarily they are not so early as if grown in a greenhouse, where they can be assisted with heat. Certainly, in the germinating stages the seeds need heat, and for some time afterwards the seedlings are benefited by it; but even for this we can still be true to our frame, for the hotbed will be a splendid place for germination and for after-growth, until they can be safely put into a cold frame. Before giving an outline of Tomato culture for frames, it may be well to see how our frame is to be fitted for their reception.

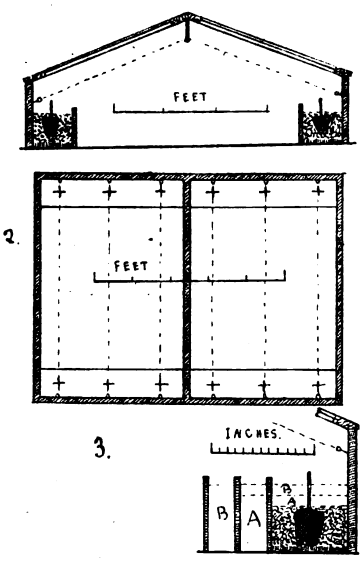
Preparing the Frame.

Until the time for planting arrives, there will be no need to make any alterations in the frame, for whilst in pots the plants can stand on the ordinary ashed, shingled, or trellised bottom, such as was figured last week. The plants are to be set just inside the frame at the lower end. In the case of a span-roofed frame, they could well be planted on either side. About nine inches from the wood of the frame a board is set on end, so as to enclose a space nine inches deep by nine inches wide. Over the ashes or shingle at the bottom of this enclosure, let a layer of leaves be spread, and covered by a couple of inches of soil. The plants are then turned out of their pots, and set in place, so that the soil can be put around the ball and duly firmed.

If the frame be eight feet wide, and be divided by the usual rail, it will be well to set three plants in each. This would allow the end ones to be eight inches from the side and from the rail, and each sixteen inches from the middle one. This will be a good distance, affording plenty of root-room, room for the free expansion of foliage, and for getting to the plants for purposes of tying, disbudding, etc. The method here shown involves the erection of something on which to train the growths. This would need to be at least six inches from the glass.

Training the Plants.

A good method would be to drive a staple into the frame where each Tomato is set, both at the top and the bottom, and to connect them



THE TOMATO FRAME.

tightly with wire. To this the main stem could then be securely attached. A thick piece of tarred string would serve the purpose, though not so well, for however tightly it is tied, there is sure to be a slackness afterwards, caused by the weather. Other means of setting wires, strings, canes, or sticks, will readily suggest themselves, but personally I prefer this method.

Speaking of training from the cultural point of view, it need only be said that the single stem system is advised, all laterals being pinched as soon as they can be handled, and the top growth being nipped off when it has reached the limit of space allotted to it, or when a sufficient number of trusses has set on the plant. Even in the case of the lean-to form of frame it would be possible to place a row of plants also at the back, and train them to meet the others.

Top-dressing the Plants.

In the method of planting which I have described, provision is made for top-dressing the plants, and increasing the area of root-room. It is recognised that restriction of the roots and firmness of soil are two essential factors in producing sturdy and fruitful growth. Hence a width of nine inches is allowed at first, and a depth of soil just sufficient to cover the balls of the plants. When the plants are making good headway, and are setting their fruits, and when also the soil is seen to be permeated with roots, the board in front is moved three inches further from the plants, and the space is filled with soil, a little also being added at the top. Later the plants may be set back another three inches. This method of top-dressing is shown in the accompanying illustrations.

For planting in frames, seeds should be sown in a box or a pan towards the end of February, and be placed in the hotbed frame. When the first signs of the rough leaf appear, the seedlings should be pricked off into a box. The next stage will be transference singly to 3-in. pots, and later to the 5-in. size, from which they can be planted into the frame.

Hardening the Plants.

In all cases the plants should have become well rooted before any shift is made. The planting into the frame will then happen about the middle of April. As soon as possible the young plants should be inured to cool treatment, but they must be well protected from frost.

It is especially advised, whatever the soil, that there be no sort of dung or chemical manure put in with it at the time of pricking off, potting up, or planting out. Tomatoes are known to make very vigorous growth, and if they have a rich soil, their fruit will not set well. After the first or second truss has set, then feeding with liquid manure or by means of top-dressing may be done.

A Diary of Tomato Culture.

I now give a brief diary of Tomato culture as they have been actually grown in a normal year. The dates need not be strictly adhered to, but they will serve as a reminder.

February 15th.—Sowed seeds in hotbed.
February 21st.—Seedlings appear.
March 3rd.—Pricked off seedlings into box two and a half inches apart.
March 20th.—Potted plants into 3-in. pots and put in cooler quarters.
April 6th.—Shifted plants to 5-in. pots.
April 28th.—Planted in frames.
May 13th.—Tying and training the plants.
June 8th.—Top-dressed as already described.
June 26th.—Cutting out some of the foliage to shed light on the fruits.
July 6th.—Picked ripe Tomatoes.
July 28th.—Again top-dressed the plants.
September 8th.—Stripped all leaves off to ensure ripening of fruit.
October 4th.—Cut out the plants.

The Illustrations.

Fig. 1 shows section of a frame planted with Tomatoes as described in the text.

Fig. 2 shows where the Tomatoes are to be set, and the distance apart according to the scale. The dotted lines represent strained wires on which the plants are trained.

Fig. 3 shows how the board is shifted back for top-dressing in two stages, with a little soil added to the top on each occasion. A is the first top-dressing, B is the second.

WILLIAM F. ROWLES.

VENUS'S Fly-trap (Dionæa muscipula) is a greenhouse plant which, though of no great horticultural value, is interesting from its method of supplying itself with nitrogen. The leaf is margined with small spines, and on the upper surface are glands, and three or four long, hair-like growths. When a fly or insect touches these hairs, the leaf folds over, enveloping the victim, and the glands discharge a copious secretion, which aids the plant to digest the food thus provided. The plant belongs to the Sundew or Drosera family, and grows wild in swampy ground in some of the warmer parts of North America.

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Mr. Stocking. We need hardly say that deceased was highly respected by all who knew him, and he was widely known through the county.

The funeral took place on Thursday, the 8th inst., in Didlington Churchyard, attended by Lord Amherst of Hackney, the *employés* on the estate, and many others from distant parts of the neighbourhood.

PRESENTATION TO MR. JOHN BAXTER.

ON Thursday evening, Nov. 8, Mr. John Baxter, who has been forty-one years gardener on Colonel McCall's Daldowie estate near Glasgow, was presented with a handsome walking-stick, bearing a suitable inscription, and a well-filled purse of sovereigns (and Mrs. Baxter with a handsome umbrella) in recognition of his long and much-appreciated services. John Mair, Esq., Mount Vernon, occupied the chair, and the gathering embraced many old friends. Mr. Baxter is retiring through the considerate kindness of Colonel McCall.

As his career as a gardener covers the most interesting period of Scottish horticulture, a brief sketch of it will be welcome. He was born in Dunblane in 1836, educated in the parish school, and at the age of ten years was awarded a prize for repeating the "Shorter Catechism"! He must have been a "lad o' pairts" to be able to do this. At the age of thirteen he was sent to work in the garden of Sir William Maxwell, of Keir, and remained there for seven years. He recalls to this day with much interest the fact that at the time there were three pensioners employed in the famous gardens who were at Corunna, Waterloo, &c., and who often fired his youthful enthusiasm with many tales of battles. When nineteen years of age Mr. Baxter went thence to Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, and remained two years, being paid 11s. per week. In those days Dr. Neil, Cannonmills Cottage, had a famous collection of alpine plants, and Mr. Baxter was permitted to visit the garden, he also had the opportunity of meeting De Quincy, who had a weird and far-away look. Mr. Baxter's uncle was De Quincy's publisher. When twenty-one years of age Mr. Baxter went as inside foreman in the gardens of the Earl of Kintore, at Keith Hall. When twenty-three years of age he was appointed to Daldowie, and has been gardener there ever since. Roses, Antirrhinums, and Verbenas, which were much better then than now, were in turn taken up by Mr. Baxter and thoroughly well cultivated. Hollyhocks, Dahlias, and other flowers came in for much of his attention from time to time, but the name of Baxter has been inseparably associated with Violas for the last twenty years. As an exhibitor his greatest triumph was perhaps winning the principal prizes at the Glasgow International Exhibition in 1888 against the leading Scotch nurserymen. As a raiser his fame rests securely on such choice varieties as Blue Cloud, Duchess of Fife, Gipsy Queen, White Duchess, York and Lancaster, Princess Ena, and some others.

Mrs. Baxter has been a true helpmeet to her husband during all the long time they have been at Daldowie, and they are followed into their comparative retirement at Uddingston with the good wishes of "troops of friends." *William Cuthbertson.*

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BRITISH OAK.—The accompanying photograph [not reproduced. ED.], is one of a number I had taken for a certain purpose about eighteen months ago. It represents an average park Oak-tree. At the time, I did not know what variety it was, the tree being leafless, but two days ago I visited the tree again, to be sure on that point, and from the samples of acorns herewith sent, you will see that it is a well enough marked pedunculata, while the photograph of the tree itself answers (as regards general habit and appearance), almost exactly to the description given of the sessile Oak in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of Sept. 22, as follows:—"In the sessile Oak, there are more boughs than in the pedunculate; they are smaller, more horizontal, and much more ramified than in the latter tree. The sessile Oak usually retains a strong leading shoot later in life than the pedunculate one, and this is extremely useful in its competition with Beech. The foliage is more uniformly distributed over the crown of the tree, and protects the soil against the desiccating effects of the sun's rays much better than that of the pedunculate Oak. The leaves of the sessile Oak are on petioles about an inch long (fig. 62), and consequently the supply of water they receive from the wood of the twigs is restricted in quantity, while, owing to the diffuse ramification, the latter obtain less water from the roots of the tree." Further, you will see by the leaves sent, how unreliable, minute, and particular descriptions are in determining varieties, let alone species, for the shoots sent have pedunculate acorns, and the leaves have the petioles of sessiflora—fig. 62 p. 219, showing that all the so-called distinguishing marks get mixed up in endless variations. The tree shown is growing in a naturally rather dry soil, under which the coal has been scoped out a few feet below long ago, yet it is in fine health, though perhaps 200 years old, and is one of the "squat but sturdy Oaks" that Sir Walter Scott drew his descriptions from, in Ivanhoe. I suggest, that in a discussion of this kind, descriptions of our native trees be taken from our own forests, and not from French sources. As

JOHN BAXTER.

regards soil and situation, referred to by "B." in a former issue, my experience is that all the forms of our common Oak thrive less, and grow quickest, in a fairly moist soil and sheltered situation, and that none of them "prefer" an exposed situation or dry soil. Under such conditions they become stunted. Almost any ordinary soil seems to contain sufficient food for the Oak, but even in rich soils the broad-leaved forest-trees grow slowly, and soon become stunted if the soil be thin and suffers from drought. The food is there, but the roots cannot get hold of it for want of sufficient water in the soil. *J. Simpson.* [To our eyes the photograph sent represents Q. pedunculata, and the leaves and acorns are of that form also. ED.]

OAKS AT CHATSWORTH.—As one who visited Chatsworth in August last with the English Arboricultural Society, I have been much surprised at the statement made by Prof. Fisher, that the Oaks he writes about are growing on mountain limestone—this he repeatedly asserts. I cannot claim to be a professor, but I could easily discern that the ground gone over by the English Arboricultural Society at Chatsworth was a moorland soil on the millstone grit. With reference to the two Oaks, Quercus sessiliflora and Quercus pedunculata, I think it would be very poor forestry indeed to plant any kind of Oak on a light dry soil, and certainly no forester with anything like a proper knowledge of his profession would ever think of doing it; and this is apparently the idea held by Mr. Robertson, as in all the young plantations on this class of soil seen at Chatsworth, Beech and Sycamore were the principal hardwoods used, with a result that spoke for itself. I should like to hear Mr. Robertson's opinion on the subject, as I am sure he could definitely inform us if there was any difference in the growing of the two Oaks at Chatsworth, but I understand he has not yet recovered from a severe illness. *Scots Fir.*

SUNFLOWERS AS A FIELD CROP.—Can any farming correspondent kindly inform me whether Sunflowers for seeds have ever been grown successfully, or at a profit, anywhere in the British Islands? We know, of course, that they have been grown on small areas, during hot seasons, with success so far as seed for poultry and pheasant-feeding are concerned, but the question now is, whether Russian or South European Sunflower-seeds cannot be purchased cheaper than we can grow them in our dull and moist climate. As oil-yielding seeds, Sunflowers are extensively grown in Russia, and large quantities of the best seed is eaten by the peasantry, and are sold in the streets of all large towns. Whether or no the Sunflower can be grown successfully as a crop in Britain, it seems likely to be extensively tried in the colonies, where soil and climate are alike suitable, and there is a demand for cheap vegetable-oil. In India it is being tried by the Government of Bengal; and the Consul-General at Odessa says, in a recent report, that its cultivation in Russia is rapidly extending since mills have been erected on the spot to express the oil; and growers are obtaining better prices than they formerly gained by exporting the raw seed. Seeds are sown in April or May, after all danger of frost is over, about 20 lb. of seed per acre being used, and the yield on good land is 1500 to 1600 lb. or more per acre. The yield in oil is 17 per cent. from seed in the husks, to 20 per cent. from husked, or shelled seed. We have experimented with the Giant Russian Sunflower this year, and the plants grew 10 feet high, with enormous flowers, some of the seed-heads being a foot in diameter, and yielding large, plump, and well-flavoured seeds. Apart from the use of the seeds in feeding poultry and game, or even cattle as made into "oil-cake," there seems to be an opening for their use in cooking, either in the shape of seeds or of oil; and as the seeds are pleasant in flavour and very nutritious, they might, like Melon or Gourd-seeds, be utilised along with sugar in sweetmeats or confectionery. *B.*

RUDBECKIA GRANDIFLORA.—I am glad that my note disparaging R. fulgida, which you did me the favour to print on p. 329, has already borne good fruit. Mr. Burrell has sent me from Cambridge a flower and leaf of a plant from North America, which he has lately been distributing as R. fulgida, but which is undoubtedly R. grandiflora (Gmelin), a species as far superior to R. speciosa as that plant is to R. fulgida. Though gathered on November 2, and called "a shabby specimen" by Mr. Burrell, it is more than 5 inches across, with twenty broad rays fully 2 inches long, resembling R. speciosa except in size. It is described in Asa Gray's *Flora of North America*, vol. i., part 2, p. 261; and the only portrait I have seen of it is in Sweet's *British Flower Garden*, series ii., tab. 87. This portrait seems to have been taken in the year 1830 from a plant introduced from North America the year before by Nuttall, and called by him R. nudicaulis (Persoon). Sweet calls it Centrocarpha grandiflora. How long after 1830 it continued in cultivation in England I do not know, but I think it was extinct in 1860, and has only recently been re-introduced. It is native of Arkansas and Louisiana, and I fear will not remain long in gardens where the soil is cold. It is said to prefer "dry plains." *C. Wolley-Dod, Edge Hall, Malpas, November 3.*

LEPTOSYNE GIGANTEA.—It may interest some of your readers to know that the fine Californian Composite so well illustrated in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for November 3, 1900, p. 319, under the above name, is identical with what is portrayed on plate 6241 of vol. 102 of the *Botanical Magazine* as Coreopsis or Tuckermannia maritima. What is usually grown under this name is quite a different plant, with much smaller flowers, the correct name of which I have not yet ascertained. *W. E. Gumbleton.*

THE WEATHER IN NORTH CORNWALL—The total rainfall here during October amounted to 3·76 inches; there were thirteen rainless days, and the greatest fall during twenty-four hours was ·63 inches, measured at 9 A.M. on Thursday, October 4. The barometric pressure has been uneven, the lowest reading being 29·32 inches at 1 P.M. on the 4th, and the highest 30·64 inches at 12.45 P.M. on Monday, October 22; this is the highest reading recorded since March 13 last, when it was exceeded by ·06 inch. The temperature as registered by a

The past season has seen the introduction of several novelties, and these include some fine American varieties, both hardy and tender. Among the hardy kinds, Nymphæa William Falconer, intense light garnet, is pre-eminently the largest and richest dark-coloured variety in cultivation. The stock of this variety is limited, and will command a high price for some time. Nymphæa gloriosa is one of the very best of French introductions. It is of the Marliacea type, colour rosy to dark carmine, a very symmetrical, full flower. Nymphæa Aurora, yellow to carmine; Nymphæa andreana, beautiful red and orange; Nymphæa lucida, an exquisite variety, rosy vermilion, outer petals light rose, are all worthy novelties. A number of French varieties are variable in colour, changing from light to darker colours; such are very pleasing, even fascinating.

MR. JOHN BAXTER.
(A raiser of beautiful Pansies.)

Nymphæa William Doogue is a superb, massive flower, colour a very pleasing soft pink, very highly esteemed. Nymphæa William Stone, a hybrid of N. gracilis, has flowers 8 inches to 10 inches across, violet-blue shaded amaranth; flowers open all day and first-rate for cutting. The list of new varieties grows rapidly, but it is gratifying to note the advancement and the improvement along this line, especially new and unique colouring which a short time since was inconceivable.

The general advancement in the line of culture is very noticeable. Many who made a trial with a few tubs have arrived at a stage when, by experience, they find that a tub 22 inches to 24 inches in diameter is by far too limited a space in which to grow a good Water Lily. They are not content with small or moderate flowers or such plants after seeing the large specimens in public and other gardens where Nymphæa leaves are to be seen 20 inches to 22 inches across, and flowers 10 inches to 15 inches in diameter. More common-sense methods are now adopted in the culture of aquatics. A few years ago running water was considered necessary, or there would be stagnation, malaria, mosquitoes, and other pests, but this fallacy has long since been dispelled. Plant-life in the water oxygenates and purifies the water as do plants and trees the air we breathe, and fish destroy insects, so running water is no longer advocated by practical cultivators.

Now that the season is over, although drawn out unusually late, and numerous flowers are yet to be seen, it is full time that all plants required for stock should be housed, or everything in readiness for security against a sudden fall in temperature. After the first freezing, or even after a period of low temperature, it will be wise policy to remove them to safer quarters.

Where hardy varieties are in water of sufficient depth to be below freezing they will need no further protection, but where choice hardy varieties are grown in an artificial pond and it is necessary to draw off the water to preserve the masonry, the best way, or a very good way, at least, is to dig up the plants and pack them pretty closely together in a box and place this in a pond in water of a sufficient depth to be secure against freezing. If no such pond exists the roots may be packed closely together in a tub and covered with water and kept in a cold house, or even sunk in the ground and covered with boards, covering these in turn with leaves and litter. The tender varieties that have flowered freely all summer are difficult to keep over unless they can be placed in a tank or shallow pond in the aquatic or other house, where they can be kept in a quiet state, not growing yet not cold, so as to lose all leaves, uch conditions to continue until the days lengthen. Where no tanks are available, and the resources of a greenhouse are at command, then, after the plants are nipped by frost, trim off most of the leaves and roots and remove the stool with a fair amount of soil around it and plant it under the bench near the walk; give a good soaking of water to settle the soil and keep the leaves in as fresh a condition as possible for a time. It will be unnecessary to give another watering. Let the plants, with the tubers attached, if any, dry up. The central crown will surely die, but the side shoots will ripen good tubers. An examination may be made after a few weeks, and where the roots and leaves or leaf stalks have decayed the soil may be pressed in and around firmly, but the main thing will be to keep them dry, and yet not so dry that they will shrivel. In this condition they may remain until spring. These remarks apply to all the night-blooming varieties that form compound tubers, but not to the Zanzibar and other African or blue Water Lilies, unless they are small plants in from 4-inch to 6-inch pots. Plants in these sized pots can be readily placed in a tub of water under the bench.

Nelumbiums in tubs must be protected against freezing. Either sink them in the ground and protect, as before recommended for Nymphæas, or keep in a cool house where they will not freeze. Where growing in an artificial pond it will be prudent to protect the masonry where frost is likely to be severe, remembering that the Nelumbiums are safe only as they are below the frost-line. Musk-rats must be hunted down and destroyed if you value your Water Lilies.—WM. TRICKER, in *The American Florist.*

Rosa alpina.—This is the species from which the Boursault Roses have been derived. The stems are 4 feet to 5 feet high, and have few or no spines except when young. The flowers are rosy red, the fruits red, often Pear-shaped, and covered with bristles.

WORKERS AMONGST THE FLOWERS.

MR. JOHN BAXTER.

WE are very pleased to give a portrait of this good Scotch gardener, who, as we mentioned in THE GARDEN lately, has recently retired on a pension from the service of Colonel McCall, Daldowie Estate, near Glasgow. We cannot, however, let such an occasion pass without referring to Mr. Baxter's good work amongst a class of flowers precious to all who treasure their gardens. Pansy Blue Cloud, Gipsy Queen, Duchess of Fife, and White Duchess, varieties of beautiful and distinct colouring, were raised by Mr. Baxter, and it is not too much to hope that in his retirement he may be enabled to carry on more ardently his interesting work of raising beautiful things for our pleasure grounds. Mr. William Cuthbertson, of Rothesay, N.B., kindly sends the following note:—

"You ask for a few lines about my old friend Mr. John Baxter, lately gardener to Colonel McCall, Daldowie, near Glasgow, and now of Clydeview, Uddingston. What can I say more of him than that he was in the same situation for forty-one years, and retired from it a few days ago full of years and of honours? It is not given to many men to be forty-one years in one place—and what do these years represent? Springs, summers, autumns, winters, the care of a large garden, and withal a constant, assiduous attention to florists' flowers, and an eye and mind ever open on the world at large. Such was Mr. Baxter's busy life on its public side; on its private side, the father of seven sons, brought up to positions of credit and honour.

"Friends in the district of Daldowie have recently made presentations to Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, and the West of Scotland Pansy Society are going to do likewise, as a recognition of his long and able services to horticulture.

"Like a true gardener, Mr. Baxter was ever willing to obtain information and acknowledge the same from which it came; but, on the other hand, few men I have met have been more tenacious of their own opinions. The late Mrs. McCall took a deep interest in the garden when Mr. Baxter went to Daldowie, and she had studied Roses in sunnier climes than ours, and many sensible hints on Rose culture Mr. Baxter acknowledged he got from her. He remembers quite well the first time the Rose Géant des Batailles was shown in Scotland and the sensation it caused. It was shown by Mr. Philp, of the Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan. Antirrhinum Hendersoni Mr. Baxter grew in pots in a greenhouse shortly after it was sent out, but he never could get a single seed to germinate, and during all these years he says 'there is none better of the same type,' and he is right. When he first grew Viola Magpie I have heard him say he could not get it to seed, and only once got three seedlings from it; although he grew hundreds of plants, these three were the veriest pygmies, and not one of them spotted. In a recent letter from Mr. Baxter is written: 'Now, Cuthbertson, I must get up my spirits, and endeavour to practice the motto I saw carved on a sundial—aged and green—when I was a boy, and he must have been a cheery spirit who coined it, "I count the bright hours only." In my day the country has made great progress in commerce, and in mechanics and science, and it is pleasant to think that the gardening fraternity has in no way lagged behind. Think of Roses, Dahlias,

Chrysanthemums, and Violas, but you know all about them.'

"As a raiser of many choice Violas Mr. Baxter will long be remembered.

"WILLIAM CUTHBERTSON."

A LADY HORTICULTURIST.

Two of the most enthusiastic of Scottish amateur gardeners are Her Grace the Duchess of Roxburghe, whose gardens at Floors Castle, near Kelso, I have, through her kindness, visited twice; and Mrs. McDouall, of Logan House, Kirkmaiden Parish, Wigtonshire, whose beautiful residence, with its picturesque environments of wood and water, of garden and lawn, is not more than six miles distant from this manse. Mrs. McDouall is a daughter of the late Sir Thomas Hepburn, of Smeaton Hall, in Haddingtonshire, who was, like herself, a lover of Nature and a cultivator of Orchids and other precious tropical flowers. Her husband, the late Mr. McDouall, of Logan, was also fond of gardening, while his father, Colonel McDouall, was a renowned agriculturist, and made the desert, by his influence and unvarying activity, blossom like the Rose. This lady is a lover of such wild flowers as the Woodbine, the Campion, the Eglantine Rose, the wild Geranium (G. robertianum), and the profusely flowering, fragrant Scilla nutans, which luxuriate in the woods that environ Logan House. Much of her time is spent in the gardens, in which almost every flowering plant is discoverable that is worthy of cultivation. It is not long since this earnest Scottish lady horticulturist contributed to THE GARDEN a record of her experiences with the culture of Oriental and Occidental Lilies. Like the Duchess of Sutherland, she is a great admirer and constant cultivator of those majestic flowers. The imperial Eastern Lily is the empress of the garden in their estimation, if the Rose is the queen. Mrs. McDouall has been very successful with Lilium auratum, and especially with that grand variety entitled Platyphyllum, which has occasionally attained at Logan to a height of 8 feet, crowned with a veritable affluence of richly coloured flowers of imposing dimensions. Other forms of Lilium auratum are grown in situations formerly occupied by peat-loving Azaleas and Rhododendrons, midway between the garden and the Mansion House. Other Lilies of commanding beauty cultivated at Logan House are the great Lilium giganteum of the Himalayas, which last year was 10 feet high; L. Humboldti, L. speciosum, L. longiflorum, L. candidum, the beautiful Madonna Lily, which, however, occasionally decays; L. tigrinum splendens, and the new American hybrid L. Burbanki. The Almond tree was recently introduced into her gardens with finely artistic results in early spring, while almost every species of fruit is carefully and successfully cultivated, both in the open garden and under glass, including the Vine, the Peach, the Nectarine, the Guava, the Apple, the Cherry, the Pear, and the Plum, all of these combining beauty with utility; but the lady of Logan is chiefly enamoured of her flowers. The long herbaceous border is during the flowering season extremely attractive, and the collection of Roses of every possible description is very extensive. It was in Logan gardens that I first made the acquaintance of such beautiful Hybrid Perpetuals, not yet quite superseded, as Duke of Edinburgh, Beauty of Waltham, Duke of Wellington, Charles Lefebvre, and Baroness Rothschild. Among modern varieties three of Mrs. McDouall's supreme favourites are Margaret Dickson, Papa Gontier, and that exquisite French Hybrid Tea, Mme. Pernet Ducher, which, while always admirable, is especially fascinating when in bud or half blown. The spacious conservatory is full of rare exotics, and the walls of the garden are adorned with Tropæolum speciosum, T. canariense, various richly effective white and purple Clematises, and other climbing flowers. The present proprietor of Logan, Mr. Kenneth McDouall, while inheriting his gifted mother's taste for gardening, is also deeply interested in arboriculture.

DAVID R. WILLIAMSON.

Kirkmaiden Manse, Wigtonshire.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

CHOICE SAXIFRAGES.

EARLIER in the year some interesting notes appeared concerning one or two important species of this group, and notably S. burseriana with its varieties. These, however, I will in the present note avoid as much as possible, preferring to touch more generally on those that, as a rule, are not selected for individual praise. I have found that not a few kinds are infinitely more safe in partial shade, where the great heat of summer does not reach them, than is usually supposed. This much I state without hesitation, and as the outcome of considerable practical observation. I have no doubt, however, there are exceptions in this as in all else, and that instances may be found as directly opposed to this as it is possible to be.

It was stated in THE GARDEN quite early in the present year as an essential to the pot culture of these plants that they must be protected by frames if they are to pass the winter successfully. I took exception to the statement in some notes, as not a few of the many choicer species may be grown and wintered entirely without a frame, or, indeed, any covering overhead at all. One of the chief factors in the summer culture of these plants, then, is shade, shade of a considerable nature, and coupled with a very liberal supply of moisture. This latter may be modified in proportion whether the plant is plunged or not, or whether growing in deep, light, or heavy soils. In any case a plentiful supply of root moisture is very essential, not only to success, but often to the life of the subject itself. I remember loose banks of light soil disposed at an angle of 40° or more that have for some years contained several choice and pretty species that have to be replaced frequently owing to their dying off. It is easier to grow the more diminutive kinds in pots. The soil can then be prepared, and as the summer heat advances the plants may be removed to a place of shelter. I believe it was Mr. Leonard who asked the question as to whether any one had permanently grown the rarer kinds without protection, and as in some way an answer to this I brought the plant shown in the accompanying picture to the Drill Hall. This plant I have had under my care for at least fourteen years, during the greater part of which time it has been exposed winter and summer without even being plunged. It is not an isolated case, for the lovely Boydi is quite near, as also apiculata in giant patches, Burser's Saxifrage, juniperina, salmonica, and others. All these have stood years of winter wet and frost, and still flower with great freedom.

The charming plant illustrated is Saxifraga aretioides primulina, the colour a deep primrose-yellow. I obtained the plant, then quite a small one, for which I was most grateful, from my very old and esteemed friend, Mr. W. B. Latham, of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Many there are who know the kindness of this able curator, and my little testimony to this is that Mr. Latham cut his only plant in two parts purposely to give me the one, and I think the largest one. This portion was then about the size of a halfpenny, while as shown recently at the Drill Hall the perfect cushion-like mound of the tuft alone would be about 6 inches at least, the centre of the mound being fully 3 inches high. Of the mass of blossoms, the picture, kindly photographed by Dr. A. Dashwood-Howard, Hampton Hill, will give an idea. The density of the flowering, however, in some degree detracts from the rosette-like character of the growth, which is only visible in the lower part of the picture. The inflorescences are about 3 inches high, and the strongest usually have five flowers each, so that its flowering continues for quite a lengthy period. The variety was raised by the late Mr. James Atkins, of Painswick, but I am not sure of the parents, which may be aretioides with apiculata, the latter having given it somewhat of its size of blossom and equally of its colour, while the type would reserve to itself the habit. It is worth noting that the flowers are much larger than in the type or in the white variety of aretioides. I have always considered good drainage an essential, as also potting the plants very firmly in loam, old mortar and sand, with a little manure, the latter always very old. By keeping the growth in mound-like form, and tightly compressed together, I find but little difficulty in dealing with any of the more minute kinds. It is a different matter, however, when one sees the tiny rosettes lying loose and straggling hither and thither on a scrap of soil continuously dry, for then success is usually a long way off. In growing these dwarf and almost miniature kinds it cannot be too well known how freely they root from the base of the rosette, and how deeply these tiny root fibres will descend. At the same time, this rooting is the more readily performed where firmness

SAXIFRAGA ARETIOIDES PRIMULINA (FLOWERS DEEP PRIMROSE-YELLOW).

plants were Bromus unioloides, H.B.K., and Festuca bromoides, L. As usual, the fungus formed a black mass in the ovary of the host plant, and proved to be a new species — Cintractia patagonica, Cooke, and Massee. Quite recently a traveller in these regions observed that Bromus unioloides was extensively grown, mixed with Lucerne for fodder. Seed of the Bromus was brought home and sown in Lincolnshire, and on producing fruit was observed to be attacked by the Cintractia. The above illustrates one of the methods by which injurious fungi are introduced from one country to another, and unless great care be taken to stamp out the newcomer, it is just possible that we may eventually have to add another cereal fungus-pest to our already large list."

NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM.

THE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE.

AT a meeting of the above Committee, held at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, on October 7, Mr. Norman Davis, Framfield, was elected Chairman of the Committee.

It was resolved that the following two varieties, Lily Mountford and Hilda Chamberlain, be bracketed as synonymous in the Society's list as "too-much-alike" Japanese varieties. That the following be bracketed as synonymous in the list of too-much-alike early-flowering varieties, Harvest Home and Cranford Beauty. That the following Pompon varieties, Martinmas, La Vierge, and Vesuve, be transferred from the early-flowering Pompon section, to the early large-flowering section. It was further resolved that the heading in the Society's Catalogue "Japanese Early Flowering Varieties," be altered to "Large Flowering Early Varieties," so as to include all types except Pompons. That a new class be added to the Society's Catalogue now in course of compilation, to embrace market and decorative varieties other than early flowering.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27. — A number of interesting novelties challenged the attention of the above Society on the above date, but owing to the lateness of the season, the rush of new varieties is not so heavy as is usual; in another fortnight a considerable number may be anticipated.

Additions to the incurved section are now so few that a fine variety is always warmly welcomed, such an one is—

Cecil Cutts, a seedling raised by Mr. H. Weeks, Thrumpton Hall Gardens, Derby; this variety was seen last year, and admitted to be promising, it has now developed into a large, full, symmetrical flower of a deep yellow colour, and it is distinct from any other that we have. First-class Certificate to Mr. T. MUDD, Thorneywood, Nottingham. Another new incurved is Madge Cray (Seward), a good sized flower, with a pinkish-salmon base and yellow centre; a little rough as shown, but likely to be seen in better character later on. From Mr. W. SEWARD, The Firs, Hanwell.

First-class Certificates were awarded in almost every case unanimously to the following Japanese varieties:

Miss Olive Miller. — The surface of the petals pale purplish-mauve; the reverse silvery-pink, the long twisted florets incurving so much as to make the surface of the flower exposed to view, silvery. A full deep flower of a most attractive character. From Mr. GEO. MILEHAM, The Gardens, Emlyn House, Leatherhead.

Miss Mildred Ward.—Said to be from a cross between Pride of Madford and Madame Carnot, and intermediate in colour between Charles Davis and Lady Hanham. Of the build of Madame Carnot, the prevailing tint, a pinkish-salmon. A good addition to the Madame Carnot group. From Mr. T. BULLIMORE, The Gardens, Canons Park, Edgeware.

George Penford (Penford).—A rich crimson flower, with a reverse of gold. It may be described as a glorified Edwin Molyneux, bright, both on the surface and reverse; large, full, and extra fine.

Florence Penford (Penford).—Yellow, with a delicate amber reverse, a flower of charming character; and an incurving Japanese, with long curling florets. Both from Mr. Chas. Penford, The Gardens, Leigh Park, Havant.

Decorative variety Ryecroft Beauty, of a pretty shade of lilac-pink, dwarf and very free, was commended. From Mr. H. J. JONES, Ryecroft Nursery, Lewisham.

Early flowering Gladys Gray, a bright yellow sport from Edward Le Fort, was shown by Mr. WILLIAM GRAY, florist, Thorngumbald, Hull. The flowers were small, being from the open ground in that cold district; but they would no doubt come much finer in the South (Vote of Thanks).

Mr. W. J. GODFREY, nurseryman, Exmouth, had a batch of his new varieties, though not one of them obtained an award. The most fancied were Mr. H. Emmerton, an Australian variety, clear yellow, darker in the centre; F. S. Vallis, which was thought to be too much like G. J. Warren; Exmouth, very bright; Duke of Devonshire, yellow with pencilled lines of crimson, and Wilfrid H. Godfrey, and Grandeur, two of the fine crimson varieties Mr. GODFREY has produced.

Mr. H. PERKINS, The Gardens, Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames, had Japanese Miss Smith, a large white variety in the way of Mutual Friend; and Henry Perkins, pale orange-crimson flower.

Mr. G. SHAWYER, Cranford, Hounslow, had a plant and blooms of his market variety, Queen of Yellows.

BECKENHAM HORTICULTURAL.

"THE Growth and Cultivation of the Misleto" was the subject of a paper read by Mr. W. Groves, Grove House, Shortlands, October 24. For a quarter of a century, Mr. Groves has made Misleto a matter of special study, and he has proved by careful observation and experiment that Darwin was wrong in assuming that the seeds passed through birds before germinating on their host. Birds took the berries for the viscid substance surrounding the seeds, which was pleasant to the taste. The seeds themselves were very often rejected, the birds wiping them off their beaks on the trees. The seeds, if swallowed, being so thinly coated could not pass the gizzard of a bird undigested; this had been proved by experiment. Quite recently Mr. Groves had discovered that having gorged themselves with berries, birds often vomited the seeds. The branch of an Apple-tree containing a number of seeds germinating was shown to illustrate this. The paper throughout teemed with interesting facts relating to fertilisation, propagation, and the growth of this interesting parasite. One remarkable fact was, that although it would flourish freely on the Apple, Pear, Lime, Whitethorn, Poplar, &c., the best results were always obtained when transferred from one host to another of the same species.

Mr. G. N. Hooper, F.R.G.S., occupied the chair. He thought a census of the gardeners in Beckenham might be taken, for not only could the Church House be filled, but the Town Hall likewise. *M. W.*

THE LATE JOHN BAXTER.

BIRMINGHAM GARDENERS'.

OCTOBER 20.—At the meeting of the Birmingham Gardeners' Association on the above date, a paper on "The Evolution and Improvement of Fruit" was read by Mr. R. Lewis Castle, Manager of the Woburn Experimental Fruit Farm. Reference was made to the wild forms, from which it is probable our principal Pears originated, and specimens were shown of some in contrast with the best varieties of modern times. The methods of work, and the results accomplished by the leading fruit-raisers were described, and the directions in which to proceed for further advances were noticed. Under the head of Improvement of Fruits, hints were given on cultivation, selection, seed-raising, &c.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE D'HORTICULTURE DE LONDRES.

MR. C. HARMAN PAYNE was, on Saturday last, the guest of the above Society, of which he is one of the most respected members, and which he joined when it was quite in its infancy. Mr. Payne's labours on behalf of the French raisers of Chrysanthemums, were graciously acknowledged some five years ago by the Government of the French Republic, who bestowed upon him the honour and title of *Chevalier du Mérite Agricole*. On the occasion of his recent elevation or appointment to the rank of Officer of the same Order, the members of the French Society decided to present him with a miniature officer's cross, and the presentation taking place on Saturday evening last, at the Society's Rooms, 64, Long Acre, W.C.

The meeting, which on this special occasion was limited to the staff of the said Institution, and a few personal friends of the new officer, had the character of a social gathering. It was held under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Schneider, who, in the name of the titulary members of the French Society, and with a few appropriate words, handed the gift to Mr. Payne, who, in a few well chosen sentences, full of international sympathy, acknowledged it, and graciously thanked the staff of the Society and the company, for the honour done to him.

Messrs. T. Bevan, B. Wynne, and Percy Waterer, having also added their share of praise towards the new officer, and recapitulated the services he has rendered to French and English horticulture, the proceedings terminated.

Mr. C. Harman Payne has the honour of being the first Chevalier of the *Merite Agricole* of British nationality.

LIVERPOOL FRUIT & ROOT SHOW.

OCTOBER 25.—The thirteenth annual show was held in the North Haymarket on the above date, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Petrie, performing the opening ceremony. Lord Derby and his son, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., made a tour of inspection, and expressed their delight at the work of the committee.

The show of Potatos was imposing, and visitors could not fail to derive benefit from the splendid examples sent from all parts, and many prizes were awarded for Kidneys and Rounds in white and coloured varieties. Special prizes were offered by Messrs. Sutton & Sons, Reading; Messrs. Webb & Sons, Stourport; Messrs. Fidler & Sons, Reading; and Mr. J. Niven.

The show of roots and vegetables was superb, and for special and other prizes there was keen competition. The four special prizes fell to Mr. MACKARELL, with Ribston Pippin, Beurré Hardy, Warner's King, and Pitmaston Duchess; Muscat of Alexandria from Mr. B. ASHTON, was adjudged the best dish of fruit.

Messrs. Dicksons, Ltd; Gartons, Warrington; Fidler, Reading; Middlehurst, Liverpool; W. Ker & Co., Liverpool; and others contributed effective stands.

Obituary.

JOHN BAXTER.—This much respected florist died on the 23rd ult., at the age of sixty-six. He was forty-one years gardener on Colonel McCall's estate of Daldowie, near Glasgow, and it was while located there he did his life's work in the way of improving the Viola. In this connection his name will long be remembered and cherished. On November 8, 1900, Mr. Baxter was the recipient of a handsome presentation, and in our issue of November 17, 1900, an account is given of the meeting at which it was made, along with a portrait and sketch of his career.

DAVID SAUNDERS.—There passed away, after a week's illness, on Sunday morning, October 12, at a comparatively early age, David Saunders, senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Michael Saunders & Son, nurserymen, Friar's Walk, Cork; and of him it may be said that in matters relating to Roses, fruit trees, and Conifers, he will be greatly missed. There was scarcely a horticultural exhibition of any note held south of Dublin during the last thirty or thirty-five years at which he was not present, and at the same time the soul and life of the numerous friends he met on this occasion. "Friendship is but of slow growth, and never thrives unless engrafted upon a 'stock or scion' known of reciprocal merit." Of him it may be said he well deserved the appellation, for never did he allow a gardener out of place to want for work while he could employ him; and that precious virtue of being charitable to the needy, combined with a forgiving spirit, were amongst his more prominent attributes. He was laid to rest in the new cemetery at Cork, on Tuesday, the 14th, followed to the grave by many of the citizens. He leaves a widow and a numerous family, and the business will be carried on as usual by his eldest son, assisted by his foreman, Mr. Hawker.

TRADE NOTICE.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—The firm of John Laing & Sons, Nurserymen, Forest Hill, has been dissolved by mutual consent, and the business will in future be carried on by John Alexander Laing.

Spathiphyllum Minahassæ, Tetranema mexicana, and Tupistra nutans.

Greenhouse.

Among other things the following are very noticeable: Abutilons in variety, Begonia coccinea, B. echinosepala, Calceolaria Burbidgei, Chrysanthemums in variety, Plumbago capensis, Salvia azurea, S. splendens var. grandiflora, and Tecoma Smithii.

Rock Garden and Herbaceous Ground.

Aster cordifolius, A. diffusus, A. ericoides, A. horizontalis, A. tartaricus, A. Tradescanti, A. turbinellus, Baldwinia uniflora, Chrysogonum virginianum, Lobelia urens, Polygala Chamæbuxus var. rosea, and Primula japonica.

OBITUARY.

C. MARIES.

THROUGH the sudden demise of Mr. C. Maries, which occurred on October 11, at Gwalior (India), horticulture has lost one of its most energetic members, and one who, during the few years which were devoted by him to plant collecting, enriched the European collections with many plants of great value. He was in the employment of Messrs. James Veitch and Sons, when, in 1876, he was entrusted with a mission to explore part of China, Formosa, and Japan, with a view to introducing into Europe some representatives of the splendid vegetation which was known, or was only supposed to exist, in these countries, and especially in the great Ichang Valley. Mr. C. Maries succeeded in sending home and in good condition such plants as Platycodon grandiflorum Mariesii, Rodgersia podophylla, Abies Mariesii, Styrax Obassia, Pteris longifolia Mariesii, Hamamelis mollis, Hydrangea Hortensia Mariesii, and the charming H. Hortensia rosea which deserves a much more extended cultivation than it receives at present. He also reintroduced the long-lost and very pretty Caryopteris Mastacanthus and a host of other plants of equal merit. His success in introducing these plants is all the more remarkable if we take into consideration the difficulties with which collectors had to contend in those days of comparatively slow navigation, and was mainly due to the care, and, I may add, also the ingenuity he displayed in the packing and forwarding of these plants to which he was so devoted. Later he was appointed superintendent of the Gardens of Durbhungah, and ultimately of the magnificent gardens of Gwalior, where he made some very extensive alterations and improvements during the many years that he had them under his direction.

That Mr. C. Maries had well employed his time, and that his exertions were well and duly appreciated, is evident from the fact that, besides being an occasional contributor to the gardening papers and to the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, he was also a fellow of the Linnean Society, and was one of the recipients of a Victoria Medal of Honour. To his widow, his son, and his daughter we offer our deepest sympathy.

JOHN BAXTER.

THE death is announced of Mr. John Baxter, who retired exactly two years ago from the service of Colonel McCall, Daldowie, where he had been gardener during the previous forty-one years, and since his retirement had resided at Uddingston, near Glasgow. For many years Mr. Baxter had been intimately associated with Violas as a raiser of the best varieties, and also as a chief exponent of their cultivation. Though latterly Violas had been his favourites, other florists' flowers, such as Dahlias and Hollyhocks, had received much of his attention from about the year 1860 onwards. As a young gardener his time was passed in the famous Keir Gardens, near Stirling, and the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, under McNab, then to the Earl of Kintore's, passing thence to Daldowie at the early age of twenty-three. The late Mr. Baxter had reached the age of sixty-six at the time of his death. An account of Mr. Baxter's career and life work appeared in THE GARDEN, December 8, 1900.

THE LATE MR. JOHN BAXTER.

MY GARDEN PATH.

THOU say'st, "Not ugly is the garden of thy choice,
Yet thou in solitude appearest to rejoice;
The pathway is so narrow, there is no room for two
To wander side by side, in converse sweet and true."

In solitude? Oh, no! There's ample room, I think,
When *friends* together walk, and arm in arm doth link;
Oft have I wandered so—and never yet alone—
The dear one by my side, my arm around her thrown.

Before us or behind a little child can play,
And sometimes in between us gently make its way;
While, if on either side we chance the hedge to touch,
'Tis but the fragrant Roses who in play our shoulders clutch.

The pathway thus for me quite broad enough has been—
The only road to joy that I have ever seen.
For formal visitors alone it is not amply wide,
And I with such should never wish to wander side by side.

E. M. M.

—(From Rückert's "Weisheit des Brahmanen.")

THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

VIOLET PRINCESS OF WALES.

From Mr. Osmond G. Orpen, Hillside, West Bergholt, Colchester, we receive a delightful gathering of Princess of Wales Violets grown quite in the open. The flowers are large, most deliciously scented, and a splendid dark violet colour. The footstalks are quite 12 inches long, and the leaves remarkably vigorous. No one who once has seen this Violet, now generally recognised as the finest of all, will care to be without it. Such charming flowers from the open in October are very welcome.

A SEEDLING ASTER.

Mr. A. R. Upton, the Guildford Hardy Plant Nursery, Millmead, Guildford, in sending a seedling Michaelmas Daisy, writes: "The Aster which I am sending you is a seedling from my Compton Heath Nursery, and is now infull bloom. It is about 3 feet high, and a strong grower. So far as I know it is quite a new variety, and such a good colour so late in the year should be valuable. I should be interested to hear your opinion."

[The flowers sent are certainly of a very good distinct colour, quite a pretty blue-purple, and they are very freely produced.]

AUTUMN FLOWERS.

Mr. James Page, Knoyle Gardens, Salisbury, writes: "I am sending you a few flowers cut from outside borders, showing the mildness of the season. Lobelia cardinalis, Montbretias, Dahlias, Marguerites, Roses, &c., are all looking well. The Rose is Mme. Isaac Periere, both standards and bushes are full of good bloom; in fact, quite equal in colour, form, and scent—if not better—than we get them in June. One standard at the present time is carrying eighteen flowers expanded and expanding and thirty-two buds just opening. I think it is one of the best autumn-flowering Roses. I can cut—not one or two, but scores two or three times a week. It does especially well here both as a standard and bush on its own roots."

[A delightful gathering of autumn flowers.]

DIPLADENIAS.

Mr. J. Glasheen, The Retreat, Cam, Gloucestershire, sends a few blooms of Dipladenias in several lovely colours. These are amongst the most beautiful of stove flowering plants, and no one with a house sufficiently well heated should be without them. Mr. Glasheen says: "It is surprising when one considers their rich colours and their long flowering period that Dipladenias are not more popular. In combination with Allamandas, Gloriosas, Schubertias, &c., they have made a brilliant display on the roof of the stove house here since the beginning of July."

ASTER "THE GARDEN."

Mr. Amos Perry, Hardy Plant Farm, Winchmore Hill, N., sends us a gathering of Michaelmas Daisies in many beautiful sorts. They are striking testimony to the value of Michaelmas Daisies as autumn flowers. Mr. Perry says that owing to the cold nights the flowers are not so good as they would otherwise have been. That named in compliment to THE GARDEN is a new one, distinct from any other by its remarkable pyramidal habit, the spikes of flowers measuring fully 3 feet in height, the whole plant growing about 5 feet high. The long slender side shoots will render this variety very useful for cutting, and the colour, a good deep purple-blue, is very pleasing.

NOVEMBER FLOWERS FROM WORCESTERSHIRE.

Mr. Arthur R. Goodwin, The Elms, Kidderminster, kindly sends a gathering of autumn flowers, picked on November 3 from the open garden. They comprise Gentiana acaulis, Saxifraga Fortunei, Erodium pelargonifolium, Gypsophila Rokejeka, with pale pink flowers, and Chrysanthemums George Wermig and Mme. la Comtesse Foucher de Cariel. Mr. Goodwin says "the first-named Chrysanthemum is very late this year. The latter is almost the most beautiful outdoor variety I know, habit, foliage, and flowers being perfect. The Saxifrage always does well in a fine autumn, and is grown here on a north rockwork in shade."

[The Chrysanthemum Mr. Goodwin speaks so highly of is a splendid colour, a rich bronze buff, and shows well what delightful plants these free-flowering Chrysanthemums are. No one should be without them, for together with Michaelmas Daisies they are responsible for much of the autumn beauty of gardens.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Baxter, William (1787–1871), *botanist*
by Giles Hudson
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Baxter, William (1787–1871), botanist, was born at Rugby on 15 January 1787. Nothing is known of his parents or early life, except that his mother was said to have been born in Hill Morton near Rugby. In 1813 he was appointed curator of the Oxford Physic Garden. At the time of his appointment botany in Oxford had, it is widely reported, sunk to a low level and the then professor, George Williams (1762–1834), was generally more highly regarded as a scholar than for his practical contributions to botanic science or to the teaching of undergraduates—a responsibility that was passed down to Baxter along with the practical management of the garden. During Williams's time Baxter made many improvements to the garden, not least of which was the raising of its whole level by 10 inches so that it was no longer subject to regular flooding. However, it was after Williams's death in 1834 and the appointment of Charles Daubeny (1795–1867) to the professorship that most progress was made, with the garden being completely rearranged according to a new scheme.

Not unexpectedly perhaps, given the state in which he first encountered the garden, Baxter's chief interest was in cryptogamic botany, and in 1825 and 1828 he issued his ‘Stirpes cryptogamae Oxonienses’ which consisted of some 160 dried specimens of ferns, mosses, lichens, and microscopical leaf fungi found in the neighbourhood of Oxford. His efforts were not restricted to these plants, however. He undertook much fieldwork in and around Oxford, recording the discovery of many new plants in the area, and in 1831 he visited Rugby with his son for the same purposes. As well as contributing to regional natural histories by other authors with whom he was in correspondence—*Midland Flora* by Thomas Purton (1768–1833) and *Flora of Oxfordshire* by Richard Walker (1791–1870) among them—Baxter published his own work under the title *Phaenogamous Botany, or, Figures and Descriptions of the Genera of British Flowering Plants*, in six volumes between 1834 and 1843. It was a handsome work, containing over 500 hand-coloured plates and including many verses.

Baxter was made an associate of the Linnean Society of London on 6 May 1825 and was a member of the Botanical Society of London. He was also a chief mover in the founding of the Oxford Botanical and Natural History Society, which was formerly established under the presidency of Daubeny on 31 August 1831 with Baxter as its secretary. No record remains of Baxter's marriage, but in 1851 when he retired from active management of the botanic garden a son, William Hart Baxter (1816?–1890), who had previously held the position of curator of the botanic gardens in Bath, took over. For the remainder of his life, Baxter did little which brought him into public notice and at the time of his death, at his home, 7 Longwall Street, Oxford, on 1 November 1871, he was almost unknown to contemporaneous horticulturists. He was, however, despite reportedly being susceptible to periodic attacks of mental depression, remembered as a man for his ‘amiable disposition, his great knowledge, his extraordinary memory, and his willingness to oblige’ (*Gardeners' Chronicle*), not to mention the extensive botanical library which he left and which during his lifetime was regarded as the most complete of any British gardener.

GILES HUDSON

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Likenesses Whessell, engraving (after A. Burt), RBG Kew, Hope collection · portrait, Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania, Hunt Botanical Library

Wealth at death under £200: administration with will, 27 Dec 1871, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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William Baxter (1787–1871): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/1740

20 to 15.75. If, therefore, the price of the nitrate of standard purity is fifteen shillings per hundredweight, a fair price to pay for the sulphate of twenty per cent. purity would be about seventeen shillings and fivepence per hundredweight. As to which of the two to use, there can be no doubt that the nitrate is the better

MR. OSBORN BEAL.

for dry soil, because it has the power of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, and thus tends to keep the ground damp. For wet land the sulphate of ammonia should be preferred.

Sunshine in the Orchard.

April 4th.—The further north we go, the more important it is that plants should have as much sunshine as possible, and for that reason the favourite position for fruit trees in Scotland is, as in the Clydeside orchard shown in the illustration, the southern slope of a hill. There is then some chance that the fruit may get the bright colouring which is so important for market purposes, and which is rarely seen when the sunshine is deficient. There, even more than in the South, it is essential that the centres of the trees should be kept open. No crowding must be allowed; all superfluous shoots must be cut away. I should think that the American system would be admirably adapted to Scotland. It is very simple, consisting merely of training up seven or eight strong, well-placed branches, and spurring them in close, like espaliers. The whole energies of the trees are thus concentrated on these seven or eight branches, and the fruit which they carry, the result being that, though the crop may be smaller than it would be if more wood were allowed to grow, it is more regular, and the fruit is finer and better-coloured. This system would seem particularly suited to certain varieties of Pears. In an article written last year by M. A. Ville, it is stated that, in damp and shut-in situations, the fruit of delicate varieties like Beurré d'Hardenpont, Royale d'Hiver, and Bon Chrétien d'Hiver, is inclined to rot, and that thick and bushy forms of these trees should therefore be avoided. In connection with cordons, the same writer recommends that, in the case of very strong growers, the branches should be trained horizontally, and that, in the case of very weak growers, they should be trained vertically. This seems rational enough.

The American Wood Lilies.

April 5th.—Plants that will thrive under trees are often asked for, and to those generally suggested I would add the Trilliums, or American Wood Lilies. There are over a dozen different species, some in flower at the present time. The best of them is T. grandiflorum. Anyone who would see what a fine plant it is for growing under trees should pay a visit in about a month's time to the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. Each stem bears three leaves in a whorl, and issuing from the centre is the flower, white at first, afterwards changing to pale rose. The stems spring up from thick rhizomes, and the plant may be propagated either by division or by seed. I cannot find the seed in any catalogue, but there are sure to be some firms which can supply it. Another species, T. erythrocarpum, has its white flowers striped with purple, and bears red fruit later in the season. In T. nivale the flowers are pure white. The flowers of another species, T. erectum, have an objectionable smell.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 257.—MR. OSBORN BEAL, AT THE GARDENS, BASSETT WOOD, HAMPSHIRE.

A FIRST place must be given among gardens within easy distance of Southampton to those of Mr. J. R. Anderson, at Bassett Wood. Approached from St. Deny's station by a pleasant road, the drive from the entrance to the mansion is five furlongs long, and is extremely beautiful, shrubs of many kinds being a conspicuous feature. On the sunny afternoon in March when I visited the place, the view from the drive was charming, and I soon found that all through the hundred or so acres covered by gardens and woods, there are picturesque and delightfully natural elements. Mr. Beal, the head gardener, being at the time of my arrival in one of the houses, we started with the contents, which included a nice piece of Cymbidium Lowianum, with sixteen flowers on one spike.

"I may explain," said Mr. Beal, "that the principle here is to grow a little of everything, rather than large quantities of few things. Thus, we go in for a few Orchids, chiefly Cœlogyne cristata. At the same time, we try to get, as far as possible, masses of colour. Here are some Primulas which I am saving for seed, plants of Sutton's grandiflora. From this strain a better variety of colour is obtainable than from the old strain."

"I see that you have a number of Cacti?"

"They are some of Veitch's hybrids, I believe, and the varieties include Jessica, Brilliant, Agatha, Gordoniana, Cyrus, Homer, Cooperi, Thania, and Alatis. In the natural order of things they will be in flower in another month. The shades of colour are mainly brilliant scarlet, light flesh, crimson, and white. They are very fine, but the flowers only last a short time."

"Is that the reason why they are not grown more extensively?"

"Yes, I should think it is. People do not, as a rule, care for flowers which are so ephemeral. But the cultivation of these Cacti is not very difficult. I grow them in a good deal of brick rubble, give them a season of rest, and then expect them to flower. They have been in a pit all the winter."

Lachenalias and Violets.

"You also go in for Lachenalias?"

"Yes, between three and four dozen; but they are just dying off. The varieties are Nelsonii and tricolor. The former cannot be excelled. Lachenalias continue in flower for a month in the conservatory."

"Violets," continued Mr. Beal, "are rather

THE ROCK GARDEN AT BASSETT WOOD.

a feature. At this period of the year Lady Hume Campbell is one of the most useful varieties, and W. W. Astor is the most distinct. It does well also out of doors, and so does Marie Louise. The Violets outside last as well as those in the frames, but the advantage of the frames is that you can pick bunches at any time. Strawberries are also largely grown inside and out of doors. We force Royal Sovereigns in pots, and have them in the open; also Viscountess, which is useful for preserving."

Fuchsias and Pelargoniums.

"Perhaps while we are at the houses we had better finish with them?"

"In the Vinery we grow all Muscats save one rod of Black Hamburgh; and, as you see, Peaches are grown on the back wall, the varieties being Waterloo and Crimson Galande, and Lord Napier Nectarine. In the other Peach house, also, we grow Lord Napier Nectarine, and Princess of Wales Peach. A good many things are grown in the houses for the perfume. Staphelia colchica is grown for this purpose, and is very useful for cutting. After the plants have done flowering, they are put out."

As we proceeded, Mr. Beal called my attention to the herbaceous border under the Pear wall, after I had previously observed St. Brigid Anemones beginning to make their appearance on the outside Vinery border.

Nigella Miss Jekyll.

"This border," he said, "which is arranged in clumps of three or five plants, contains a good collection of Oriental Poppies, the Giant Thrift, Irises in variety, Montbretias, Alstrœmerias, Echinops, and Campanulas in variety. On the wall are newly-planted Peaches—Noblesse, Dr. Hogg, and Princess of Wales, the Nectarines, Pineapple and Early Rivers, and also some nice pieces of Ceanothus. A plant which does exceedingly well here, and of which we grow a batch, is Nigella Miss Jekyll. It wants very little attention, and is best sown and thinned out. It remains in flower for six weeks or two months. We like it so much that we sow three times. Just in this sheltered spot I have planted three young Apricot trees (Moor Park); they are making strong wood, and are clean."

"You appear to have done a lot of planting lately?"

Bassett Wood and Lawn.

"You have some Tree Carnations?"

"Not a great number, but the varieties have been carefully selected, and include Fair Maid, T. W. Lawson, Floriana, Flamingo, Lilian Pond, Nelson Fisher, Melba, Enchantress, Harry Fenn, Morning Glory, Governor Woolcott, and a good batch of Winter Cheer."

"How many Fuchsias and Zonal Pelargoniums do you grow?"

"About five dozen of each. The Fuchsias are Elegans, Wave of Life (yellow foliage), Phenomenal (purple and white), Florizel, Earl of Beaconsfield, Molesworth, Mrs. Marshall, and London Market, also the trailing one—F. procumbens, which is very pretty when in berry. The Pelargoniums include Colossal, Oliver, Lady Sarah Wilson, Duchess of Marlborough, Mark Twain, Madame Cherotte, Duke of York, General Roberts, J. H. Ardene, President McKinley, Lord Aberdeen, Countess of Jersey, W. E. Corden, Lady Malet, Miss G. Askworth, Silver Queen, Lady Roscoe, Octavia, Cerise, Phyllis, and Hurber Sharon."

"Do you make Chrysanthemums at all a special feature?"

"No, we grow about two hundred, and care more for the singles than for the big flowers."

"That has been one of the works in which I have been busily occupied since we came here two years ago. Generally speaking, we are doing away with all the old varieties, and planting new ones."

"The Black Currants under the south wall are not new?"

"Oh! no. They have been there a long time; but they are quite free from the mite, and crop very satisfactorily."

"You have still some Christmas Roses in flower?"

"We find the Helleborus a very useful flower during the winter. It begins to blossom here in November, and frequently continues until March, though we cut all the time. I think that probably one reason why it does so well is that it is planted in the centre of the garden. It will not thrive so well on an east border. We have chiefly one variety—niger. With regard to cultivation, we give the plants rather rich soil, mulch them after they have flowered, never dig round them, nor let them be disturbed."

"Tell me of anything else that does well in this kitchen garden."

"Near the Vinery is a specimen of a rare plant of Sparaxis, or, as it is now called, Dierama pulcherrima. At midsummer it throws up spikes five feet high, of sanguineous purple, the number of flowers being quite two dozen. In the same warm spot Belladonnas are quite established, and do very well. Near the Vinery we grow Sweet Peas, including new varieties, namely, Evelyn Byatt, Mrs. Alfred Watkins, Queen Alexandra, Henry Eckford, Dora Breadmore, and John Ingman. For early work we have Sweet Peas mixed with the Cupids in front."

"Is there anything more to note before we leave the kitchen garden?"

"Peas are rather a feature. The early varieties are May Queen and Defiance; Best of All, Prince of Peas, and Gradus, main crop; and Ne Plus Ultra, late. We grow three varieties of Onions, Sutton's White Glow, Reading, and Long-keeping."

An Ideal Tennis Court.

A short distance from the kitchen garden, and in a remarkably pretty situation, is a tennis court, which was completed only a few weeks ago, with a summer house at one side overlooking a bank one hundred and thirty feet long, of Wichurian and other Roses underneath.

"What are the varieties?" I asked.

"There are Universal Favourite, Pink Roamer, Gardenia, South Orange Perfection, and Alberic Barbier, etc. On one side of the tennis ground are about forty Thuja Lobbii, which I planted because they are always green in the winter, and form an excellent screen. On another side are early spring-flowering Rhododendrons, Andromedas just coming into flower, and the surrounding Coniferæ include a fine specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea, Cryptomeria elegans, Abies canadensis, and several very good examples of Cupressus."

The New Rosery.

We next inspected the recently-remodelled Rosery, in which turf paths have been substituted for gravel One of the features of the Rosery is a number of arches planted in pairs. I enquired the names of these.

"They are mostly Polyanthas; there are pairs of Farquhar, Fortune's Yellow, Crimson Rambler, Universal Favourite, moschata, Hermine Madele, Lady Gay, and Pink Rambler. In the mixed beds, some as standards, and others as dwarfs, are the best Hybrid Perpetuals, including Margaret Dickson, General Jacqueminot, Duke of Edinburgh, Gloire Lyonnaise, Mrs. John Laing, Heinrich Schultheis, Fisher Holmes, Le Havre, Madame Eugene Verdier, Auguste Guinoisseau, Lady Mary Fitzgerald, Caroline Testout, Eclaireur, Duke of Teck, Clio, Merveille de Lyon, Duke of Connaught, Frau Karl Druschki (the finest white), La France, Charles Darwin, Duc de Rohan, Prince Camille de Rohan, Annie Wood, Beauty of Waltham, Black Prince, Charles Lefebvre, Jeannie Dickson, Augustine Rigotard, and John Hopper."

"Of what section are the Roses in front facing the sundial?"

"They are all Teas, and are chiefly Goubalt, General Schablekine, Etoile de Lyon, Ethel Brownlow, Socrates, Madame Lambard, Marie van Houtte, Safrano, Maman Cochet (and the white variety), Madame Falcot, Isabella Sprunt, Souvenir de President Carnot, Bessie Brown, and Dr. Grille. Then there are the outside beds, one of which contains Rugosa Roses in the centre, with a border of Pinks (Mrs. Sinkins) and London Pride. In other beds are Azaleas—Fielder's White, and America (a rose colour), also Kalmia latifolia; and mention might be made of a fine specimen of Andromeda."

The Decoration of the Conservatory.

We then crossed the terrace in the front of the mansion (facing which is a very expansive lawn), to the conservatory, and here there was a very charming show of flowers. I noticed at

once an excellent display of Primulas, stellata, sinensis, and obconica; also a quantity of Cyclamen.

"We sow the Cyclamen," said Mr. Beal, "flower them one year, and then throw them away. You see that we have Acacias in two varieties, Drummondi and cordata; the latter is just opening in flower. It ought, I think, to be more grown. We treat it in the same manner as American plants. The Solanums are the capsicastrum variety, and the berries were ripe before Christmas. For conservatory work the Boronia megastigma, a very sweet-scented flower, is useful."

"The Genistas are a pleasant variation of colour."

"Yes, that is one of the objects in view, and the Genistas are now looking their best, while the Schizanthus are just over. The Cinerarias are Sutton's strain, and are chosen for their splendid colour. Another plant which is not turned to as much account as it might be is the Dicentra spectabilis (the Lyreflower, or, as some call it, the Bleeding Heart). The plants have been in flower for a fortnight, and will last a month longer. Mignonette has been in flower since Christmas, and you see that Cypripedium barbatum is also in flower. There are from fifty to sixty pots of Arum Lilies."

"How long have the Daffodils been in flower?"

"Three weeks. There are two varieties of Narcissus (Queen of the Yellow and Grand Monarque) already here, and we have coming on, Stella obvallaris, Minnie Hume, Burbidgi, Orange Phœnix, and Sulphur Phœnix. Hyacinths also are just coming on, the varieties being Charles Dickens, King of the Belgians, Baron van Thuyll, Grand Vedetta, King of the Blues, Queen of Whites, Pressman, and Korbach."

"What do you grow on the terrace?"

"Wallflowers, Polyanthus, and Forget-me-nots. In the new rock garden close to the house there are Ferns on one side, and on the other Saxifrage, Alpine Phlox, Aubrietias, Alyssums, Spanish Iris in variety, and Geums. But we have a much larger rock garden in another part of the ground."

The Azalea Garden.

On our way there I observed very fine specimens of Magnolia conspicua and M. purpurea, some fine clumps of Azaleas (Fielder's White), and some splendid Rhododendrons in clumps.

"This," said Mr. Beal, pointing to a specimen about twelve feet high, "is Eurya latifolia variegata, and is about nine to ten feet through. It is considered an exceedingly good specimen, and, in order to preserve it, we had to take down an overhanging Oak and Fir tree. But in the Azalea garden there are Rhododendrons all round, many of which are big specimens. There are two of the Himalayan varieties showing flower—pure white. One of the finest of Rhododendrons is Mrs. Holford (a rose colour), and others in different parts of the grounds are George Hardy, Pink Pearl, F. B. Hayes, and Mr. John Waterer. Between the Rhododendrons and the Azalea garden are Lilium auratum, L. umbellatum, and L. rubrum, Thunbergia elegans, and T. multiflora."

"Is there anything notable that we have missed on the lawn?"

"Yes, you have not noted the Arbutus unedo growing out of the stem of a Stone Pine. It has certainly been here a great many years, but we cannot understand how it gets its moisture. Pernettyas are quite at home in this soil, and are just showing flower, and, as you see, in various parts, Camellias thrive wonderfully. In the rock garden, which we are now approaching, is a Camellia, with a splash flower, which is one of the best. There are a number of varieties here, but we do not know their names."

"How long ago was this rock garden made?"

"Twelve months ago, by Mr. Ladhams, of Southampton. We have some of the best Water Lilies in the pond, including Nymphæa Robinsonii, N. Marliacea carnea, N. Fobili, N. Gladstonia, N. Ladykeri, and others. The Hawthorn-scented Pond Weed flowers well, and there is a very fragrant perfume from the Aponogeton distachyon. Here is a fine specimen of Phormium, a flourishing clump of Bamboo gracilis, a couple of Chamærops, which used to be in tubs, but are now planted out, and have stood the winter very well; and Phylesia buxifolia, a flower like a miniature Lapageria rosea."

"Then you have a new orchard?"

"It is outside the gardens, and is planted with the newer varieties of Apple trees, and on the north side are Damsons, all standards. The Apples include Newton Wonder, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Lane's Prince Albert, Bramley Seedling, Wellington, Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, Warner's King, and Bassett Beauty, which was raised at the Bassett Nursery. Now, I think I have told you all there is of interest."

"You have not told me anything about yourself?"

"There is very little to say. I have been with Mr. Anderson as head gardener between nine and ten years, at Heathside, Weybridge, and two years here. I was previously foreman at Weybridge Park for five years."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 244.—FLOWERS FOR THE AUTUMN, AND SPRING WINDOW-BOXES.

Dear Kate,—Every good gardener looks well ahead, and, although spring flowers are scarcely open, we must not forget the autumn months, which, in a herbaceous garden, are apt to be a little dull and lacking in colour after the gorgeous tints of June, unless special measures are now taken to ensure plenty of bright flowers at that time.

An Ideal Window for Window Gardening.

Early Chrysanthemums.

We are just ordering a few new early Chrysanthemums, in addition to those we already have, for these flowers are reinforced by new beauties yearly, and they are delightful plants, both for the garden in August and September, and for the cool greenhouse in October and November, a few of them flowering late enough to be useful at Christmas. The single varieties are special favourites of mine; great Marguerites in many lovely shades, as they are, they surpass the double varieties in lightness of effect and decorative value, whilst for cutting they are far more useful flowers, especially towards the end of the year.

If you want the very best varieties, you should order rooted cuttings at once of the following

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Bean, William Jackson (1863–1947), *arboriculturist and dendrologist*
by Roger T. Stearn
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Bean, William Jackson (1863–1947), arboriculturist and dendrologist, was born at Leavening, near Malton in the North Riding of Yorkshire, on 26 May 1863, the eldest of four sons (there were no daughters) of George Bean (*c*.1833–1869), nurseryman and gardener, following two generations of nurserymen, and his wife, Lydia, *née* Jackson. After her husband's early death Bean's mother worked as a nursery and seed dealer. Bean was educated at Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School, York. Aged sixteen he joined the garden staff at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, seat of the duke of Rutland.

In April 1883 Bean started as a student gardener at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 'the most beautiful garden in the world' (Bean, *Royal Botanic Gardens*, vii). It was 'the world's premier botanical institution' (Drayton, 172), a crucial centre of horticultural training—'Kew "graduates" are everywhere' (*Journal of the Kew Guild*, 1893, 1)—and of imperial botanical research and economic development, and also a popular recreational attraction with millions of visitors.

Bean started work in the melon yard and thereafter, having gained the favour of William Watson (1858–1925), his superior in the garden hierarchy, enjoyed steady promotion: sub-foreman of the orchid and other tropical collections (October 1883), foreman of the temperate house department (1888), foreman of the arboretum (1892), assistant curator (1900), and curator (June 1922). His salary increased accordingly: 16*s*. a week as a gardener, £2 as a foreman, £200 per annum as assistant curator, and £600 as curator in 1929. He helped to implement Sir William Thiselton-Dyer's ambitious improvements, including clearing common trees and thickets, planting systematically grouped trees and large beds of ornamental shrubs, and relocating the bamboos. He was at the arboretum when plant-hunters were introducing exotic trees and shrubs from China, the Himalayas, and Burma, and he accumulated an exceptional knowledge of trees and shrubs. In 1893 he was a founder of the Kew Guild, the organization of Kew gardeners, the 'Kewites'. He was treasurer from 1893 to 1908, edited its journal, and captained its cricket club. He was sent abroad on arboricultural missions and visited Germany and Austria (1908), the USA (1910), and Italy and Dalmatia (1912). In 1914, shortly after the war began, he was seconded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries but was 'like a fish out of water' (Dallimore, 658) and soon returned to Kew. For some years Sir Arthur Hill (director, 1922–41) depended on his advice. He chose the location and advised on the new pinetum at Bedgebury Park, Kent (jointly with the Forestry Commission). In 1924 he was appointed to the Imperial Service Order (a civil-service long-service award). He retired in May 1929 and was presented with an armchair by the Kew staff.

William Dallimore remembered Bean as, in 1891, 'a tall, well built, quiet young man ... a mighty hitter at cricket, a good disciplinarian [who] did not tolerate shirkers' (Dallimore, 314, 277). A hard-working autodidact, Bean was described as much respected, stalwart, thorough, quiet, modest, dour-mannered, publicity-avoiding,

with ‘sound business ability and administrative capacity’ (*Kew Bulletin*, 1929, 139), and helpful with advice. On 14 August 1901 he married at Plumstead, Kent, Ada Frances Ewart (*b*. 1875), daughter of Charles Ewart, engineer. They lived at Kew and had one son and one daughter. His wife long predeceased him.

Before and after retirement Bean published articles and books. He contributed to the *Botanical Magazine*, *The Garden*, and the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, and in 1908 published *The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Historical and Descriptive*. He had long studied woody plants in cultivation and he became the leading expert. Since J. C. Loudon's great *Arboretum et fruticetum Britannicum* (1838) no comprehensive work on trees and shrubs hardy and cultivated in Britain had been published, and many exotic plants, from China and elsewhere, had been introduced by plant collectors. For years Bean, after working during the day in the gardens, in the evening wrote his labour of love and major work, *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, completed in 1913 and published in two volumes in the autumn of 1914. Based largely on the resources of Kew Gardens, it included brief descriptions of the species and more important varieties of woody plants in cultivation, with notes on their distinctive characters, garden value, and culture. It was intended for amateurs, landowners, country gentlemen, nurserymen, park superintendents, and professional gardeners. Much praised, and recognized as the standard work, ‘Bean’ sold well. A third volume was published in 1933, and five further editions were published in Bean's lifetime. ‘Bean’ had an important influence on twentieth-century arboricultural practice. Bean also published *Shrubs for Amateurs* (1924), *Ornamental Trees for Amateurs* (1925), and *Wall Shrubs and Hardy Climbers* (1939).

Bean was for over forty years involved with the Royal Horticultural Society. He was a member of its floral committee and judged at its flower shows. It awarded him the Victoria medal of honour (1917) and the Veitch memorial medal (1922) and ‘gratefully dedicated’ to him a volume of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* (1938). An acknowledged expert, he was variously consulted. Between the wars he advised Lionel de Rothschild on his garden at Exbury, Hampshire. Following retirement he lived near the gardens, at 2 Mortlake Road, Kew, prepared the seventh edition of ‘Bean’ (published in 1950), and played golf. He worked with the Roads Beautifying Association and advised the Ministry of Transport on roadside tree planting. He was a member of the committee advising on trees in Windsor Great Park, for which he was appointed CVO (1936).

After prolonged illness, Bean died on 19 April 1947 at Amblecote Nursing Home, 22 Cardigan Road, Richmond, Surrey, survived by his children, and his funeral was at Mortlake crematorium on 22 April. Further editions of ‘Bean’ were published and it is still used.

ROGER T. STEARN

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Likenesses E. Moore, oils, *c.*1928, RBG Kew · Sergeieff, photograph, *c.*1937, repro. in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, frontispiece

Wealth at death £12,085 14*s.* 3*d.*: administration with will, 28 July 1947, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Beaton, Donald (1802–1863), *gardener*
by Janet Waymark
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Beaton, Donald (1802–1863), gardener, was born on 8 March 1802, 'about sixteen miles from the then parish church of Urray, in Strathconon, Rosshire' (Beaton, 'Autobiography'), the son of Donald Beaton. While Beaton was small his father moved the family to Inverness, where he was acting manager for a cattle dealer, grazing animals on lands rented from Lord Lovat around Beaufort Castle. In the summer months the family migrated up to summer pastures at Corycharbie, where highland sports like deer stalking, grouse shooting, and fly fishing took place.

Beaton, an intelligent boy who spoke Gaelic and learned Latin before he could speak English, was often too far from schools to benefit from regular education in summertime, instead learning how to tan leather and make fishing lines, to dye yarns with lichens, and to clean rifles and shoot deer. He acted as a young gamekeeper for Lord Lovat. An interest in the history of the highlands encouraged him to want to become a cavalry officer, but his mother wanted him to enter the church. She died when Beaton was seven, and his father employed a tutor for the five children; Beaton was determined to join 'the kirk or the camp' and to become a gentleman. A series of hard winters and harvests bankrupted many of the cattle dealers, and, as his father was now short of money, for a brief period Beaton acted as a tutor to the children of Lord Lovat's manager at Beaufort Castle. He attended Inverness Academy for two sessions, intending to try for a bursary to King's College, Aberdeen. Though clever, he was still not a fluent English speaker and, owing to the curious manner in which the top of the class was selected, he was unable to gain a bursary.

Beaton was set to work in the gardens of Beaufort Castle until 'something cast up', and he was allowed to work with the gamekeepers from 12 August every summer (Beaton, 'Autobiography'). Abandoning his dream of becoming a gentleman, he decided to embrace the career of horticulture. The castle gardeners resented his fast track to the brotherhood of gardeners, since they had had to be apprenticed. But he learned about vine growing from Niven of Bothwell Castle, and the Linnean system; he joined the staff of Sir William Cumming Gordon of Altyre, near Forres, where within a year he had gained sufficient knowledge of the plants to be put in charge of them. Probably under the influence of Lady Cumming Gordon, he began one of his two main interests in gardening—that of crossing (interbreeding) bedding plants and bulbs. The other interest lay in colour.

Beaton then went to Perth, 'the best neighbourhood in Scotland for good gardening', where he joined the staff of the nursery of Dickson and Turnbull for two years, and then to the gardens of the Caledonian Horticultural Society in Edinburgh. Deciding to go south, he set off by boat, but was disappointed by the sight of London, where he worked for six weeks at Clapton nursery, before moving west to Haffield, near Ledbury in Herefordshire, where his employer encouraged both his interest in botany and his absence to see as many gardens as he could. Young gentlemen of the time ventured on the grand tour of Europe; Beaton, unable

to become a gentleman, visited gardens instead. In 1832 he ‘travelled 3,000 miles in England alone’ and saw:

> all the Crinums at Wentworth House, the number of pot plants at Chatsworth … the best Orangery in England, near Prescot; the first Petunia that flowered in England, at Lower Boughton, near Manchester; the celebrated rock garden of Lady Boughton, near Chester; the first of the Calceolarias in the Epsom Nursery; the Geranium houses of Sir Richard Hoar, near Bath … a wagon load of dried bulbs, and the Pinetum, at Dropmore. (Beaton, ‘Autobiography’)

After that he made his way round Scotland. At the same time he managed to continue his work crossing ‘all sorts of plants’, and cultivated forty-six sorts of grapes.

After the death of Gordon, his employer at Haffield, Beaton was taken on in the early 1830s as head gardener of Shrubland Park in Suffolk by Sir W. F. F. Middleton, baronet, whom he thanked for encouraging his flower gardening; Beaton later wrote articles in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* (1856) and *The Cottage Gardener* (1850, 1853, and 1855) describing his work there. He married at Eastnor, Herefordshire, on 8 November 1837 Lydia, *née* Penn (*d*. 1850). Following her death he married, as his second wife, on 1 February 1851, Jane (*d*. 1861), daughter of Thomas Parfett, horse dealer. There were no children.

Shrubland Park was Beaton's last position as a head gardener; he retired in 1852, aged fifty, and moved to Surbiton in Surrey, where a well-wisher gave him a garden. He continued to write a weekly column in the *Cottage Gardener* (which became the *Journal of Horticulture*, and in 1861 *Cottage Gardener and Country Gentleman*), and contributed to the *Gardeners' Magazine* until his death, becoming ‘the main publicist of the bedding system’ of planting (Elliott, *Victorian Gardens*, 89). Beaton's comments on the flowers he noticed in his tour of gardens—geraniums (pelargoniums), petunias, calceolarias—suggest his interest in colour. In the 1850s he contributed to the debate about bedding plants and colour; he suggested that it was wise to look at different colours in different lights to see which arrangements worked best, and that there should be a neutral colour in the centre of a group. When Michel-Eugène Chevreul produced his theory of complementary colours in 1839 and 1849 for the Gobelin tapestries (*De la loi du contraste simultané des couleurs*) John Lindley picked up the theme to relate it to the garden and the massing of plants of different colours next to each other. Beaton, however, argued that green would cancel out the so-called effect of complementary colours, and after much debate in the journals this was accepted.

Beaton had successfully hybridized scarlet pelargoniums, among others. However his writing on the cross-breeding of plants, and especially his criticism of the hybridization experiments of the German botanist Karl von Gärtner, ‘evidently knowing nothing of his work’, led Charles Darwin to describe Beaton as ‘a clever, but d-d cocksure man’ whose own experimental results were unlikely to be reliable (Darwin to Hooker, 14 May 1861, *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, ed. F. Burkhardt and S. Smith, 16 vols., 1985–, 9.127). Beaton's apology to Darwin for inadvertently upsetting him was published posthumously in the *Journal of Horticulture* (3 Nov 1863). Beaton died at his home in Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, on 31 October 1863, following a stroke.

JANET WAYMARK

Sources D. Beaton, 'My autobiography', *Journal of Horticulture, Cottage Gardener and Country Gentleman* (28 Nov 1855), 153–8 · *Journal of Horticulture, Cottage Gardener and Country Gentleman* (3 Nov 1863), 349; (24 Nov 1863), 415 · B. Elliott, 'Donald Beaton: the greatest gardening journalist of the early nineteenth century?', *The Garden* (Feb 1991), 64–7 · B. Elliott, *Victorian gardens* (1986) · *IGI* · m. cert. [1851] · census returns, 1841, 1861

Likenesses drawing, repro. in Beaton, 'Autobiography', 154 · portrait, Royal Horticultural Society, London; repro. in *The glory of the garden: a loan exhibition in association with the Royal Horticultural Society* (1987), 211

Wealth at death under £1000: probate, 21 Nov 1863, *CGPLA Eng. & Wales*

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Janet Waymark, 'Beaton, Donald (1802–1863)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, May 2009 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/96720, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

Donald Beaton (1802–1863): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/96720

Villa-place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne aforesaid the Niece and the Residuary Legatee for Life named in the said Will she having been first sworn.

BEATON Donald.
Effects under £1,000.

21 November. The Will of Donald Beaton late of Victoria-road Surbiton in the Parish of Kingston-upon-Thames in the County of **Surrey** deceased who died 31 October 1863 at Victoria-road aforesaid was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the oath of Robert Hogg of 99 St. George's-road Pimlico in the County of Middlesex Gentleman LL.D. one of the Executors.

BEATON Rebecca.
Effects under £5,000.

11 November. The Will with a Codicil of Rebecca Beaton late of Burngate Farm in the Parish of West Lulworth in the County of **Dorset** Spinster deceased who died 18 July 1863 at Burngate Farm aforesaid was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the oaths of James Panton of Wareham in the said County Brewer and John Broome Mead of the Monastery Farm East Lulworth in the said County Yeoman the Executors.

BEATSON Thomas.
Effects under £600.

5 March. The Will of Thomas Beatson late of Briestfield in the Township of Whitley Lower in the Parish of Thornhill in the County of **York** Farmer and Shopkeeper deceased who died 2 October 1862 at Briestfield aforesaid was proved at **Wakefield** by the oaths of John Beatson of Briestfield aforesaid Farmer the Nephew and Robert Sykes of Lepton in the said County Farmer and Maltster the Executors.

BEATTIE Henry.
Effects under £9,000.

29 September. The Will with a Codicil of Henry Beattie late of the City of **York** Gentleman deceased who died 6 September 1863 at the said City was proved at **York** by the oaths of Thomas Marsh of the said City Bookseller and William Cooper of Briar Cottage Fulford in the County of York Spirit Merchant the Executors.

BEATTIE Hugh.
Effects under £800.

24 June. Letters of Administration (with the Will annexed) of the Personal estate and effects of Hugh Beattie late of Christon Bank in the Parish of Embleton in the County of **Northumberland** Gatekeeper on the North Eastern Railway at Christon Bank

The figures in this work combine botanical accuracy with pictorial beauty in an extraordinary degree, while at the same time there is no uncalled for attempt at striking effect. C. japónica variegàta, the Waratáh, and the apple-flowered, are exquisitely beautiful specimens. It is highly creditable to the gardening profession that there should be found two young men, the one an assistant in his father's nursery, and the other with no pretensions beyond those of a good gardener, and who, we understand, has actually accepted the situation of head-gardener to a gentleman, capable of producing such a work. It is true that the one, from having been born in a nursery famous for its camellias, and the other, from having had an excellent school education in Scotland, having been bred up under one of the best kitchen-gardeners in that country, Mr. Beattie of Scone, and having been long first gardener and afterwards clerk in the Horticultural Society's garden, have had extraordinary advantages; but how frequently are such advantages comparatively neglected! We are proud to see such young men growing up to succeed us in the world, and think we feel almost as much interest in them as if they were our own sons. To all who can afford to purchase such a work we most heartily recommend it. It is sold at much too low a price to afford the authors any profit, but we hope they will meet with sufficient encouragement to save them from pecuniary loss.

LGM, 1841

to, p. 45., the first was usually started about the first of January, and the next in April.—*Robert Wilson, gardener to W. Grey, Esq. Norton, March* 6. 1841.

Transmission of Cuttings by Post.—In p. 88. I observe a note respecting the transmission of cuttings by post, wherein it is recommended to wrap them in tin-foil. I consider the employment of this substance quite unnecessary; for the only danger is that of the cuttings being broken, should the letter be crushed or doubled across its length, and against a force that would effect this, the tin-foil would afford but little if any resistance.—*D. Saul, Lancaster, Feb.* 1841.

Art. IV. *Queries and Answers.*

Preventing Hares and Rabbits from injuring the Bark of Trees.—A correspondent in p. 96. enquires whether there is any preparation which will prevent hares and rabbits injuring young trees. I have used very extensively a mixture of soot and milk, and found it very successful. The soot and milk should be well mixed together till they are of the consistency of paint, and applied with a brush to the stems of the trees when the weather is dry. I have used it for some years in the plantations here, where previously the ash trees, even of considerable size, were much gnawed by the hares and rabbits. The black colour which remains upon the trees for two or three years is of no consequence in a plantation, though it might be objectionable in a pleasure-ground or shrubbery.—*W. Leveson Gower, jun. Titsey Place, Godstone.*

To prevent the Ravages of Hares and Rabbits on Forest Trees. (p. 96.)—To one gallon of coal tar add 3 lb. of hog's lard, increasing it to any extent, applying it with the hand or a painter's brush (the former I consider best) to the height of 4 or 5 feet. This will prove an effectual remedy, such being their aversion from tar, that, were a circle drawn round a tree at a small distance from it, they will rarely or never enter it. I need not add, this will not in the least injure the trees.—*John Fish. Colney House, Hertfordshire, Feb.* 12. 1841.

Felling resinous Trees.—What season do you consider the best for cutting down the timber of the spruce fir, Scotch pine, and other resinous trees?—*W. L. Gower, jun.*

We should say any time in the course of the winter months, the sap being then in a comparatively dormant state. In Sweden, and in the Alps and Pyrenees, resinous trees are felled during summer as well as winter, not because it is the best season, but because it is the most convenient one. See *Arb. Brit.*, vol. viii. p. 2135. We shall be glad to hear the opinions and practices of practical men in Britain on this subject.—*Cond.*

Painting Vines with Clay. (p. 96.)—Allow me to ask Mr. Fish whether painting vines with clay, soft soap, and sulphur, is a cure for the curl, as well as a preventive of the hatching of the eggs of insects?—*W. Wilson. Bragden Gardens, Northumberland, Feb.* 15. 1841.

Art. V. *Biography of the late Mr. William Beattie, F.H.S.*

From the commencement of the *Gardener's Magazine* it has been usual to notice individuals who have distinguished themselves in the profession, and to offer some tribute of respect to their memory when they have been removed by death from the sphere of their usefulness, to the regret of their friends and of those who have either benefited from their advice, or profited by their instruction; to few could such a mark of respect be offered with more propriety than to the late *William Beattie*, F.H.S., who, for a long series of years conducted the gardening and foresting departments, as well as the improvements generally, on the extensive estates of the Right Honourable the Earl of Mansfield, at Scone, near Perth. I have long expected that some of his pupils more competent than myself would have performed the task which I have

undertaken; but, as no one has felt it to be his duty to do so, I beg to supply the omission by the accompanying memoir, for the particulars of which I am partly indebted to his nephew, my friend and fellow-pupil at Scone, Mr. Booth, now the gardener and general superintendant at Carclew, Cornwall.

The subject of this brief notice was born at Wasthill in the parish of Old Rain, Aberdeenshire, in 1758, and from being an only son was originally intended for the church; with this view his early years were passed at the parish school, where he obtained a far more liberal education than usually falls to the lot of those who even at the present day adopt the profession of a gardener; and to this very circumstance did he often look back with great satisfaction, and ascribe much of the success and happiness that attended him through life. Just as his friends had made arrangements for sending him to college he had the misfortune to meet with a serious accident which confined him for a long time, and ultimately had the effect of completely altering his future plans and prospects; the delicate state of his health rendering a change advisable, he removed to the neighbouring parish of Moneymusk where some of his friends resided, and there he formed the resolution of becoming a gardener. Sir Archibald Grant, justly celebrated as one of the greatest planters of his time, and of whom Scotland has reason to be proud, was then carrying on extensive alterations at his seat; and, considering this would be a good school, he made application, and was successful in gaining admission to the gardens of Moneymusk, where he served his apprenticeship; on its expiration he went to Edinburgh, and was employed at Arniston, the seat of the then Lord President Dundas, at that time a noted place for young gardeners. From thence he went to London, with letters of introduction to his countrymen, Mr. Malcolm, the eminent nurseryman at Stockwell, and Mr. Forsyth of the Apothecaries' Garden at Chelsea; and, by means of their recommendation, he soon succeeded in obtaining the situation of gardener to the Marquess of Bute, at his seat in Hampshire: but the greater part of the time (nearly twenty years) which he resided in England, he acted as land-steward and gardener at Losset Hall in Yorkshire, and to the Duke of Dorset, at Knowle in Kent. His intimacy with Mr. Forsyth continued until the death of the latter, in 1804; it was entirely through that gentleman he was introduced to the late Earl of Mansfield, and received his appointment to Scone, where he lived for nearly thirty-four years. The formation of the gardens, and conducting of the very extensive alterations and improvements during this long period, at that princely place, will remain for many years as a proof of his talent and ability. He was kind and considerate to those employed under him; and I believe nothing gave him more real pleasure than to see his young assistants endeavouring to improve themselves in matters regarding their profession, or to hear of their good success in life after they had left Scone. On his retiring from the arduous duties of his situation in 1837, the late Lord Mansfield not only allowed him to retain his salary, but presented him with several articles of value. Amongst the latter, an elegant silver box, engraven with an inscription expressive of his esteem and regard. Indeed all the members of that noble family were unremitting in their attention to him during the remainder of his life.

He was a corresponding member of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, and a fellow of the Horticultural Society of London, to both of which he contributed one or two papers, which are published in their *Transactions*. He was married, but had no family, and died on the 2d of April, 1839. His remains were interred in the churchyard at New Scone, (as well as those of Mrs. Beattie who survived him only twelve months,) near to the monument now erecting by public subscription to commemorate the unfortunate Douglas, who was also at one time his pupil and assistant. — *James Duncan. Basing Park, Alton, Hants, March* 3. 1841.

See article for Guillaume Beaumont

The Garden History Society

Monsieur Beaumont and Col. Grahme. The Making of a Garden, 1689-1710
Author(s): Annette Bagot
Source: *Garden History*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (Autumn, 1975), pp. 66-78
Published by: The Garden History Society
Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/1586427
Accessed: 23/12/2014 03:42

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From ‘Parks and Gardens’ website.

Date of Death: 1727

Gender: male

Nationality: French

Occupation: Gardener

Narrative:

Guillaume Beaumont was a French gardener, active in England from the 1680s to 1727. He may have worked under Le Notre in France. In England, he was employed by Colonel Graham, first as a nurseryman at Bagshot, during the reign of James II, and later, after 1688, as head gardener at Levens Hall in Cumberland, where he laid out a fine topiary garden and series of avenues.

Sources:

Hadfield, Miles, Robert Harling and Leonine Highton, *British Gardeners: A Biographical Dictionary* (London: A. Zwemmer Ltd., 1980), p. 33.

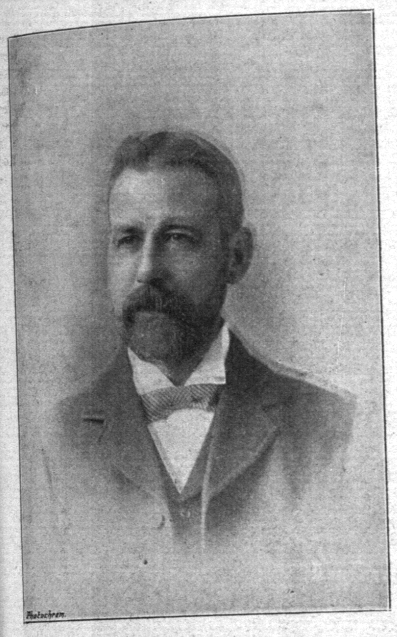
This person is associated with the following sites:

- Hampton Court
- Levens Hall
- Stonyhurst College

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 20.—Mr. E. BECKETT, F.R.H.S., AT THE GARDENS, ALDENHAM HOUSE, ELSTREE.

THE charge of such gardens as those of Aldenham House must afford pleasure, not only because of their beauty, variety and extent, but also because Lord Aldenham and



Mr. E. Beckett.

the members of his family personally interest themselves in the operations of their custodian. The owner of one of the finest estates in Hertfordshire was, as Mr. H. H. Gibbs, extremely popular as a member for the City of London, but it is among his own people that Lord Aldenham shines most of all. In the village of Aldenham, whose church he has made a joy to the parishioners, there is not a resident who does not highly esteem him, and the feeling towards him among the large number of persons he employs is respect, tempered with affection. Wealthy as he is, and generously as he gives to every good cause—more generously than the outside world knows—the tastes of the octogenarian peer, who is still hale and active, are simple, and perhaps he is never happier than when he is walking in his pleasure gardens and grounds, some 200 acres in extent, in which he takes a justifiable pride. Lord Aldenham's love of horticulture is particularly shared by his son, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, who represents the St. Albans' division in Parliament. In fact, when, having seen a portion of the gardens, and glanced at some of the treasures of the houses, I began to ask questions about the great work which has been done at Aldenham in recent years, Mr. Beckett, at the outset, told me that he owed much to the assistance of Mr. Vicary Gibbs, who is not only fond of the gardens, and spends most of his time in them, but has a remarkable practical knowledge. Mr. Gibbs, he said, is as popular with the workpeople on the estate as he is among his constituents.

"As to the work itself," continued Mr. Beckett, "we commenced entirely remodelling the gardens soon after I took charge of them, nearly eighteen years ago. The most extensive alterations were the extensions made in 1891-1892, when the high road was diverted to the extent of a mile and three-quarters. That meant treating the land inside, the greater portion of which has been thrown into ornamental grounds."

"Had you any natural advantages to assist you?"

"None whatever, except timber trees. As there was no water, we had to provide it, and as all the land taken in was absolutely flat, we used the excavated ground for making undulations."

"Now, about the details. Who designed the rock and water garden?"

"The rockeries were done by Messrs. Pulham and Son, of Broxbourne, but the landscape was designed by myself and Mr. Vicary Gibbs, who took the utmost interest in the work throughout. One very important feature was the opening up of the moats belonging to the original house, which is supposed to have been taken down in the time of Henry VIII. There were trees fifty feet high growing in the moats, which eventually we converted into the bog and water garden you have just seen. The old fish-store was transformed into the present bathing pond. The water garden, in which you noticed two stone bridges, one rustic wooden bridge, and several waterfalls, involved a great deal of thought and labour."

"It contains a fine collection of flowering trees and shrubs?"

"I believe the collection is one of the most complete in the country. We get trees and shrubs from nearly all quarters of the globe, including Japan, as well as from all parts of England. We have just received a Japanese consignment."

"One of your difficulties must have been the easy natural formation of the ground work, and the nice paths to correspond?"

"Yes, that was so. Another new feature is the St. Albans' drive, about three-quarters of a mile long, over one of the bridges. It is a continuation of the old drive from the lodge gate, which is also a mile long."

"And the delightful wilderness?"

"That is also in its present state a part of the work. New paths were made, with gravel underneath and grass on the top, with the result that they are dry in all kinds of weather. The wilderness which, with the woods in connection, comprises about forty acres, has an immense variety of flowering trees and shrubs planted for effect at all seasons of the year. They are now yellow, and red, and brown woods, which are very effective at this season."

"When did you form the lake?"

"We began it about four years ago, and it took nearly two to finish. It was previously an ordinary formal piece of water. The ground was all broken up and undulated, as it is in the water garden. A new bridge was built of the same material as the house, and a rock boat-cave was constructed. The lake is seven acres in extent, and there is plenty of good fishing. There are two islands in it, and two large waterfalls. The sides are walled round in order to keep the rats out and the banks from being washed away."

"Does the lake exhaust the additions?"

"By no means. We have also made new tennis and croquet lawns, a new flower garden, new sub-tropical gardens, new kitchen gardens, and new orchards and terraces. Indeed, the place has been renovated from end to end. There is not a corner that has not been done."

"Have you exhibited much?"

"I used to exhibit very largely, especially Chrysanthemums. I showed fifty-two twenty-fives in various parts of the country, and was only beaten twice."

"That must have been a record?"

"It was, I believe. In 1900 we took the first prize for forty-eight varieties of Sweet Peas at the Bicentenary, and in addition the fifteen-guinea cup for the best exhibit in the show at the Crystal Palace."

"Speaking of Chrysanthemums, when did you invent the Beckett Cup and Tube?"

"About ten years ago. I have sold as many as six thousand in a year, which, considering that these can only be used for about two months out of twelve, is rather remarkable."

"Does the popularity of the invention continue?"

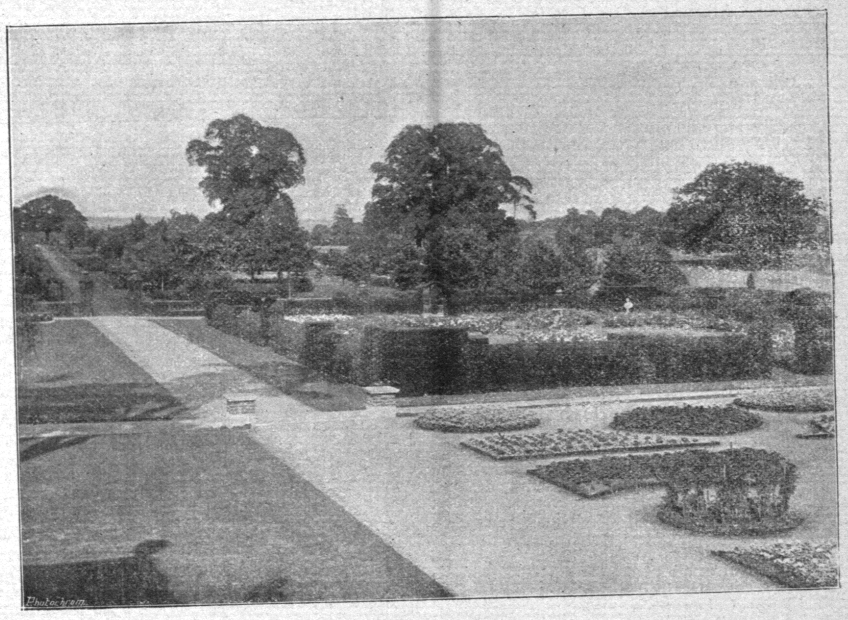
"Nearly two thousand were sold last year."

"You have also published a book, Mr. Beckett?"

"Yes, two years ago Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall and Company brought out a small work of mine on "Vegetable Culture."

"Have you shown many vegetables?"

"A good many, and I have been first at nearly every show at which I have competed. The prizes include five gold medals, won at the meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society, one of which was at the Temple last year."



Lawns and Rose Garden at Aldenham House.

"Have you always been fond of vegetable culture?"

"Yes, very. But the reason I took it up at Aldenham was that it was said to be impossible to grow good vegetables on this London clay land, and the principal kitchen garden was nearly three miles away. There was no vegetable of any description here when I came in the month of April."

"So you determined to make the experiment?"

"I set to work, and soon had four acres of vegetables, which in every variety have been grown with success ever since."

"To what causes do you attribute your success?"

"Entirely to draining, deep cultivation by trenching, bringing up annually the bottom spit to the surface, and working in all kinds of burnt garden refuse, road scrapings, and every sort of lightening material."

"Have the houses been enlarged or increased under your auspices?"

"A few additions have been made. A great many are fruit houses, and of these nearly the whole have been renovated and replanted. Several small houses are devoted to Crotons, of which there is a fine collection."

"How about Orchids?"

"We grow only the useful varieties, such as Cypripediums, Dendrobiums, Cælogynes, and Odontoglossums, for decorative purposes."

"Do you make a feature of any particular fruits?"

"Large quantities of Strawberries are annually forced, and of Grapes, Muscats and Madresfield Court are the favourite varieties."

"Did you inherit your love of gardening from your father?"

"I dare say I did, and also from my grandfathers, both of whom were gardeners. When I was a boy my father sent me to the Grammar School at Henley-on-Thames, where I was born, to finish my education, but I suffered so from headache that the doctor advised an outdoor life when quite young, and I was apprenticed to gardening. Then for three years I was at Greenlands. Sir Dudley Marjoribanks was the owner at the time I started, but I saw all the extensive alterations carried out by the late Mr. W. H. Smith. My next post was that of foreman at Wolseley Grange, Esher."

"You must have been very young?"

"I was only seventeen. At Esher, I went in for exhibiting under Mr. King, going in most for Pelargoniums at the Botanic Shows, which were then at their best. Five years later I became head gardener to Mr. McConnell, at Moore Place, Esher, and commenced showing on my own account."

"Did you do well?"

"I met with considerable success, both at the local and London shows. In those days, Kingston Chrysanthemum Show was the leading exhibition in the country. On the death of Mr. McConnell, at the expiration of three years, I was appointed head gardener to Mr. J. P. Currie, at Sandown House, Esher, and while I was there I exhibited largely. One of my great triumphs was when I won the late Duke of Albany's special prize at the Kingston Summer Show, for a large miscellaneous group arranged for effect. Several of the leading nurserymen round London, as well as many private growers, competed. The gardens at Sandown House were large, but I wanted the charge of something more extensive, and, by the kindness of Mr. Currie, who was a great friend of Lord Aldenham, I obtained this appointment in 1884."

"Have you any favourites amongst flowers?"

"I am very fond of Chrysanthemums, and hence, perhaps, my invention. But I have tried not to let my interest in one thing interfere with that in another. I may say, however, that I have helped to bring Asters or Michaelmas Daisies to the fore, and have raised a great number of new varieties, several of which have received awards of merit from the Flower Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society."

"Do you care to name any?"

"They include the Hon. Edith Gibbs, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, Enchantress, Captivation, and Cordifolius profusus. I have also done a good deal in the direction of hybridising varieties of Streptocarpus, a greenhouse flower, and on more than one occasion I have had medals for them at the meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society. They are resting at present, and flower during the whole of the summer."

"Is it possible for amateurs to cultivate them?"

"Anyone who has a greenhouse can easily do so."

"I was very much struck in walking through the gardens with the manner in which all the trees and shrubs are cared for."

"Yes, we make a great point of that. In the ornamental grounds there is scarcely a single tree out of the vast collection which Mr. Vicary Gibbs does not know all about. All double leads are carefully removed, and all ill-formed branches. The consequence is that each tree is a specimen in itself. Another interesting point is that each tree and shrub is correctly labelled."

Avenue of Elm Trees at Aldenham House.

"The hardy herbaceous borders," concluded Mr. Beckett, "contain the very finest collection of choice hardy plants in any private place in the country. Most of these are planted in groups, which has a very telling effect. Another feature is the rockery, which is not large, but contains a large number of choice Alpines. The Rose garden has been thoroughly renovated and replanted during the past few years—large beds containing one variety of many of the most popular kinds being employed. Pillar Roses and other suitable climbing plants are extensively used, and are much admired during the flowering season."

Alfred Wilcox.

Unless treated with some kind of protective material, the cloths used to cover pits and frames soon decay. The best preparation is made by grinding an ounce of acetate of lead in a little linseed oil. Enough oil to make up three pints is then added, with three ounces of white resin. Stir in an iron pot or kettle over a gentle fire, and apply hot to the cloths with a brush.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PROFESSIONAL GARDENER.

By Edwin Molyneux, V.M.H.

No. 22.—VEGETABLES.

(Continued from Page 373.)

As a rule, boys and young gardeners nowadays do not think it worth their while to pay serious attention to the culture of vegetables. Somehow or other too many think it is beneath their dignity to be seen amongst this section of garden requirements, but when the time comes for such persons to take over a garden charge, they are apt to wish they had not been so foolish and had sought more knowledge in this branch of horticulture. While flowers and fruit may be regarded as luxuries, vegetables are an absolute necessity to the employer's table, and woe be to the gardener who is not able to produce them in a reasonable way. Even when such requests may appear unreasonable, should the gardener have to deal with a cook who is not so considerate as some, and who loves to be exacting, there may be serious trouble.

In my opinion the kitchen garden is the starting place of any boy aspirant to future fame. There he may learn to handle a variety of tools, such as he cannot when his whole time is occupied in that favourite spot "under glass."

Every gardener should be able to show any of his assistants, young or old, how to correctly use any tool, when he sees they are ignorant of the correct method of manipulation.

I would impress, then, strongly upon all youths and young gardeners not to ignore the knowledge that is to be gained, and is an absolute necessity in the future, by learning all about vegetable culture. Fortunately for myself, I started my gardening career in that department, and, as I think, had a thorough grounding in that phase.

In no part of the garden does the value of a systematically-kept diary of daily work performed show itself more thoroughly than in the growth of vegetables, especially when exhibiting is a point to study. The time of sowing

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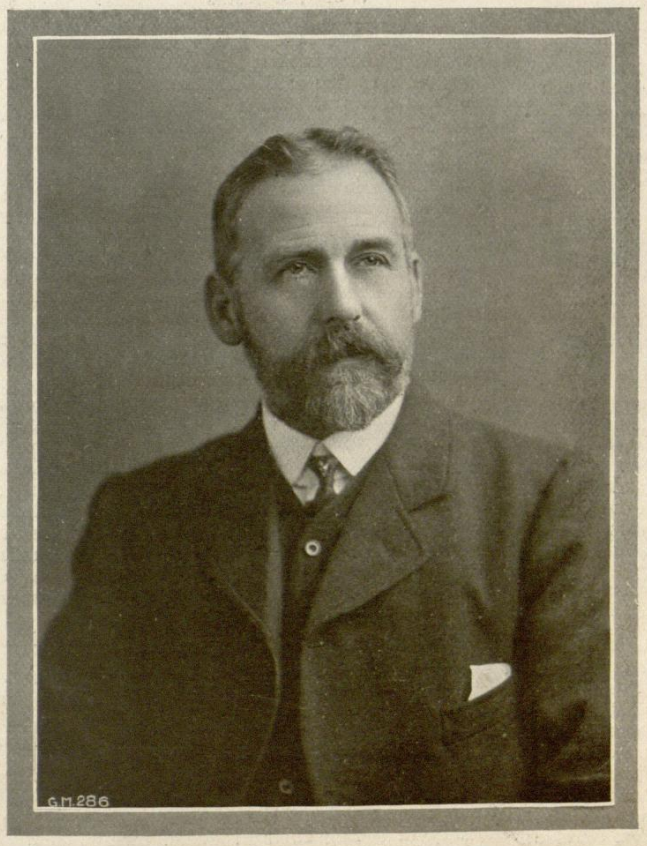
THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

National Rose Society.

The receipt of a parcel of literature from the National Rose Society is of much interest as evidence of the committee fully appreciating the fact that a society which is national in name, and in its aims, should do something more than hold one or more exhibitions annually, and that they have given practical expression to their appreciation by the provision for the members of additional books relating to the rose. We are especially gratified by this evidence because of the proof it gives of a continuance of the wise policy which was initiated a few years since, and has contributed in no small degree to the almost phenomenal extension of membership and to the increase in the influence and usefulness of the society, which now occupies a commanding position among the organisations that are devoted to special classes of flowers. It would have been well had the committees of two or three other of the special societies adopted a policy akin to that which has been so immensely successful in the case of the National Rose Society. Not only is it probable that they would have now been in a more flourishing condition, but they would have accomplished much more in the extension and improvement of the flowers that justify their existence. In directing attention to the value of supplying the members with literature relating to the respective classes of flowers, we must not be understood as suggesting that competitive gatherings should not occupy the most important position in the year's work. All that we are desirous of doing is to suggest the desirability of societies adopting a policy by which all classes of members will be brought into touch with each other, and that those who do not exhibit or are unable to visit the shows should have a useful souvenir of the year's work. Exhibitions, we need hardly point out, provide a healthy stimulus for cultivators in their endeavour to bring the flowers and other objects in which they are interested to the highest state of development, and give them an apportunity of meeting together in friendly rivalry. Not only do competitive gatherings provide an admirable meeting place for the leading cultivators, but they provide abundant entertainment for those who love and grow the flowers simply for the enjoyment of themselves and their friends, and give them an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the novelties within a short period of their being introduced to cultivation. The publications we have received from the National Rose Society are the "Rose Annual" and "The Enemies of the Rose," two works of much value to those interested in roses, although of unequal merit, that fully justify the congratulations which Mr. E. Mawley, V.M.H., received from Mr. C. E. Shea, who presided at the meeting of the General Committee on Tuesday afternoon. The first of the two publications, although a considerable advance upon last year's "Annual," falls somewhat short of what such work should be. The contents are of great practical value, but just a trifle heavy, and we would suggest that an endeavour be made to make the pages of future issues a trifle brighter. It is, of course, easier to make such suggestions than to give practical effect to them, for there are but few rosarians who can write of their flower in language that so well befits it. The weakest part is the mixing up of the advertisements with the literary matter, and we have a strong objection to having to search among the advertisement pages for the portrait of the president of the society. Of the contents and production of "The Enemies of the Rose" we have nothing but praise, and after a close examination of its pages we have no doubt as to the rather heavy cost being fully justified. It is no ephemeral publication requiring frequent revision, but one that will long remain the text book of the fungoid diseases to which the rose is liable, and of the numerous insect pests that prey upon its various parts. The section of the book devoted to diseases caused by fungi has been written by Mr. George Massee, V.M.H., an authority of the highest eminence; and insect pests have been dealt with by Mr. F. V. Theobald, M.A., who has long been recognised as one of the leading authorities on economic entomology. There are eight coloured plates, in which all the principal insect pests and plant diseases are admirably represented.



MR. EDWIN BECKETT, V.M.H.

Mr. Edwin Beckett, V.M.H., of Aldenham House Gardens, Elstree, Herts, is unquestionably one of the most widely-known gardeners in the United Kingdom. Mr. Beckett was born at Henley-on-Thames, and as his father was a gardener and successful exhibitor, our friend was born into the profession. He was apprenticed under Mr. J. Neville, who is still living at Marsh

Mills, and subsequently he went to the famous Greenlands Gardens, at Henley, Mr. W. H. Good being then head gardener there. Extensive alterations were being carried out at Greenlands, and the gardens had a high reputation for specimen hardwooded plants. As foreman under Mr. G. King, then gardener to the late Robt. Few, Esq., Wolsey Grange, Esher, Mr. Beckett had considerable experience of exhibiting, the garden being specially notable in those days for its specimen pelargoniums and other soft-wooded subjects. After four years at Wolsey Grange Mr. Beckett became head gardener and bailiff to the late J. McConnell, Esq., of Moor Place, a prominent position for so young a man. On the death of his employer Mr. Beckett took up similar duties at Sandown House, Esher, the residence of J. P. Currie, Esq., and from both these gardens he exhibited largely and successfully. It was in 1885 that Mr. Beckett obtained his great chance of success, as he was then appointed head gardener to the late Lord Aldenham, at Elstree, a position he has filled to everyone's satisfaction. Under the generous encouragement given him by the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, and the late Lord Aldenham, Mr. Beckett has made the fine gardens and pleasure grounds that are the pride of Hertfordshire. As a grower of high-class vegetables, and as the most successful exhibitor of them, Mr. Beckett has gained much fame, but it must not be forgotten that he has been eminently successful with chrysanthemums, and with stove and greenhouse plants, and with hardy fruits, while his knowledge of choice trees and shrubs is a very wide one, and his taste and skill as a landscape gardener are of the highest class. Mr. Beckett has also found time to improve some kinds of flowers and vegetables; he has raised numerous beautiful new Michaelmas daisies and pentstemons, and he has produced unusually fine varieties of culinary peas, celery, and beet. A few years ago Mr. Beckett produced "Vegetables for Exhibition and Home Consumption"; the text first passed through our pages, to which Mr. Beckett is a valued contributor. In local politics Mr. Beckett takes his part, and he is very proud of having been chairman of the parish council at Elstree during the past four years, and a member of the body since its institution.

The Nickerson Prizes for Roses.—Last year Mr. W. E. Nickerson, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A., presented to the National Rose Society three silver cups, of the value of five guineas each, for the raisers of the best hybrid perpetual, the best hybrid tea, and the best tea for general cultivation sent out in 1900 or subsequently. The cups were awarded by a vote of the committee to the raisers of Frau Karl Druschki, Dean Hole, and Madame Jules Gravereaux respectively. This year Mr. Nickerson offers twelve cups for the same number of roses, four for (A) climbing roses producing their flowers in clusters, four for (B) climbing roses producing their flowers singly, and four for (C) dwarf roses for beds. The relative merits of the varieties were determined by the vote of the committee, and a number of other rosarians, and the result of the ballot was reported at the meeting of the General Committee of the National Rose Society, held on Tuesday. This was as follows: A, Crimson or red. Crimson Rambler, Grus an Teplitz, Hiawatha. Pink shades, Dorothy Perkins, Blush Rambler, Lady Gay. White, Aimée Vibert, Félicité Perpetué, Bennett's Seedling. Yellow shades, Allister Stella Gray, Claire Jacquier, Aglaia. B, Crimson and red, Ards Rover, Reine Olga de Wurtemberg, Longworth Rambler. Pink shades, Climbing Mrs. W. J. Grant, Climbing Caroline Testout. White, Madame A. Carrier, Una, Macrantha. Yellow shades, W. A. Richardson, Gloire de Dijon, and Madame Jules Gravereaux. C, Crimson and red, Hugh Dickson, Ulrich Brunner, Richmond. Pink shades, Caroline Testout, Madame Abel Chatenay, and La France. White, Frau Karl Druschki, White Maman Cochet, and Viscount Folkestone. Yellow shades, Madame Ravary, Marie Van Houtte, and Souv. de Pierre Notting. The first of each triplet is the cup rose, and the names of varieties that were second and third in the ballot were given for the information of the cultivators.

Foreign Fruits were plentiful in British markets during March, and the aggregate value represents a substantial increase upon that of the corresponding month of last year. Apples were imported in much larger quantities, the total having been 357,484 cwt., of the value of £208,401, or an increase in quantity of 79,151 cwt., of the value of £31,828. Apricots and peaches on the other hand show a relatively large decrease, the aggregate imports having been 62 cwts., of the value of £184. Bananas, as in the case of apples, were more plentiful than in the two preceding years, the total having been 530,107 bunches, of the value of £341,984, or an increase in numbers of 140,241 bunches, and in value of £32,612. In the imports of grapes also there was a large increase, the total having been 5,584 cwt. of the value of £24,138, these figures representing an increase in quantity of 3,783 cwt., and in value of £16,952. In the imports of lemons there was an increase, but nuts and oranges were received in considerably reduced quantities. Pear imports show an increase in quantity of 347 cwt., and in value of £410, the total having been 1,834 cwt. of the value of £4,945. Plums, on the other hand, were received in smaller quantities, the total having been 198 cwt., of the value of £429, as compared with 538 cwt. of the value of £2,851 in March, 1907. The value of the strawberry imports is returned at £2, and of unenumerated fruits the imports were 3,828 cwt. of the value of £6,419, these figures representing substantial decreases. The total value of the fruits for March was £866,248, or a gain of £30,287 as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The Gardeners' Company.—In the year 1605 King James I. granted by Letters Patent to the gardeners carrying on their business in the City, or within six miles of its boundaries, incorporation as a Guild, and the bye-laws and ordinances of the company were confirmed in the following year. Notwithstanding these letters patents the members of the company had a difficulty in selling their products, owing to the opposition of unqualified persons. The Recorder (Sir E. Littleton), who subsequently became Lord Chancellor, issued in 1632 a warrant for the apprehension of persons using the trade of gardening in contempt of the company's charter, and this warrant continued in force until 1645, and is regarded as having contributed materially to the usefulness of the Guild. The Master, Wardens, Assistants, and Commonalty of the Gardeners' Company have sent a memorial to the Lord Mayor asking permission to present to the Lord Mayor annually a basket containing flowers, vegetables, and herbs, in remembrance of the Recorder's warrant. The Lord Mayor has assented to the request, and fixed Wednesday, July 1, for the first presentation.

Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society.—At the monthly meeting of this society, held a few days since, the proposal of the War Office to conduct manœuvres on a large scale in the New Forest during the coming summer was considered, and it was decided to co-operate with the verderers, commoners, and others interested in taking such action as might be necessary to secure that due regard should be had to the protection of public interests under the Military Manœuvres Act. It was also decided to urge the President of the Local Government Board to amend Section 7 of the Housing and Town Planning Bill now before Parliament. As drawn the Bill would give local authorities power to alienate open spaces committed to their care for the purpose of providing sites for dwellings for the working classes, and it was resolved to press that common land, or land dedicated to the recreation of the public, should be exempted from the operation of the clause. It was reported that the Board of Agriculture had now issued draft schemes for the regulation under the Commons Act, of Towyn Trewan Common, Anglesey, 1,300 acres in extent, and Maidenhead Thicket and Cookham Commons. Also that the litigation with regard to a large and valuable driftway crossing Marsden Moor, Yorkshire, had terminated in favour of the public, and that up to the present subscriptions and guarantees amounting to £1,552 had been received towards £1,800 needed to secure the purchase of Ludshott Common and a strip of land adjoining Waggoners Wells, near Haslemere.

New Daffodils.—A few remarkable new daffodils were shown by Mrs. Backhouse, of The Court, Sutton, Hereford, at the recent meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, but as they came late, and were placed at the end of a trade group, they received little attention from any but a few experts. A huge finely formed trumpet daffodil, named Harvest, a sort of refined Glory of Leiden; a beautiful white trumpet variety that Mr. Engleheart promptly annexed for a pollen parent; and a flower with an enormous trumpet, named Jumbo, were three of the most startling varieties in a small set of very fine seedlings. It was a pity the flowers were brought so late, as this permitted the display in only an unimportant position.

Mr. Joseph Mallender, who for the long period of forty years was head gardener at Hodsock Priory, Notts, the residence of Lieut.-Colonel Mellish, has recently retired from the position he has so worthily occupied. Throughout the period he had charge of the Hodsock Priory gardens he associated himself with all the movements that had for their object the advancement of horticulture in the district, and thereby gained the respect of all classes. On it becoming known that Mr. Mallender was relinquishing his charge, his many friends decided to present him with some memento of their esteem, and a few evenings since a meeting was held at the Blyth schoolroom for the purpose of giving practical effect to this decision. There was a large gathering, in which the principal gardeners in the district were prominent, and Mr. Mallender was presented with a marble clock, bearing a suitable inscription, an armchair, and a purse of gold. Mr. Elliott, who presided, and other speakers referred in appreciative terms to the splendid services Mr. Mallender had rendered to the district, and testified to the respect in which he is held.

on the nature of the ground. If it is soft and mossy the lawn-mower will sink into it, and plough furrows here and pare off patches there; but if it is fairly firm the cutting can be done quite easily. And it will benefit rather than injure the grass. A brown line may show on some of the blades where the cut has been made, but that will be of no consequence. The turf will be all the firmer and closer for being kept short. H. C. DAVIDSON.

People You Hear About.

MR. EDWIN BECKETT, V.M.H.

In the art of growing superb examples of vegetables—an art which at the present time is of great importance to the nation—Mr. Edwin Beckett is a pastmaster. His successes in this branch of horticulture are numerous, and have extended over a long period, for as far back as 1883 he won three first prizes for collections of vegetables at the Royal Horticulturral Society's shows—then held at South Kensington—in very keen competition and against the best growers of the day. But before then Mr. Beckett had won his spurs as an exhibitor, mainly with Japanese Chrysanthemums and trained specimen plants. Since that date his name has been prominently before the public as a leading prize-winner, for he has exhibited in all parts of the United Kingdom, and his list of trophies is a lengthy one. Gold medals alone number between fifty and sixty (including the coveted Hogg memorial medal), and he has been awarded the Grand Prix, with cups and silver-gilt and silver medals innumerable. At the bi-centenary exhibition of the Sweet Pea, held at the Crystal Palace, beside winning several firsts, he was awarded the valuable cup for the best exhibit in the show.

MR. EDWIN BECKETT.

Mr. Beckett commenced his gardening career at a very early age—indeed, he may be said to have been born in it, for his father was gardener at Remenham Lodge, near Henley-on-Thames, where, in 1853, he first saw the light, and where he received his first lessons in the craft. From this place he went to Marsh Mills, under the late Mr. John Neville, a skilful gardener and a remarkably successful exhibitor at local shows. After spending some three years here he migrated to Greenlands, Oxfordshire, then under the charge of Mr. W. H. Good, one of the best-known gardeners of that time, and one to whom Mr. Beckett ascribes much of his after success. While he was here extensive alterations were carried out, the estate being acquired by the late Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith. At Greenlands there was one of the finest collections of hardwooded stove and greenhouse plants, including Azaleas, in the country.

Mr. Beckett was but a youth of seventeen when he went to Woodsey Grange, Esher, to fill the responsible post of foreman under Mr. G. King. The proprietor, Mr. Robert Few, was an enthusiastic horticulturist, and exhibited on a large scale, specimen Pelargoniums of all sorts being especially favoured by him.

Four years later Mr. Beckett was engaged as head gardener and bailiff to Mr. J. McConnell, of Moor Place, Esher, and it was at this time that he began to pile up the wonderful list of successes that stand to his credit. On the death of Mr. McConnell, he was engaged by Mr. J. P. Currie, of Sandown House, Esher, with whom he remained for nearly four years. It was while he was here that he gained the three prizes for vegetables, already mentioned.

Early in 1884 Mr. Beckett was engaged by the late Lord Aldenham, of Aldenham House, Elstree, Herts, and as head gardener he has remained here for close on thirty-three years. When Lord Aldenham died, his son, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs—one of the keenest amateurs of the day—carried out, with Mr. Beckett, very extensive alterations in the planning of the gardens and grounds, and they have formed perhaps the finest collection of trees and shrubs in the world—certainly the best in a private garden. Here are to be seen choice specimens from every clime.

Mr. Beckett has raised many new vegetables and plants. To him we are indebted for those two fine Peas, Quite Content and Edwin Beckett, for Aldenham Pink and Aldenham White Celery, Victory and Ideal Cucumbers, Golden Perfection Tomato, and many others. Of plants, Pentstemons, Polyanthus, Streptocarpus, and Michaelmas Daisies are amongst those he has worked on, and as recently as October 10th he showed seven new varieties of Michaelmas Daisies at the Royal Horticultural Hall, one of them obtaining an Award of Merit.

As a judge at exhibitions, Mr. Beckett's services are in great request. He is a frequent contributor to the gardening Press, and is author of the standard work on vegetable culture, "Vegetables for Home and Exhibition," of which two editions have already been published. Another of his works is "The Book of the Strawberry." His name is also connected with two or three gardening inventions, and of his Chrysanthemum cup and tube many thousands have been sold.

In 1906 he was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour. He has been a member of the Fruit and Vegetable Committee of the R.H.S. for many years, and in 1912 was one of the directors of the International Horticultural Exhibition, besides being a large and successful exhibitor.

Local affairs are not neglected, for Mr. Beckett has been a member of the Aldenham Parish Council (which includes Radlett and part of Elstree) since its inception, and has held the post of chairman continuously since 1904, together with other offices in the district.

POLLINATION OF APPLES.

Your correspondent, "J. K. (Northumberland)," will find much to interest him on the subject of pollination of Apples, etc., together with a list of fruits supposed to be self-fertile or the reverse, in a paper by C. H. Hooper, published in Vol. 39 of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, p. 238. The subject is not yet fully understood, but so far as my own experience goes, it makes little difference to the fruiting whether an Apple is self-fertile or self-sterile, provided a sufficient number of varieties are grown to give the self-sterile trees a chance. The spring in this district was much the same as that described by your correspondent. I find that of nine trees supposed to be self-fertile, six fruited well and three were failures; and that of fifteen trees supposed to be self-sterile nine fruited well and six were failures. The difference is not important. The failures are in some cases relative only, and they include varieties that fruit well only every other year. Really, the only trees that disappointed me were Lord Suffield, Sandringham, and Warner's King. On the other hand, Wellington and Worcester Pearmain have done better than usual.—H. F. B. (Chester).

[We are much obliged to you for calling our attention to the article on the subject of self-fertile and self-sterile varieties of fruit by Mr. C. H. Hooper. That gentleman has now gone much further into the subject, and other people are also at work; but it will doubtless take some years yet to settle the whole question, because the number of varieties to be dealt with is so very great. "J. K. (Northumberland)" wished for a list or catalogue that would show all the self-fertile and self-sterile varieties, and those that would set the fruits of the latter. That book has yet to be written, when the experiments have gone far enough to warrant correct conclusions about the bulk of the varieties in cultivation. We agree with you that it would not help very much in securing a crop of fruit to plant only self-fertile varieties. The self-sterile varieties usually fruit quite well when a number of them are grown together.—Ed.]

Garden Life "At Home."

SEVERAL correspondents have written to me with respect to my remarks on the less-known vegetables, and they all make the same point—We do not try them because we know nothing about them, and never see them. It is true they do not come to market in large quantities, but now and again they are offered for sale in the shops. But why should we not grow them for ourselves? I am passing on the letters to our Editor, and hope he will see his way to giving us the necessary cultural information in due course.

And now I am giving a recipe for making a hot salad, which should prove very acceptable in cold weather. The ingredients are very few, and its preparation is simple.

HOT SAVOY SALAD.

Take the heart of a Savoy, wash carefully, and slice it up very finely; then place it in a covered pan with a little butter or good margarine, and a little chili vinegar. Toss this carefully until it is well heated through, but not enough to blunt its crispness. Then place it in a bowl, pour the liquid over it, and add a dressing of sugar, grated lemon peel, and vinegar.

BROCCOLI AS AN ENTREE.

A large white head of Broccoli (or Cauliflower when it is obtainable) may be made into an excellent entree. Trim off the green leaves, and cut the stalk flat at the bottom, wash it well, and then boil whole. When done, lift it carefully from the saucepan, drain it, and place it upright in an entree dish or round vegetable dish, using great care that it does not break. Have ready about three-quarters of a pint of melted butter, and into this grate a piece of cheese—size according to taste; let this boil, then pour it over the Broccoli, and serve it hot. If cheese is not liked, half a pint of skinned shrimps might be used instead.

A TABLE DECORATION.

For a handsome table centre, golden and bronze Chrysanthemums are very effective when set in a large gilded or silver basket, and if the blossoms are really fine, and there is plenty of graceful foliage with them, this centre could very well be the only ornament on the table, all that is then necessary being to arrange on the cloth some sprays of small flowers, with Smilax and Ferns.

If the basket has a handle, wreathe this with Smilax. The basket should be lined with zinc; if it is not, stand in it a bowl or jar filled with damp sand and moss, into which the flower stalks can be firmly inserted. In the Decorative varieties, December Gold and Nagoya are excellent yellows; Freda Bedford is bronzy orange; Niveus is white; A. J. Balfour is pink; and N. C. S. Jubilee deep mauve. These are all December-flowering sorts. Add tall sprays of Asparagus Sprengeri, and some brightly coloured leaves of a foliage plant, if these can be got. Around the edge of the basket set small clusters of Violets, mixing deep purple with paler colours. If it is decided to carry the decoration to the corners and sides of the table, then have long trails of Smilax leading from the centre, arranging among them, at intervals, loose sprays of Violets, with their own foliage.

LADYBIRD.

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FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

I.—Interview with Mr. Edwin Beckett, V.M.H., of Aldenham House Gardens, Elstree.

THE gardens of Aldenham House, Elstree, Herts, are among the most famous in England. The late Lord Aldenham took a keen interest in horticulture, and gave every support to his able head gardener, Mr. Edwin Beckett, V.M.H., under whose care the grounds have been for the past thirty-three years, and to whom was entrusted the task of designing and laying them out, with the co-operation of the Hon. Vicary Gibbs. When, on the death of the late Lord Aldenham, the house and grounds were taken over by his second son, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, Mr. Beckett was fortunate in finding in his new employer an even more enthusiastic horticulturist, whose main delight it is to add to and improve the beauties of the place.

Extending to over two hundred acres, these gardens embrace every attraction that can be named, and, did space permit, one could descant at considerable length on their charms. Woodland and park, water garden and lake, rolling lawn and trim parterre, rockeries and bog garden, herbaceous borders and flower beds, orchard and kitchen garden—of each much might be written. But perhaps the most noteworthy feature is the wonderful collection of trees and shrubs. Here are gathered specimens of the choicest and rarest from all quarters of the globe, and in no other private garden in England—perhaps not in the world—is it possible to find so large and varied an assortment.

To maintain these gardens at their high level of excellence demands the services of a large and skilled staff in peace times; and to see how they fared under present conditions I made a visit on the last day of May.

FOOD PRODUCTION BEFORE EVERYTHING.

"Food production is our chief aim now," Mr. Beckett explained, as we drove from the station; "and everything else is subservient to it. Both the Hon. Vicary Gibbs and his brother, Lord Aldenham, are insistent upon that, and are doing all they can to promote it. This winter we have ploughed up a large area of park land—about thirty acres—which has been put down to Potatoes. We finished planting this only a fortnight ago, and in addition, as you will see, we are growing vegetables in spaces which formerly we used for more ornamental subjects."

"The Potatoes are, of course, grown for market?" I suggested.

"Certainly," was the reply; "we are trying to do what we can to help to increase the food stock of the country."

"And how do you stand for labour?"

"The lack of skilled labour is a serious drawback here. We have lost fifty of our best hands, and cannot replace them under existing conditions. Our present staff consists almost entirely of men and boys under and over military age or medically unfit, with the exception of only one man exempted."

"Do you employ any women gardeners?"

"We have about a dozen ladies, but their previous gardening experience is practically nil. They are, however, very useful among the fruit and vegetables."

"That means that much of the work will be left undone?"

"All we can hope to do is to keep the most important things going, and the rest must be left more or less to take their chance. At present, as I have said, all our efforts are concentrated on vegetables and fruit. But here we are at the gardens, and you can see for yourself something of what we are doing."

UTILITY FIRST.

Mr. Beckett then conducted me along some of the famous walks, where, in former years, large quantities of flowers of all sorts were grown. But now their places are taken by vegetables, such as Potatoes, Cauliflowers, and other members of the Cabbage tribe, Beet, etc. So, too, with the fruit borders: sites previously a mass of bloom from now on are occupied with the less ornamental but more useful vegetable and salad plants.

Before proceeding to the vegetable quarters proper, we went through some of the houses, many of which are already cleared, and given over to Tomatoes, Melons, Cucumbers, Marrows, French Beans, etc. Asking Mr. Beckett about the celebrated collection of scented-leaved Geraniums, he replied:

"We are trying to keep them, because they are unique. The Streptocarpus in the next house is another thing we are anxious not to lose, for the strain is one of my own raising, and cannot be surpassed by any other in the country."

"You have a promising lot of Tomatoes here," I remarked as we entered another house.

"They are Golden Perfection, a variety of my own raising," was the reply. "When they are over we shall follow them with another crop, and clear these off in time for another lot of Tomatoes for winter."

Every house we visited bore similar evidence of the intention to subordinate beauty to utility, and the same thing was even observable when we came to the lawns surrounding the house.

"I do not think it is worth while to fill the beds in front of the house with vegetables, as we have so much good space elsewhere, so I am going to plant a number of Fuchsias, Pentstemons, and Plumbagoes, as we have plenty of them; but except for the bit of grass under the windows, there will be no mowing done this season," said Mr. Beckett.

HAY FROM THE LAWNS.

"How many acres do you usually mow?" I asked.

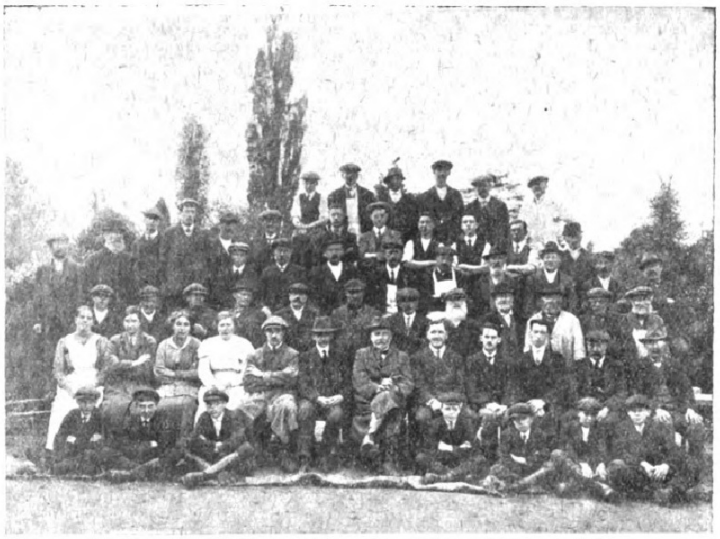
"From forty to fifty," was the answer. "This is the first time in my thirty-three years' experience of the place that the grass has been as high as it is now, but we should secure a large quantity of hay, which will undoubtedly be required. By letting mowing go we shall save considerable labour and machinery."

"And what will be the ultimate effect on the grass itself?" I asked.

"It should do it good," said Mr. Beckett. "After the hay has been cut we shall mow and roll the lawns in autumn, and they will then suffer no harm."

"Will you do anything in the way of spring bedding for next year?"

"It will take up too much time preparing for it. We should, of course, be starting now; but we cannot spare the labour, so we shall be without spring bedding."



THE GARDEN STAFF AT ALDENHAM HOUSE.

Entering the old kitchen garden, Mr. Beckett pointed to a number of rows of Peas, which were carrying many pods, well-filled, and remarked:

"There is a good hint that every amateur could easily adopt. You see that these Peas are sown in boxes, and are not turned out, but the boxes are sunk bodily into the ground. They were sown last November, and will be ready to pick by the first week in June. The boxes can be stood in a frame or a greenhouse, or even in a spare room."

"But how do they attain such dimensions, with clean and splendid haulm, in boxes?" I inquired.

"The boxes have large holes in the bottom, and the roots find their way through them into the soil."

"What varieties are they?"

"There are three, and, as you will observe, they are all marrowfats. They are Edwin Beckett, Duke of Albany, and Quite Content, and they come into bearing in the order in which I have given them to you."

"Do you find Quite Content a satisfactory Pea?"

"It was, as you are probably aware, raised

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in these gardens, and you can see for yourself what it is like. It requires to be well grown, and then is a most productive Pea and a continuous cropper. You will notice that the pods are in pairs, and each carries from ten to twelve good Peas."

"Are these three varieties the only ones you grow?" I next inquired.

"We grow also Autocrat for late crops, and one or two others in smaller quantities," was the answer.

GOOD POTATOES.

A good breadth of early Potatoes was next visited, and I asked Mr. Beckett what he considered the best varieties.

"May Queen and Midlothian Early are the two we find do best," he answered.

"And what do you recommend for maincrops?"

"We are growing Great Scot, King Edward, The Factor, and Iron Duke," was the reply. "Iron Duke is a new variety, which promises well. It appears to be an excellent doer, and is a strong grower. We are also growing these varieties for market, on the park land I pointed out to you."

"Did you sprout them?" I asked.

"Some were sprouted," was the answer, "but we could not get them all done. It is without doubt the best system."

"Do you limit the number of sprouts when planting?"

"We allow two sprouts to each, as far as possible. The maincrops are planted fifteen to eighteen inches apart, and nearly three feet between the rows. This distance permits air to play round the plants, and helps to prevent disease. We constantly stir and loosen the soil."

A GREAT HOTBED OF LEAVES.

Turning a corner, we next came to a huge hotbed, some fifty yards wide and long, on which were a number of frames, filled with crops in various stages of development.

"This hotbed," said Mr. Beckett, "is made up of leaves, with just a covering of straw to protect it. Only half is renewed each year, the leaf-mould taken away being used in different parts of the garden, as wanted. The leaves give sufficient warmth to enable us to raise early crops, such as Marrows, Beet, Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Celery, Turnips, Carrots, and Asparagus. Some things we are able to force, others we bring on early, and plant out when the weather is favourable, following them with other crops. The bed retains its heat for about three-quarters of the year. Any amateur can forward his crops in a similar manner—of of course, on a scale suitable to the means at his disposal. Here we waste nothing, and as the soil is a heavy clay, we use the spent leaves for top-dressing and improving it."

Close to this great hotbed is a long row of frames, also built up on leaves, with a few inches of old potting soil on top. In one I noticed a fine crop of Carrot Champion Horn, ready for pulling. This, I was informed, was sown on January 4th. Other frames were full of vegetables of different kinds, ready to go out.

HOW LEEKS ARE GROWN.

Further on we came to the old kitchen garden, where—as becomes a past-master in the art of vegetable-growing, as Mr. Beckett admittedly is—everything was in perfect condition. I noticed several rows of Leeks, planted on the level, with strawboard cylinders round them.

"This is how we grow our best Leeks," remarked Mr. Beckett; "or if we do not use the cylinders we tie brown paper round them. The soil is then kept out of them when we earth them up, and as the necks lengthen we raise the collars. Between every two rows of Leeks we have a row of Lettuces."

"You do not seem to waste any space," I said.

"No," was the reply. "Although we are devoting three or four times as much ground to vegetables, compared with what we have done before, we still aim to produce as much food of the highest quality as the land will yield. Here you see Runner Beans in double rows, with Spinach and Celery between; in this bed we have Celeriac growing between Shallots—the latter shortly to be lifted; Lettuce is planted between rows of Celery."

A NEW ONION.

"What is that very flourishing bed of Onions?" I inquired.

"That is my new variety, named Autumn Triumph. As you say, the bulbs are of fine size. They get to be quite as large as Giant Rocca. It is one of the best things ever brought out. Seed is sown in September, and the Onions are ready for use the following May to July. They should be harvested by the next September, and will keep well for eight or nine months longer—or say until the ensuing April or May. The quality is first-class. Giant Rocca is a good Onion, but it does not keep well."

"Autumn Triumph should certainly prove an acquisition. Is it in commerce?"

"No; I have not yet placed it on the market, but hope to do this in a year or so."

"You have mentioned Celeriac; do you grow any other of the less common vegetables?"

"Practically we grow some of everything. One vegetable which I would commend to those who do not know it is Kohl Rabi. It does better than Turnips on hot soils, and if cut when about the size of small Turnips makes a most excellent dish."

At this point Mr. Beckett was called away, and therefore introduced me to his chief assistant, Mr. Pritchard, who very kindly offered to give me any information regarding the varieties grown.

"As a commencement," I replied, "will you tell me what varieties of Cabbage you find most serviceable and productive?"

PRODUCTIVE VARIETIES.

"For sowing in July and August we use Harbinger, Flower of Spring, and Ellam's Early Dwarf. The seed is sown in the open, and pricked off direct into the rows. For autumn sowing we prefer Harbinger. Then, to follow these, we sow in spring Earliest of All, Tender and True, and Favourite. These are three very productive varieties, which are ready for cutting at the end of July."

"And Cauliflowers?"

"In September we sow Walcheren and Magnum Bonum, which are pricked into frames for the winter. For spring sowing we have, first, Early Giant, then Snowden, and lastly Autumn Giant."

"How about Beans?"

"Of Broad Beans we have Leviathan; for maincrop Runners, Prizewinner and Best of All; and French Beans Canadian Wonder and Golden Waxpod."

"Besides Autumn Triumph, what other Onions do you grow?"

"Ailsa Craig, James' Keeping, and Veitch's Maincrop."

"Celery is another subject for which these gardens are famous?"

"We have two varieties that were raised here—Aldenham Pink and Aldenham White, and in addition we grow Standard Bearer, a red variety. The only Leeks are International and the Lyon."

WINTER GREENS.

"What are your winter greens, in order of gathering?"

"We commence with Brussels Sprouts Dwarf Gem; then comes Borecole or Scotch Kale; Victoria Kale, which is followed by Savoys of sorts and Purple-sprouting Broccoli; next by Cottager's Kale, and lastly Labrador Kale. These give us a long season of winter greens."

"And Beet, of which I noticed you had a quantity in front of the fruit trees?"

"There are four varieties—Sutton's Globe, Sutton's Black, Blood Red, and Cheltenham Green Top, which some people do not care for owing to the colour of the leaves, although the flesh is a good colour, and of first-rate quality."

"Potatoes and Peas I have already noted. What of Turnips and Carrots?"

"For earliest Turnips we sow Sutton's Early Forcing in frames, in February and March; this is followed by Early Milan, sown on a warm border out of doors; and then later by Early Snowball. Of Carrots we grow Champion Scarlet Horn and Favourite—two short varieties useful for early work; and New Red Intermediate for maincrop."

"There remain Tomatoes and Vegetable Marrows?"

"The three we like best are Golden Perfection, which is grown under glass, and Sutton's Winter Beauty and Carter's Sunrise. We are also trying Bide's Recruit and Kondine Red, and both seem very promising. Moore's Cream is a good all-round Vegetable Marrow, useful for early and late work. This we grow in frames, fertilising by hand. Prince Albert is good for outside, and so is Long White. Our favourite Cucumber is Ideal."

At this point Mr. Beckett returned, and offered to conduct me further round the gardens; but knowing that he is extremely busy in these days, and having, moreover, seen how enthusiastically the call for increased food production is being responded to in Aldenham House gardens, I felt that I could no longer trespass on his time, and so brought my visit to a conclusion.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

(Next week, the gardens at Woburn Place, Addlestone, will be described.)

THE SUMMER SNOWFLAKE.

Although Leucojum æstivum is called the Summer Snowflake, it actually blooms during May. It is a bulbous plant, extremely hardy, and, while fairly well known, deserves to be more widely cultivated. The flowers are white, spotted with green, and hang on the plant like pretty, drooping bells. It rises to a height of about eighteen inches.

This Summer Snowflake is useful in many ways for the decoration of the garden. The leaves die down in summer, so that it may be planted in the herbaceous borders, between subjects that come on later, and thus make the flowering season a longer one. Another good method of employing it is to sow annuals round it, so that they will come on as the Snowflake dies down. It may also be planted at the foot of the rockery, where it will get plenty of moisture in summer.

The soil for this plant should be light and sandy, but by no means dry, for it loves moisture about its roots, and without this will not make good growth and flower freely.

AN UNCOMMON POPPY.

Shirley Poppies, Oriental Poppies, and Iceland Poppies are found in most gardens, but we do not often see Papaver pilosum, although it is as hardy and as easily grown as any of the Poppy family. It is a truly lovely thing, with its apricot coloured flowers of a silky texture, becoming almost white in the centre. The height is about two feet, and each stem bears many flowers, varying in size, but all fairly large. The foliage is covered with a woolly down, and is greyish-green in colour, thus making a handsome foil to the flowers.

P. pilosum is a hardy perennial, and may be raised from seed sown in the usual manner. If sown sufficiently early in the year, under glass, plants will bloom the same season, but they are certainly better the second year.

The flowers have the merit of lasting longer than those of the other Poppies. It is a good plan with all Poppies, before placing them in water, to cut off a small piece of the end of the stem, as the milky juice which exudes dries hard quickly, and prevents the stem from taking up moisture.

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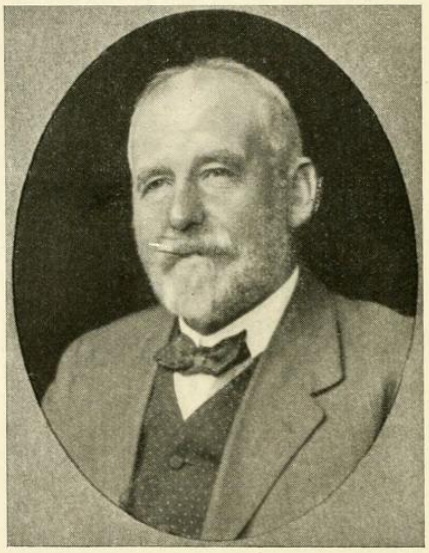
Potatos, and refrain from moving or disposing of them until he has obtained permission from the Ministry. The declaration required is:—(*a*) In the case of seed Potatos of varieties approved as immune from Wart Disease, certified whilst growing by the Scottish Board or by the Irish Department of Agriculture, a declaration by the consignor correctly stating the serial number of the relative certificate of purity. (*b*) In the case of all other seed Potatos, a declaration by the consignor correctly stating the reference number of the certificate issued not more than nine months previously by the Scottish Board or by the Irish Department of Agriculture, certifying, in the case of Scotland, that Wart Disease has not occurred on, nor within one mile of, the land on which the Potatos were grown, or, in the case of Ireland, that Wart Disease has not occurred in the locality in which the Potatos were grown. Copies of the Orders in question, the Wart Disease of Potatos (Imported Scottish Seed Potatos) Order of 1920 and the Wart Disease of Potatos (Imported Irish Seed Potatos) Order of 1921, may be obtained on application to His Majesty's Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C., or from any bookseller, price 1d. net each.

Centenarian Gardener.—Mr. Peter Watson, who for over forty years served as gardener at Dell Lodge, Nethybridge, Inverness-shire, celebrated his one hundred and third birthday on Wednesday, August 24, in the quaint, old-world village of Kincardine-O'Neil, Aberdeenshire. His wife is in her hundredth year, having reached her ninety-ninth birthday last April. These worthy persons' record of married life is one to which few couples can hope to attain, they having celebrated the seventieth anniversary of their wedding on June 12 last. A native of Carrbridge, Inverness-shire, Mr. Watson retired from his post of gardener at Dell Lodge about twenty years ago, when he was well over eighty years of age. Some nine or ten years ago the old couple removed to Kincardine-O'Neil, where their comforts are attended to by a married daughter—Mrs. Anderson. Mr. Watson has been the recipient of many congratulations from far and near. Mrs. Watson's hundredth birthday falls in April next.

Agricultural Wages. — The Agricultural Wages Board at a meeting held on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., decided after considering the objections which had been received to their proposals to reduce the minimum rates of wages for all classes of agricultural workers, together with reports from the District Wages Committee thereon, to make orders bringing the proposed revisions in the rates into operation as from Monday, the 5th September. The effect of the new orders is to reduce the minimum rates of wages for ordinary adult male workers by 6s. per week, provided that such minimum rates shall not in any area be less than 42s. per week, and in the case of female workers aged 18 and over to reduce the hourly minimum rate to 7d. per hour, except in Yorkshire, where it will be 8d. The orders provide for proportionate reductions in the minimum rates for special classes of workers, and for boys and girls, and in the overtime rates.

Iris Conference in Paris, 1922.—The first seedling garden Irises having been raised in France, by M. de Bures, about 1822, the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France, to mark the centenary, is organising an Iris Conference to be held at 84, rue de Grenelle, Paris, in the spring of 1922. The chief object of the Conference will be the study of the botanical and horticultural status of all the species and varieties, and especially the correct naming of the garden varieties of German Irises, I. pumila, Apogon, Xyphium, etc. Meetings will be held on various dates from April to the end of June. A general meeting will take place at the time of the spring show of the Society to discuss matters concerning the Conference. Foreign Iris specialists are invited to give to the Conference the help of their experience, and to send flowers, plants, notes, etc., on Irises.

Mr. Edwin Beckett, V.M.H.—Mr. E. Beckett is recognised as one of the most successful gardeners in Great Britain, and his successes at exhibitions have probably never been excelled by any other grower. He was born at Remenham Lodge, near Henley-on-Thames, where his father was gardener, and it was there he gained his first experience in the profession. After leaving home, he served for three years in the gardens at Marsh Mills, under the late Mr. J. Neville, who won many prizes at local exhibitions. His next move was to Greenlands, Oxfordshire, which, at that time, had one of the finest collections of hard-wooded stove and greenhouse plants in the country. Mr. Beckett was at Greenlands when the estate was purchased by the Rt. Hon. W. H. Smith, who carried out extensive alterations in the gardens and pleasure grounds, thus affording the young gardener an opportunity of acquiring valuable knowledge. In 1870, Mr. Beckett proceeded to Woodsey Grange, Esher, as foreman under Mr. G. King, whose employer, Mr. Robert Few, exhibited on a large scale, being especially fond of specimen Pelargoniums of all sorts. Mr. Beckett was then barely



MR. EDWIN BECKETT, V.M.H.

seventeen years of age. Only four years elapsed before he was appointed gardener and bailiff to Mr. J. McConnell at Moor Place, Esher, and whilst there he commenced exhibiting, winning prizes for Japanese Chrysanthemums and trained plants. On the death of Mr. McConnell, he was appointed gardener to Mr. J. P. Currie at Sandown House, Esher, and remained there for nearly four years, during which period he gained his first important successes in showing vegetables, being awarded, in 1883, at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows at South Kensington, three first prizes in keen competition with some of the best growers of the day. He also won the important prize offered by the Duke of Albany at Kingston, for a group of plants arranged for effect, a class in which leading growers of the day keenly competed. Early in 1884, Mr. Beckett was appointed gardener to Lord Aldenham, of Aldenham House, Elstree, Hertfordshire, and on the death of Lord Aldenham he continued in the office under his son, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, who is one of the keenest amateur gardeners in this country. Mr. Gibbs, with the assistance of Mr. Beckett, has carried out extensive alterations in the gardens and grounds at Aldenham, which contain probably the finest collection of trees and shrubs in the world, and certainly the finest private collection. Mr. Beckett has gained successes at exhibitions for practically the whole of the subjects grown in gardens. He has won more than sixty gold medals at the principal exhibitions in the British Isles, and innumerable other trophies. He was awarded the Grand Prix at the International Exhibition in 1912, whilst at the Sweet Pea Bi-Centenary exhibition, besides winning several first prizes, he gained the valuable cup offered for the best exhibit in the show. He has been awarded the R.H.S. Gold Hogg Memorial Medal, and twice has received the silver Lindley Medal for exceptional merit in vegetable culture, these being on occasions when he has also been awarded the Society's gold medal for large groups of vegetables. For many years Mr. Beckett has been a member of the Fruit and Vegetable Committee of the R.H.S., and was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour in 1906, whilst he also acted as a director of the International Horticultural exhibition in 1912. Mr. Beckett is the author of several gardening works, including *Vegetables for Home and Exhibition*, still one of the foremost and most practical volumes on the subject, *The Book of the Strawberry*, and *Roses and How to Grow Them*, whilst he is also the inventor of two or three gardening articles of note, the principal one being the cup and tube used for Chrysanthemum exhibiting, many thousands of which have been sold, whilst his patent tree-tie is also well known. Besides all this he has raised many new vegetables and plants, including Michaelmas Daisies, Streptocarpus, Pentstemons and Polyanthus. Only last autumn he gained two Awards of Merit for new varieties of Michaelmas Daisies; well over thirty Awards of Merit have been given to different varieties of Asters raised by him. His activity has been equally as great amongst vegetables, and he is the raiser of such well-known standard vegetables as Peas Quite Content and Edwin Beckett, Celeries Aldenham Pink and Aldenham White; Cucumbers Victory and Ideal; Tomato Golden Perfection, and many others. He has judged at most of the important exhibitions in Great Britain. Mr. Beckett takes an active part in local affairs; he was a member of the Aldenham Parish Council from its inception until 1919, and acted as chairman from 1904 until his retirement two years ago. He has held many other offices in the district, including that of churchwarden and school manager.

Appointments for the Ensuing Week.—Monday, September 12.—Bath Gardeners' Debating Society's meeting; United Horticultural Benefit and Provident Society's committee meeting. Wednesday, September 14.—Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's show (2 days); East Anglian Horticultural Society's meeting, lecture by Mr. H. Goude on "Bush Fruits."

"Gardener's Chronicle" Seventy-Five Years Ago.—*Effect of Slacked Lime on Potatos.*—Enquiry having been made as to the result of the experiments made at Chatsworth with slacked lime in staying the Potato disease, Mr. Paxton has been kind enough to favour us with the following reply:—Dipping in hot slacked lime completely stops the disease. I planted the diseased tubers with the coating of lime upon them in the usual way, and they have produced as fine a crop as the sound seed near which they were grown; they showed no signs whatever of disease until it became universal, when they were affected like the rest. That hot slacked lime at once stops the disease in the tubers is certain, and also that these diseased tubers will produce a good crop; but their produce is alike under the influence of the mysterious causes of the disease. I intend performing the same operation as before, with my sets this year, hoping a season may come when we shall have no occasion for such practices, but really the aspect of affairs at present is not very flattering to its consummation. *Joseph Paxton, Chatsworth, September* 9. *Gard. Chron., September* 12, 1846.

Publications Received.—*Violas and Pansies.* By Howard H. Crane, "Country Life," Ltd., 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. Price 9d. net. *Income Tax and Super-tax.* A tabular review. Oliver and Boyd. Price 1s. net.

BECK Lottie Sabina of Waterways Sandridge-road St. Albans **Hertfordshire** (wife of Septimus Francis Beck) died 25 February 1935 Probate **London** 23 March to the said Septimus Francis Beck land agent. Effects £742 7s. 9d.

BECK Louisa of Italy Cottage Crockleford Heath **Essex** (wife of George Beck) died 24 April 1935 at Meadows Kirby Cross Essex Probate **Ipswich** 11 June to Marion Ellen Corringham (wife of Samuel George Alexander Corringham). Effects £407 12s. 8d.

BECK or **KIDD** Marion Johnston of 15 Buckingham-terrace **Edinburgh** widow died 8 November 1934 Confirmation of Margaret Beck Kidd and Marion Johnston Beck Kidd spinsters. Sealed **London** 8 January.

BECK Martha of 23 Lime-street Colne **Lancashire** spinster died 29 January 1935 Probate **Lancaster** 15 March to John Forrest chain beamer and Hugh Beck picture framer. Effects £497 18s.

BECK Martin Harold of 35 Westbourne-grove **Scarborough** died 7 June 1935 at Stamford House Nursing Home Westwood Scarborough Probate **York** 26 July to Doris Mary Beck spinster. Effects £194 17s. 3d.

BECK Mary Jane of Maiden Bradley **Wiltshire** (wife of George Allen Beck) died 5 May 1935 Administration (with Will) **London** 26 August to Leonard Sidney Douglas Westbury insurance official. Effects £402 0s. 1d.

BECK Rose Hannah of 19 Whites-row Kenilworth **Warwickshire** spinster died 31 January 1935 at 93 Holly-walk Leamington spa Administration **Birmingham** 21 March to Ada Matilda Atkins (wife of Arthur Atkins). Effects £127 0s. 10d.

BECK Sarah Ann of 1 Castle-street Calne **Wiltshire** widow died 24 December 1934 Probate **Winchester** 5 February to John Henry Collinson and George Wright retired brewery officials. Effects £174 2s. 8d.

BECK Thomas Edward of Briar House Clifford-street Appleby **Westmorland** died 15 January 1935 Administration **Carlisle** 13 March to Mary Beck widow and Dorothy Alice Slack (wife of Tom Slack). Effects £4383 18s. 3d.

BECK William of Wythop View Embleton **Cumberland** died 27 March 1935 Probate **Carlisle** 3 May to Jane Beck spinster. Effects £1384 12s.

BECK William of 38 Bearwood Hill-road **Burton-on-Trent** died 11 December 1921 Administration **London** 12 July to Marion Rogers (wife of Sydney Charles Rogers). Effects £475. Former Grant P.R. 8 October 1925.

BECK William of 89 Willowfield-road **Eastbourne** died 8 June 1935 at 123 Church-street Eastbourne Probate **Lewes** 1 August to Fanny Beck widow. Effects £202 13s. 5d.

BECK William Aaron of 33 Tokio-road Copnor **Portsmouth** died 17 December 1934 at St. Marys Hospital Portsmouth Probate **London** 8 January to Annie Maria Beck spinster. Effects £403.

BECKENSALL Ernest Alfred of Tor House Westcliff-road **Ramsgate** died 6 March 1935 Probate **London** 14 May to Harold Baden Beckensall builder and Cecil Stanley Beckensall builders foreman. Effects £2614 6s. 8d. Resworn £2349 7s. 6d.

BECKER Agnes Emily of 53 Lewisham Hill Lewisham **Kent** spinster died 15 June 1935 at Kent Lodge Nursing Home Westgate-on-Sea Kent Probate **London** 24 July to Schroder Executor and Trustee Company Limited. Effects £14225 11s. 1d.

BECKER Blanche of 2 Peplar-road Peckham **Surrey** widow died 18 December 1934 at Forest Gate Hospital Forest-lane Forest Gate Essex Administration **London** 28 February to Albert James Dunning commercial clerk. Effects £5.

BECKER Edith Frederica Isabel of Eastcote Park View-road Ealing **Middlesex** spinster died 14 August 1935 at 4 Park View-road Ealing Administration (with Will) **London** 4 November to Clara Georgina Susanna Becker and Lily Caroline Margarita Becker spinsters. Effects £12495 18s.

BECKER Martin Sylvester of 112 Cheetham Hill-road **Manchester** died 21 May 1935 at the Royal Infirmary Manchester Administration **Manchester** 13 July to Harry Louis Becker medical practitioner and Adeline Becker (wife of the said Harry Louis Becker). Effects £263 19s. 7d.

BECKERLEG Edward of 36 Prospect-street **Plymouth** died 3 September 1935 Administration **Exeter** 16 October to Arthur Cecil Beckerleg general dealer. Effects £724 17s. 7d.

BECKESS John of 119 Keetons-road Bermondsey **Surrey** died 22 April 1935 Administration **London** 30 May to Leah Emma Trafford (wife of John Trafford). Effects £1354 11s. 7d.

BECKETT Alice of 17 Endcliffe Rise-road **Sheffield** spinster died 29 May 1935 Probate **Wakefield** 3 July to Alfred Frith Beckett company director and Kathleen Lydia Smith Martin (wife of Henry Stuart Martin). Effects £5718 12s. 5d. Resworn £6141 2s. 4d.

BECKETT Arthur Nelson of 3 Mongress Almshouses Church-crescent Hackney **Middlesex** died 16 January 1935 Probate **London** 1 May to Emily Ann Beckett widow. Effects £103 6s. 8d.

BECKETT Caroline Anna of 17 Pittville-parade **Cheltenham** spinster died 26 December 1934 Probate **Gloucester** 24 January to Algernon Hugh Wyatt solicitor. Effects £5451 11s. 1d. Resworn £5336 10s. 2d.

BECKETT Caroline Matilda of 31 Vincent-road Croydon **Surrey** spinster died 11 April 1935 Probate **London** 20 May to Mary Rebecca Urquhart Beckett and Sarah Elizabeth Caroline Beckett spinsters. Effects £255 3s. 9d.

BECKETT Catherine Anne of Shop Newydd Llanon Llansantffread **Cardiganshire** widow died 11 May 1935 Administration **Carmarthen** 24 August to Eleanor Vivian Jones (wife of John Hugh Jones). Effects £86 15s. 6d.

BECKETT Charlotte Anne of 16 Clavering-road Wanstead Park-avenue Wanstead **Essex** widow died 24 April 1935 at the Central Homes Union-road Leytonstone Essex Administration **London** 10 July to Reuben Goudge Beckett engineer. Effects £1922 7s. 8d.

BECKETT Edwin of Grove House Park-road Radlett **Hertfordshire** died 6 February 1935 Probate **London** 2 April to Florence Matthews Beckett widow and Herbert Charles Franks timber merchant. Effects £21284 13s. 1d.

BECKETT Eleanor of 29 Brockenhurst-gardens The Hall Mill Hill **Middlesex** spinster died 3 November 1935 Probate **London** 20 December to Emily Beckett spinster. Effects £2239 2s. 11d.

BECKETT Eliza Jane of 253 Convamore-road Grimsby **Lincolnshire** widow died 14 October 1934 Administration (with Will) **London** 12 August to Sarah Amelia Rhodes (wife of Harold Rhodes). Effects £111.

BECKETT Elizabeth of 50 Priory-road Anfield **Liverpool** widow died 19 January 1935 at Heathcote Whitefield-lane Heswall Cheshire Probate **Liverpool** 8 April to Mary Jane Clinch (wife of Frank Clinch) and Elizabeth Beaver (wife of Joseph Beaver). Effects £1063 15s.

BECKETT Emma Maria of Bolingey Perranzabuloe **Cornwall** widow died 23 May 1935 Administration **Bodmin** 17 August to Katherine Mildred White (wife of William Henry White). Effects £95.

BECKETT Ernest Alfred of 22 Church-hill Loughton **Essex** died 16 February 1935 Administration **London** 29 April to Robert Lucien Kay Beckett bank clerk. Effects £638 18s.

BECKETT Ezra of 38 Dixon-street Swindon **Wiltshire** died 18 June 1935 Administration **London** 19 September to Henry Solomon Beckett bricklayer. Effects £1632 3s. 1d.

BECKETT Fanny Elizabeth of 24 Amesbury-road Bickley **Kent** widow died 29 February 1928 Administration **London** 10 April to Winifred Maud Beckett spinster. Effects £452 13s. Former Grant P.R. 25 April 1928 cessate.

THE GARDENS AT HEADLEY PARK, EPSOM.

Interview with Mr. Thomas Beeson.

SINCE Mr. J. Newton Mappin became the owner of Headley Park, the residence has been practically rebuilt, and the pleasure grounds have been greatly developed and improved. Mr. Mappin takes a keen interest in his garden, and has himself suggested many of the developments which have been carried out under the auspices of his gardener, Mr. Thomas Beeson, who, on a breezy winter afternoon, showed me round, and spoke, as we proceeded, in grateful acknowledgment of the support and encouragement afforded to him by his employer. Quite one of the most interesting features at Headley Park is the wild garden on the left of the drive to the mansion, which stands on high ground some six hundred feet above sea level; and it is all the more noteworthy, since it is one of the developments made during the last eleven years.

A Modern Wild Garden.

"Protected from the north and east by belts of shrubs, Conifers, and flowering trees, the wild garden," said Mr. Beeson, "was so planned that straight lines are avoided. The shrubs are planted in various widths. In making this garden, the soil was dug out and thrown in mounds, care being taken to place the top spit of earth on the top of the mounds. The best soil to plant upon was thus obtained. The grass path winds round, and has trees, Roses, and various plants on either side blossoming from February to November."

"What do you commence with?"

"Erica carnea, Magnolias, with other early-flowering trees. In the borders we start with bulbs in variety, and these are followed with Canterbury Bells, Pæonies, Roses, Lavender, Delphiniums, Aquilegias, Ericas, and Asters, all planted in masses. Brooms and Bamboos are also largely in evidence, the yellow variety of Scoparius (the common Broom) being particularly noticeable."

Flowering Shrubs.

"Which of the flowering trees and shrubs do best on the lawns and in the surrounding shrubberies?"

"Prunus Pissardi, Cerasus in variety, Almond, Laburnums, Thorns, Lilacs, Spiræas in variety, Veronicas, Olearia Haasti, Hibiscus, and Berberis. The Conifers, interspersed among the shrubs include flourishing specimens of Cupressus, Thuya, Retinospora, Juniperus, Cedrus atlantica and deodara, and Picea pungens glauca, a Spruce Fir which brightens the appearance of the lawns with its silvery foliage.

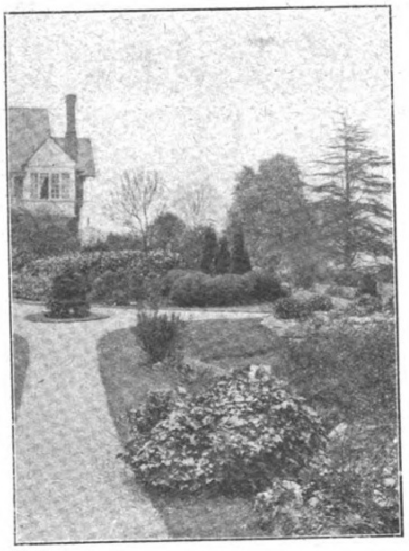
The Herbaceous Border.

"Close to the wild garden," continued Mr. Beeson, "the herbaceous border begins. As you will perceive, it is protected from searching winds by the trees and shrubs, and its effectiveness is enhanced by the winding grass paths. The more suitable varieties, in masses, are Delphiniums; Phloxes, tall and dwarf; Asters Beauty of Colwall, alpinus magnificus, amellus Bessarabicus; Anchusa italica, Dropmore variety; Anemones, Doronicums, Erigerons, Echinops, Coreopsis, Heleniums, Helianthus, Irises, Aubrietias, Arabis, Kniphofias, with quantities of Crocus and Narcissus for early flowering. The same varieties are planted more or less in the herbaceous border in other parts of the garden."

How to Decorate a Pergola.

"What varieties of Roses are represented on the splendid pergola on the croquet lawn to the right of the mansion?"

"Both on the pergola, and on the arches and pillars elsewhere, are Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Mrs. F. W. Flight, Tausendschon, Queen Alexandra, Leuchstern, Aglaia, Psyche, Thalia, Claire Jacquier, and Waltham Rambler. You will notice that we have no formal bedding, but that there are numerous Rose beds here."



One of the Approaches to Headley Park, Epsom.

"Do you confine the beds to one variety?"

"Yes, exclusively. They are all Hybrid Teas. No Tea Roses are grown outside; the position is too high and cold."

A Water Garden.

Passing to the other side of the mansion, I asked the names of the creepers in front.

"Clematis in variety, particularly C. montana on the west side, covering the verandah; Ivies, Lonicera, Jasminums, Ampelopsis, Pyracantha, and Wistarias. On the south side of the mansion, a rockery is in course of construction."

"On a rather large scale, I gather?"

"It is being formed to make a nearer path to the walled garden. Messrs. Pulham and Sons are making the steps of rock, and interspersing pieces amongst the plants. On the east side of the mansion is a water garden, which was completed in the spring of 1907. The winding stream, varying in width, with the water falling at intervals over rock, materially adds to its beauty. Messrs. Pulham also built the rock, the stream and planting being carried out by the staff. Bulbs are thickly planted in the grass on each side of the stream, Water Lilies in the stream, while plants, shrubs, and weeping trees form an imposing background. Before we leave the pleasure grounds, you may like to make a note of the two large tennis-courts, one above the other, with a summer-house at the side. At present we get to the walled gardens by a path through the shrubbery, with a grotto on one side. From here there is a road which leads to the village."

The Walled Garden.

"The walled gardens are finely situated," I said, as we walked towards the striking range of glasshouses, with Roses on either side, and a Rose arch in the centre.

"The Roses, except on the arch, are grown for cutting. On one side of the arch, which we pass under to enter the houses, are early-flowering Chrysanthemums, and then come Sweet Peas, grown in circles."

Begonias Flowering Six Months.

"How long have these delightful Begonias been in flower?" I enquired, as we opened the door of a house, which inside was a blaze of pink.

"Since early in September. I prefer the Gloire de Lorraine, and The King, to the newer varieties of Begonias. These will remain in flower until the end of January. We use them largely for decoration, the pots being suspended by wire slipped underneath. In this house we get two crops of Melons. Only two green-fleshed varieties are grown, these being Ringleader and Windsor Castle."

"Do you show Begonias?"

"Locally, at Croydon and Epsom only. To take the houses as we proceed, the next is an early Peach house, full of Nectarines, from which we pick during the latter half of June. The varieties are Humboldt, Pitmaston Orange, Early Rivers, Victoria, Lord Napier, and Pineapple."

Orchids and Ferns.

"And the next, an Orchid house?"

"Yes, but it is partly filled with Ferns. The Orchids are Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, with some good specimens of D. nobile; and the Ferns include varieties of Nephrolepis, Adiantums, Asparagus, and Polypodiums. The Nephrolepis have seeded themselves. The wall is covered with Ficus repens. The adjacent Vinery is devoted to Muscats, planted five years ago, with an inside border. The third year we cut four bunches of Grapes from each Vine; now they yield a dozen. Now we come into the two show houses. By this I mean that both are used for masses of flowers in pots."

"Such as the remarkable display of Chrysanthemums I see now?"

"Yes, just according to the season. Most of

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these Chrysanthemums are Singles and Decorative. We grow three hundred Japanese, a few Incurved, and five hundred Singles and Decoratives."

Methods of Cultivation.

"When do you strike your Chrysanthemums?"

"Early in December in a frame on a hotbed of leaves. I put four in a large 'sixty,' and pot on in January, transferring the plants into 6-in. pots in March. In March I take cuttings to grow single blooms on one stem in 6-in. or 7-in. pots. The compost for these pots is composed of ten barrows of loam, two and a half each of leaf-mould and horse manure, one and a half of mortar rubble, three-quarters each of wood ashes and silver sand, and one and a half 8-in. pots of soot, to each barrowful being added one 5-in. pot of bonemeal. Pinching is adhered to in order to produce flowers for special dates. The plants are moved from the frames outside as soon as weather permits into the Chrysanthemum ground, which covers several rods."

"How do you arrange them?"

"We put them in rows on wires from north to south, in a sheltered part of the kitchen garden. The final potting into the flowering pots is done in June. The compost for all the final pots consists of twenty barrows of loam, four of leaf-mould, five and a half of horse droppings, three of mortar rubble, one and a half of wood ashes, three 8-in. pots of soot, to each barrowful being added one 6-in. pot of bonemeal."

"When are the plants housed?"

"This season they came in on September 20th, and the supply lasts until February."

Seedling Schizanthus.

"Do you show Chrysanthemums at Epsom and Croydon?"

"Yes. At Croydon we won the champion challenge bowl in 1907 and 1908, in open classes, with five competitors, losing by a point in 1909, and winning again this year, when there was only one exhibitor against us. At Epsom we won a pair of silver candlesticks, a silver Rose bowl, and a cup for large-flowering Chrysanthemums, and on other occasions a number of firsts. In addition to Begonias, I have also shown fruit and vegetables successfully."

"What will follow your Chrysanthemums as the feature of the show houses?"

"Already the Tree Carnations are flowering largely. The varieties of these are principally Britannia, Enchantress, Mrs. H. Burnett, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, White Perfection, White Enchantress, and Winsor. We have next Cineraria stellata Felton's Beauty, about two hundred, and Schizanthus, a selection of my own which were sown, in the first instance, nine years ago. They are Sutton's strain, retusus and Wisetonensis crossed. I have a stage full of Schizanthus."

"How often do you sow the seeds?"

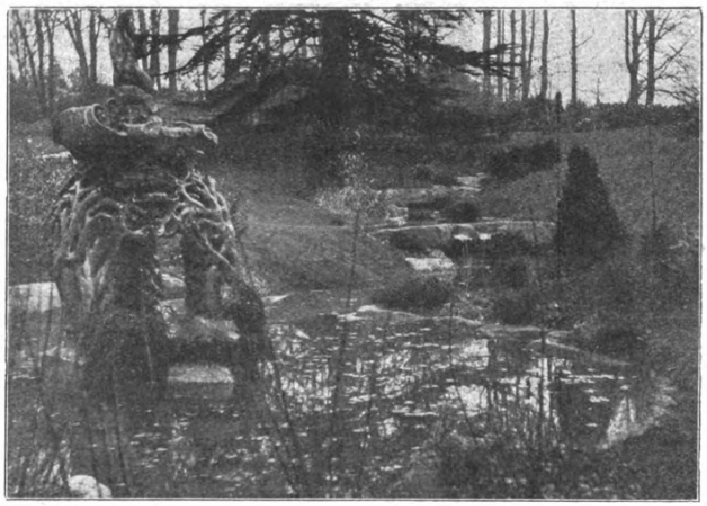
"Each year I keep them carefully labelled, and select the most promising varieties from all the plants. The stage facing the Schizanthus will be occupied with herbaceous Calceolarias, and the centre of the house with Lilium longiflorum or Pelargoniums in variety."

Headley Park, Epsom, Surrey.

The Treatment of Herbaceous Calceolarias.

"How do you treat herbaceous Calceolarias?"

"They are sown in June in pots or pans, seeds being raised in a cold frame, pricked out in small 'sixty' size pots when large enough, kept cool, and potted again in 'forty-eight' size pots in autumn. In January they are placed in their final pots, 'twenty-four' size. The compost used is three parts fibrous loam, one part leaf-mould, with sufficient mortar rubble and sand to make the compost open, and keep it sweet. The worst enemy of herbaceous Calceolarias is the aphis, and we fight it by fumigating the plants frequently, and spraying occasionally with weak soot-water. In the next house there are Malmaison Carnations on the side stages, Arum Lilies on the back spaces, and the whole of the centre stage is filled with Roses. They come in about the middle of April. The varieties of Malmaisons are Princess of Wales, Nautilus, Lady Rose, Duchess of Westminster, Nell Gwynne, Trumpeter, and Mr. Martin Smith."



A Pretty Stream at Headley Park, Epsom.

Roses in Pots.

"When do you repot Roses?"

"Early in November. They are placed under lights to protect them from excessive rain, and pruned and taken in a cool house early in January. At the end of that month we place them in a Vinery, so that they start into growth with the Vines. The potting compost is mainly composed of stiff loam with a little rotten manure, leaf-mould, bonemeal, mortar rubble, and sand. The varieties we prefer are The Bride, Mrs. John Laing, La France, Caroline Testout, Frau Karl Druschki, Viscountess Folkestone, Dean Hole, and Mildred Grant. Behind the Roses we have Gloxinias, Fuchsias, Liliums, and Campanula pyramidalis. Of the remaining houses, one is a Vinery with four rods of Black Hamburgh, two of Madresfield Court, and three of Alicante; the other is the late Peach house, in which, however, only Nectarines are grown, the varieties being identical with those in the early house."

Plums on Walls.

"How large is the kitchen garden within walls?"

"Two acres. Plums, you will see, are our chief fruit on the walls. The chalk soil suits them. We always get a fair crop, and very often a large one. They are protected in the spring, and we root-prune the trees until they get established. There are three divisions of the kitchen garden, and, in one of these alone, we have as many as twenty-eight fan-trained Plum trees. The varieties include Greengage, Jefferson, Early Orleans, Grand Duke, Monarch, Kirke's, and Coe's Golden Drop. Small fruits also do well."

"Such as Strawberries?"

"Yes, and I find that to get a good result from the first planting of Strawberries, it is necessary both to layer early in pots, and to make the beds early. I plant fairly closely, and get rid of every other plant the following year. The varieties are Royal Sovereign, Sir J. Paxton, Givon's Late Prolific, Kentish Favourite, and Latest of All. We get very heavy crops of Gooseberries, Cucumbers, and Raspberries."

"You do not appear to have either cages or netting?"

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"I recently did away with protection for the trees, and, as an alternative, I spray them in winter at intervals, according to the weather, with insecticide, which renders the buds objectionable to the birds, and keeps the trees perfectly clean. With regard to Raspberries, I make a new plantation every fifth year. They often fail for want of renewal, unless there is great stability of soil. For the plantation I grow Superlative, Fillbasket, and Antwerp, and on a south wall I planted Early Sulphur Gooseberries five years ago—cordon trees, which have done remarkably well. Black Currants are fan-trained on a north wall, and, by this means, we get a late supply of fruit."

Apples for an Arch.

"When was your Apple arch planted?"

"Six years ago, with a dozen each of eight varieties, from all of which I get excellent results. The varieties are King of Pippins, Lane's Prince Albert, Cox's Orange Pippin, Dumelow's Seedling, Newton Wonder, Ribston Pippin, Beauty of Bath, and Allington Pippin. Apples are also grown on espaliers, and in an orchard. Five years ago I planted a young orchard entirely with Apples, chiefly of the varieties on the arch, and, in addition, Worcester Pearmain, Emperor Alexander, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Cox's Pomona, and Lord Derby. The soil does not suit Pears, and we have given up growing Peaches outside."

How to Secure a Succession of Peas.

"But you grow a great quantity of vegetables?"

"I have always been fond of vegetable culture, naturally attaching primary importance to the most general favourite—I allude to Peas. Of these, I have to furnish a supply daily in the season, beginning early in June, and continuing until the end of August, when the family go away. If they are at home, I pick until October. The varieties grown in succession are Veitch's Selected, Early Giant, Gradus, Telephone, Prizewinner, Ne Plus Ultra, Prodigy, Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, and Autocrat."

"Do you make a point of sowing Peas early?"

"It is almost impossible to sow too early. The warmest spot in the garden should be chosen for the first sowing, and a round variety selected. It is worth while to sow the Marrowfats in pots or boxes, placing them in a frame or some structure to keep the soil in a moderately dry condition until the seeds germinate. I transfer to the open ground when the plants are about two inches high, but take care to keep them hardy, so as to ensure sturdy growth. For a few nights I protect with boughs of Yews or Laurels, removing them in the day-time. I continue to sow at intervals until June, selecting the varieties which I find from experience suit the soil. In order to prevent mice and birds from taking the seeds, I slightly damp them, and sprinkle with red-lead before sowing."

"Your Celery looks exceedingly flourishing."

"I attribute my success in Celery cultivation mainly to the fact that I plant in very shallow trenches. Between the trenches I always crop Lettuces, Spinach, and Turnips. In December I set out all the vegetable crops in the spaces for the following year, and know exactly, then, how to work the ground. My system is to turn up every piece of ground, and expose it to bad weather, such as frost and snow."

The Renewal of Asparagus Beds.

"Is Asparagus a great feature?"

"I do not force it, but I have seven large beds. Every other year I sow a small packet of seed, make up a fresh bed, and when that is established, chop out one of the old beds. It is a mistake to suppose Asparagus beds last for ever. No bed should be kept longer than fourteen years, or the ground must inevitably get sour."

A Reliable Cabbage.

"How about Potatoes?"

"In the pits I force Ashleaf Kidneys, and a few May Queen. Each pit consists of two lights, and will hold five cartloads of leaves and hay litter. Carrots and Radishes are forced as well as Potatoes, but four three-light frames are devoted entirely to Lettuce. I keep Cos Lettuce going up to the end of January. With respect to the Brassica tribe, the seeds of Cabbage should be sown in August, and, when large enough, pricked out two feet apart in rows, and eighteen to twenty-one inches from plant to plant. One of the most reliable varieties is Flower of Spring. Tender and True is good for the summer supply, and may be followed with the Savoy Cabbage Perfection. I have a very fine breadth of Brussels Sprouts, and I still think, after eleven years of experience, that Dwarf Gem is the best variety. Cauliflowers, Broccoli, Beans, Onions, and, in fact, all other vegetables, thrive on the soil, and under the conditions I have already described."

Herbaceous Calceolarias at Headley Park, Epsom.

"I notice that there is a bothy in two divisions of the kitchen garden."

"Each has accommodation for four inmates. One is brick, and the other iron, thatched with Heather, and has a double iron roof. The Heather is a foot thick, and keeps the bothy cool in summer, and warm in winter. Mr. Mappin is most considerate to his employees."

"What was your own experience before you came here as head gardener eleven years ago?"

"I was in succession for four years at Selsdon Park, two years at Newberries, Redhill, two years at Childwickbury, and five years foreman in the gardens of the late Mr. Martin Smith, at Hayes."

ALFRED WILCOX.

IN next week's interview will be found a description of the gardens at Lord Burnham's Buckinghamshire seat, Hall Barn, Beaconsfield.

Morisia Hypogæa.

SUCH Alpine flowers as Morisia hypogea are always held in high regard by cultivators, and it is little wonder that it has been largely grown since its re-introduction to our British gardens in 1890, when it was sent out as a new plant. This was an error, however, as was stated in the horticultural journals of the time, seeing that it was first flowered in this country in April, 1834, and was figured in Sweet's "British Flower garden," Series II., tab. 190. Its history in this country is that it was introduced from seeds given to Mrs. Palliser from the Valentino Botanic Garden, Turin, by Professor Moris, who found the plant in the Sardinian mountains, and in whose honour it is named. It was figured in a coloured plate in one of the horticultural journals in 1891, but the illustration, excellent though it is, does not show the beautiful polished appearance of the foliage—a feature of the plant which adds much to its beauty.

The Morisia is a plant of considerable interest botanically, seeing that it is a monotypic one, no other being included in its genus, and that it is one of the flowers which bury their seed-pods in the soil, after the fashion of the Earth-nut, Arachis hypogæ.

Decorative Foliage.

In the garden it is cherished for its intrinsic beauty, the tufted runcinate leaves of a polished green giving it much ornamental value, while almost resting on these leaves are a number of bright yellow flowers, rather less in size than a shilling, and borne singly on very short stalks.

The fact that this pretty plant had to be re-introduced after a considerable lapse of time points to its being one not so absolutely easy to cultivate as its appearance suggests, although the neglect of hardy flowers which followed the introduction of the bedding system, had probably a good deal to do with its disappearance from our gardens. But it has a curious habit of dying off in some gardens—a habit not altogether easy to account for.

Soil and Culture.

The Morisia seems to like a rather shady position in a light soil, not too dry, however, in spring and summer, and I have seen it do splendidly where surfaced with a layer of pure sand, which served the double purpose of keeping the plant dry above, and of preventing evaporation from the soil beneath. In this medium the seeds seem also to germinate better than anywhere else. A rich soil beneath and sand above appears, therefore, to suit this charming little plant, which, where it is happy, will spread somewhat, and look more flourishing than when in a hot, dry place.

Propagation is easily effected by means of root-cuttings, secured by lifting a plant in early autumn, and cutting the roots in pieces about two inches in length, inserting these thick-end up in sandy soil in pots, with the top just at the surface. If these pots are placed in a cool or slightly heated house or frame, growths will appear in spring on the surface, and small plants will develop, which can be potted off singly to plant out when strong enough.

Division of large plants may also be practised in spring or autumn, but, on the whole, root-cuttings present the readiest method of increasing the stock.

S. ARNOTT.

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better conditions than those obtaining generally, and said that the results more than repaid him for the work. He believed that methods that would pay when practised for small quantities would pay proportionately well if applied to larger numbers.

Mr. Alex. Dean said it was an advantage to have the tubers make sprouts before planting, because if any of the tubers had become mixed they could generally be identified more easily by the sprouts, and these, together with "blind" tubers, of which there were generally some, could be removed before planting was done, thus preventing gaps that would occur otherwise. He strongly supported the lecturer's recommendations, and declared that such means of storage would be remunerative in all cases.

ROYAL BOTANIC.

October 12.—The autumn show of the Society was held in Regent's Park on the above date, the weather being all that could be desired. The number of entries was small, but a splendid collection of vegetables, staged by Lord Aldenham's gardener, Mr. Beckett, was in itself an excellent feature, and an object-lesson in the culture of good vegetables. Several collections of hardy flowers, well-grown stove and greenhouse plants, dishes of hardy fruits, bunches of Grapes, &c., were the principal features. Several miscellaneous sundries, such as stakes, ladders, tubs for plants, &c., were also prominent.

Lord Aldenham, Aldenham House, Elstree (gr. Mr. Beckett), set up a collection of vegetables in his usual superb style. All the varieties were shown in perfect condition, and occupied about 50 feet run of tabling. Cauliflowers were excellent, Early Emperor, Dwarf Mammoth, Early Autumn Giant, Walcheren, &c. Celery was of large size and of excellent quality. Onions were also strikingly displayed, large well-shaped bulbs of Ailsa Craig, Record, Excelsior, &c., being noticed. Excellent pods of The Gladstone and Autocrat Peas were included. Carrots and Parsnips were also noteworthy, indeed the whole display, including Tomatos, Potatos, Turnips, Beans, Endive, Lettuce, Spinach, Brussels-Sprouts, Cucumbers, Leeks, Kale, &c., was presented in the first-class style for which this grower is famous (Large Gold Medal).

Messrs. John Laing & Sons, The Nurseries, Forest Hill, London, staged an extensive group of ornamental shrubs and Conifers, also a batch of Clematis in flower (Large Silver Medal).

Mr. Eric F. Such, Maidenhead, staged vases of Chrysanthemums, perennial Asters, Solidago, &c., working in the group Gynerium argenteum, and coloured Oak-foliage, &c. The Chrysanthemums were of such varieties as are used for cut flowers and market purposes.

Miss Adamson, South Villa, Regent's Park, staged a collection of stove and greenhouse plants, Begonias, Codiæums, Dracænas, Caladiums, Celosias, &c., very tastefully arranged. A number of well-flowered plants of Cattleya labiata occupied the centre of this group. Adjoining were examples of several varieties of Grapes from the same gardens, Black Hamburgh, Muscat of Alexandria, Black Alicante, Buckland Sweetwater, &c. Bunches of Tomatos and sprays of Ficus radicans were arranged round the Grape-stands with good effect. (Large Silver Medal).

Messrs. T. S. Ware, Ltd., Feltham, Middlesex, set up an attractive group of hardy flowers, Asters, Chrysanthemums, Gladioli, Liliums, Phlox, Pyrethrums, &c. Senecio pulcher was very pleasing with its bright rosy-purple petals. Anemone japonica Queen Charlotte was also noticeable (Large Silver-gilt Medal).

Messrs. Wm. Cutbush & Son, Highgate, N., arranged an extensive group of hardy plants in first-class style. Perennial Asters were conspicuous in many desirable varieties; also smaller-flowering Chrysanthemums from the open. Several pans of Colchicums, C. autumnale album, C. a. flore-pleno, &c., also Crocus zonatus, were well flowered. Among the Asters was a dwarf variety, for which the Society gave a Certificate of Merit. The colour is white, similar to A. candida, but the growth only reaches a height of about 12 inches (Silver-gilt Medal).

Messrs. S. Spooner & Sons, Hounslow Nurseries, Middlesex, staged a meritorious collection of Apples and Pears. An excellent dish of Cox's Orange Pippin was noticed, also one of Lord Derby. Emperor Alexander, Bismarck, Striped Beaufin, Wealthy, Lane's Prince Albert, &c. Some good examples of Beurré Diel Pear were seen (Silver Medal).

Hobbies, Ltd., Norfolk Nurseries, Dereham, set up several vases of Cactus Dahlia blooms. Some of the flowers gave evidence of the lateness of the season for these flowers.

The Four Oaks Sundries Co., Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, sent several of their appliances, including a pocket secateur which should prove useful to Rose-growers and others.

Messrs. Ambrose & Co., The Nurseries, Cheshunt, brought a bunch of their new Grape Melton Constable, with foliage, which was brilliantly coloured.

GARDENERS' DEBATING SOCIETIES.

REDHILL, REIGATE, AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—The fortnightly meeting was held in St. Matthew's Schoolroom on Tuesday, September 27, the lecturer being Mr. A. Trowers, whose subject was "Spring Gardening." Over 100 members were present. Mr. Trowers clearly showed that a very great amount of pleasure may be obtained by naturalising bulbs in grass. The most satisfactory soil for this purpose was stated to be good medium loam. Mr. Trower strongly advised growers to plant strong, sound bulbs.

LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—The Annual Meeting of the members of this Association was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 27. In the unavoidable absence of the President, W. C. Burder, Esq., Mr. J. T. Smith, Chairman of Committee, presided. The funds show a balance in favour of the Society. The report and balance-sheet, read by the Hon. Sec., Mr. D. Roberts, were adopted. The President was thanked for his services and unanimously re-elected. The Committee were elected, Mr. W. H. Cooke, gardener Kingston Hall, and Mr. H. Hawkes, of Garendon Park, being selected in the place of two retiring members. The Chairman of Committee, Mr. J. T. Smith, Vice-Chairman Mr. J. Lane, Hon. Treasurer Mr. A. McVinish, and Hon. Sec. Mr. D. Roberts, were all re-elected. The Annual Dinner was held at the King's Head Hotel after the meeting, about thirty members and friends participating in the repast.

KINGSTON GARDENERS'.—The first meeting of this newly-formed society was held on September 30, when a lecture was delivered by Mr. E. H. Jenkins, President of the Society, on "Daffodils." Messrs. Barr & Sons supplied specimens of bulbs illustrating the lecture. After dealing with the evolution of the Daffodil, and mentioning the labours of Leeds, Backhouse, Barr, and Engleheart in producing new varieties, Mr. Jenkins gave full details of the cultivation they require. The chief points dealt with were soils, suitable and otherwise; the superiority of British over continental-grown bulbs; planting in grass; the benefit many varieties derive from association with plants in the herbaceous border or beds and with grass; the stronger growth of deeply-buried bulbs, and detailed directions on forcing. *J. T. B.*

HEADLEY GARDENERS'.—On September 30 Mr. H. Wright gave the second part of his lecture on "The Potato." Very fine specimen plants of Up-to-Date and Northern Star were brought by some of the gardeners of the neighbourhood. The lecturer remarked that "Up-to-Date" Potato, as shown by the splendid root produced, was steadily improving in spite of the predictions of many that it would gradually deteriorate, while Northern Star, although producing an enormous number of tubers, would never attain great popularity. Being of a peculiar constitution it had a great tendency to grow out and make long underground stems before producing tubers, and this independent of season or soil, as the verdict from the best Potato lands in the country, Dunbar, Edinburgh, Lincoln, the Fens, was substantially the same.

CARDIFF GARDENERS'.—The opening meeting of Session 1904—5 took place at the Sandringham Hotel on Tuesday, October 4, when the President (J. Lynn Thomas, C.B., F.R.C.S., J.P.), occupied the chair, supported by the President of the Cardiff and District Chrysanthemum Society (J. W. Courtis, Esq., J.P.), and a very large attendance of members. Professor Trow, of the University College, Cardiff, delivered a lecture entitled "The Chief Work of Plants," illustrated with lantern views, and from an educational point of view the lecture proved to be highly interesting and was very much appreciated. Mr. T. Clarke, on behalf of the members, presented the President with an engraving of the group of members who attended the Reading outing in August last. Several new members were enrolled.

TRADE NOTICE.

Mr. Geo. Springthorpe, late of West Leigh Nursery, Leicester, has removed to Maycroft, St. Albans Road, Kingston-on-Thames.

Obituary.

Edward Bennett.—This well-known gardener died at his residence at Ash Vale, near Aldershot, on October 8, aged seventy-eight years. Edward Bennett came to the fore in the early sixties as an exhibitor of fruit, &c., from Osberton Manor, Worksop, the residence of G. S. Foljambe, Esq. In this capacity he exhibited fruit at the Great International Horticultural Exhibition held at South Kensington in 1866, when a dish of fruit of the Vanilla secured a valuable extra prize. From Osberton he appears to have passed into Enville Hall, Stourbridge, and being greatly interested in the bedding-out system, at that time so popular, he made Enville famous for the extent and elaborateness of the outdoor bedding arrangements. While there he took a great interest in the series of international Potato exhibitions then being held at the Crystal Palace, and was the means of largely introducing the once popular "Schoolmaster" Potato to notice, though it was said to have been raised by another Mr. E. Bennett, a private gentleman residing near Enville. He ultimately became gardener to the Marquis of Salisbury at Hatfield, and while there applied the system of lime-kiln heating introduced by Mr. Jno. Cowan, in the efficiency of which he became an ardent believer, though it was eventually abandoned. While at Enville, and also at Hatfield, he took a warm interest in horticultural matters, and his services as a judge at flower shows were in frequent request. On leaving Hatfield he became a grower of fruit for market near Potters Bar, and ultimately dropped out of horticultural circles. He was a man of singular activity and tenacity of purpose, his cheery optimism always making him an agreeable companion.

THE APIARY.

All colonies should be put in proper order for the winter as soon as possible. Choose a day that is not too hot, or the bees will be on the wing and a nuisance to the worker. Draw back each frame and examine the ends and bottom bar, also the floor board, for wax grubs, and destroy any that are found. Remove all pollen-clogged frames and allow the bees enough frames only to fill properly—say eight or nine, removing the remainder for extracting, or place in a colony not so well off for food. Do the extracting away from the hives, and after it has been done place the frames in the hives for the bees to clear out, but in no case leave them outside even at a good distance from the hive or robbery will ensue. The colony should not be kept open longer than possible. Should a number of bees be on the frame, hold it in the left hand and brush the bees off gently into the hive with a small brush. The frame of honey taken should be immediately removed and covered over from the bees. Do not scrape the top bars as this allows the bees more room to crawl about. For a covering place next to the frames a piece of calico, with a hole cut in the centre to place on a cake of candy later on. After this has been done add an extra blanket and also several thicknesses of brown-paper, running from back to front and from side to side. Make a note as you proceed as to condition of each hive, &c. Have carbolic solution at hand to put cloth down at the entrance in case of "robbing," which should be at once stopped. Plenty of fuel should be at hand as well for the smoker, and a few flakes or lumps of naphthaline put in each hive on the top quilt and also in the back of the hive. Reduce the entrance to enable only a few bees to enter at a time. When the entrance is deep, cover it over with a little queen-excluder zinc to prevent mice from getting into the hive. All roofs should be properly secured for the rainy weather. In damp places the hives will require to be lifted. Rest them on bricks, with pieces of wood on top of the bricks. All feeding in a liquid state should be accomplished as soon as possible, and if the bees do not take syrup fast enough give it them warm. *Expert.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Books: *G. H. L. Elementary Botany*, by Percy Groom, M.A., published by George Bell & Sons, London.

Carnation Disease: *S. S.* Your plants are affected with eel-worm. Burn the affected plants and sterilise the soil before potting fresh plants.

Carnations: *Dickson.* This appears to be the early stage of the fungus Helminthosporium. Send specimens again in a week or two, meanwhile syringe the plants with liver-of-sulphur ½ oz. to 1 gallon of water. This may do good, and can do no harm.

Chestnut and Hazel: *Selsdon.* If the plantation is intended for coppice, it would be as

THE GARDENS AT SUMMERS PLACE, BILLINGSHURST.

Interview with Mr. H. Best.

THE charming gardens at Summers Place, which I visited by the courtesy of Mr. F. D. Leyland, soon after Easter, are approached from the road by a pleasant drive, which, though a considerable quantity of Daffodils have been naturalised at the side, does not give an idea of the many features of interest which lie beyond the house. The latter is practically clothed with Ivy, carefully clipped, and facing the front door is a large flower bed.

"At present," said Mr. Best, the head gardener, who met me on my arrival, "this bed contains three varieties of Tulips—Murillo Albano (the favourite), La Grandeur, and Rex Rubrorum, edged with Myosotis. In summer there is a row of Dahlias at the back, then a row of Pentstemons, next a row of Calceolaria Golden Gem, alternating with Alonsoas, with Ivy-leaf Geraniums in front, edged by Lobelias and Pyrethrums, alternating.

"The conservatory," continued Mr. Best, as we entered an admirably planned, capacious, and lofty building, "is always a centre of interest, and instead of plants in bloom being kept in a greenhouse, they are brought here in pots."

How to Fill a Conservatory.

"The conservatory is decorated with such brilliant effect that I should be glad if you would tell me the scheme of arrangement."

"You see, first of all, that there are masses of Cyclamen and of Cinerarias, Sutton's Superb and stellata. In the middle of the stage are Eupatoriums (white), Schizanthus, Cinerarias, Amaryllis (a fine scarlet), and Tulips (Carmine Brilliant). On the lower shelf are chiefly Begonias (Gloire de Lorraine), Hyacinths (blue and pink), and Primula Kewensis. At the sides are Arum Lilies, a few Ferns, a few Azaleas, Grevillea, and Deutzia gracilis, while suspended from the ceiling are four baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri. With the exception of these baskets, and a few climbers on the walls, all the plants are in pots. The climbers are principally Roses (Niphetos) and Bougainvillea glabra. There is a specimen plant of the latter grown in a pot, balloon shape, from which we get a mass of flower. Of course, there are constant changes, but save in a portion of the London season, the conservatory is always decorated as completely as it is to-day; and there are literally flowers in it all the year round."

"Some of your Cyclamens must be remarkable for their size and number of blooms."

"I had one this season, Sutton's Giant, with thirty-nine blooms on it. The average size is, I think, good. I have a double Cyclamen, but it is not yet in full bloom. Plants are not brought into the conservatory until they are in full bloom."

The Treatment of Cyclamen.

"What is your treatment of Cyclamen?"

"I sow the seed in August and September, using shallow pans for the purpose, and placing each seed about an inch apart. By this means I avoid the necessity of moving the seedlings until they are potted off into thumb pots in January. The pans are placed on a shelf in the stove. I move to a cooler house in April, and repot as required. For the final potting, I find 6-in. pots suitable. In May I place the plants in a cold frame—one with a cool ash bottom, and facing north, is much the best. Cyclamen must be shaded from the hot sun, and syringed twice daily. If the lights are removed in the evening after bright days, the heavy night dews will do the plants a vast amount of good. Fumigating must be done occasionally, otherwise thrips may inflict much damage. In October I take the plants to a house with a temperature of about fifty degrees, and give them as much sun and light as possible. Blooms soon commence to appear under these conditions, and with proper attention to watering, and picking-off decayed leaves and flowers, the plants go on flowering until the following May."

MR. H. BEST.

Schizanthus and Cinerarias.

"Your Schizanthus are coming on splendidly."

"They run from eighteen inches to four feet in height, and the value of the trusses of flower is greatly augmented by the fine foliage. They are very useful for table decorations, and last for five days in water. I get a mixed packet of Sutton's hybrids, and give them cool treatment, as Cinerarias."

"As your Cinerarias also look so flourishing, I should like to know your system of cultivation."

"I shall be all the more pleased to explain it to you, because I think that, for house and conservatory decoration in spring, the Cineraria is one of the most useful plants. Another point in its favour is that it is quite easy to grow. At all times it requires a very cool treatment. I sow the seed in June, and as soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle, I prick them off into pans or boxes. Keeping them shaded and syringed, I can get them large enough for 3-in. pots. When these pots are full of roots, I move the plants into 5-in. or 6-in. sizes, which are very convenient for flowering them in. Cinerarias are better wintered in a house with sufficient pipe heat to keep out frost, such as a Vinery or Peach house, but this is not absolutely necessary. I have kept plants in a cold frame all through the winter, and they did very well, so long as they were covered up every night to exclude the frost. As soon as flower-spikes begin to show, I find that a little manure or soot-water is beneficial."

An All-the-Year-Round Garden.

As we left the conservatory, which is of its kind quite a model, I enquired whether the pleasure garden is kept up all the year, and Mr. Best rejoined,

"It is altogether an all-the-year-round garden. The spring bedding, in a corner on one side of the house, consists of Wallflowers—Blood-red, Cloth of Gold, and Sutton's Dwarf Bedder, which are followed in summer by Geraniums and Heliotropes."

"We may as well take the contents of other beds as we pass them, unless they are formal."

"No, there is nothing formal, the object in view being to have masses of colour in different parts of the garden, and to come upon them unexpectedly. Here are several beds, filled for spring with Hyacinths, or Tulips, of the varieties already mentioned, all edged with Myosotis; these are also succeeded in summer by Geraniums and Heliotropes, edged by Ageratums or Lobelias. Of course, the beds vary each year. Here are two beds, now occupied with dark and light blue Hyacinths, edged with Myosotis, whose places will in due time be taken by Phlox Drummondii, grown from a packet of mixed seeds, edged by Lobelias and Pyrethrums. Near these is a bed of pink and white Hyacinths, which we shall presently fill in with Heliotropes, dot with Nicotiana affinis, and edge with Geraniums Little Trot. The aspect at this point is north, and therefore we have here a late herbaceous border. Just now, you see it contains Daffodils right along, edged with London Pride. Features later on are Anemone japonica, Tritomas, Phlox, and Irises in variety."

Bedding Combinations.

Passing along the lawn, which is rich in two stately Cedars, golden Cupressus, and still has other relics of the past in the shape of Apple trees (including Red Astrachan), we came to another long border, devoted mainly to Montbretias, Phloxes, Michaelmas Daisies, and Roses.

"There is a bed of Pæonies in the centre," I observed.

"Yes, they come on after the Daffodils die down. By the way, the Daffodils are edged with Crocuses, which we find very useful. The fine red flowers of the Pæonies make a good show during June in big vases. We cut the plants down in the autumn, and give them a nice top-dressing of manure."

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"You have more combinations of Hyacinths. What are these succeeded by?"

"Ten-week Stocks, with a panel of red Cannas in the centre, edged by Lobelias and Pyrethrums. Then there are two Rose beds, one with Crimson Rambler as an umbrella. Just outside is Church Walk, where we have a great show of Rhododendrons at the end of May."

"What follows your bed of Tulips here?"

"Zinnias grown from seed of various colours. They make a nice show, edged with Geranium Little Trot."

"The bedding combinations are very interesting, and your beds have the advantage of being on undulating ground."

"There is no doubt that they are more effective than they would be on flat ground. Of the two we are approaching now, filled with Wallflowers, edged by double white Arabis, one will later contain single Dahlias, and the other Pompones in variety, chosen for brilliance of colour, edged with Linum. Another combination, following Tulips, will be standard Heliotropes in the centre, with Lobelia cardinalis, filled in subsequently with Asters in variety, and edged by small Coleus. In the two beds of red, white, and blue Hyacinths which correspond, there will be dark Heliotropes (Lord Roberts), and Cannas in the centre, and an edging of Geranium Little Trot."

Sweet Peas in Clumps.

"In this corner," continued Mr. Best, "I grow clumps of Sweet Peas of one variety. They are sown in pots early in January, hardened off, and, if the weather permits, planted out in April."

At this point my attention was attracted by the number of Yews, and the beauty of the Yew hedges. From the summer houses there is a fine perspective of the sundial, and the Yews forming different shapes, right on to the house. The great number of specimen trees and shrubs also impressed me, and I asked for the names of some of them.

Trees and Shrubs.

"The collection of trees, most of them planted in 1880, embraces many varieties of Abies, Piceas, Pinus, Elms, Planes, Chestnuts, Sycamores, Poplars, Catalpas, English Yews, Pyrus, Cedars, Cryptomerias, Wellingtonias gigantea and g. pendula, Araucarias, Cupressus (notably erecta viridis), Juniperus, the Maidenhair tree, the Judas tree, Liquidambars, Tulip trees, Thujas (of which occidentalis is largely used for hedges), and many others. As to shrubs, flowering and otherwise, they include Rhododendrons, Hollies, Laurustinus, Cotoneasters, Sambucus, Syringas, Kalmias, Andromedas, Mahonias, Retinospora, variegated Acers, Berberis, flowering Almonds, Clematis, Olearia Haasti, Loniceras and Lilacs (Charles X., alba grandiflora and aurea elegantissima)."

SUMMERS PLACE, BILLINGSHURST.

A Rockery Two Years Old.

"You have a fine situation for your rockery?"

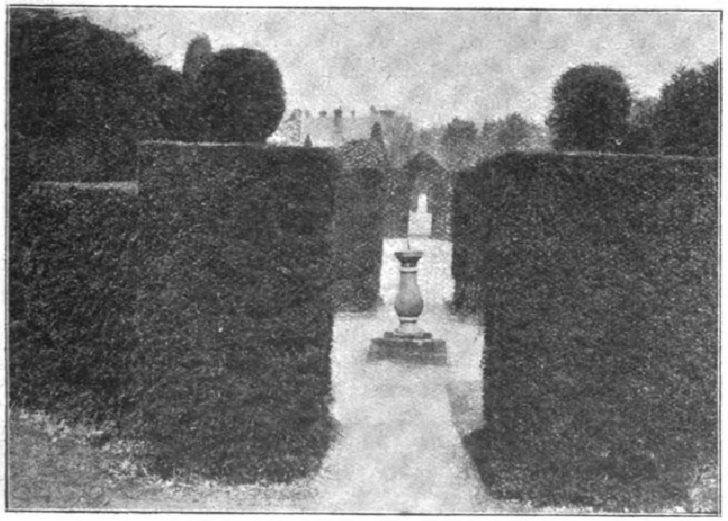
"Yes, it is on very high ground, but it needs wire to protect it from rabbits. Less than two years ago it was a rubbish heap, and it required some thought to plan it out, as I wished to combine Roses with the rock plants. The rockery is fifteen yards long and three yards wide."

"What are its principal contents"

"There are too many to mention, but I grow, in quantity, Veronica prostratum, Primulas in variety, Sedums in variety, Aubrietias in variety, Androsace tomentosum, Aster Asteroides, Geranium grandiflorum, Lithospermum prostratum, Gentiana acaulis, Papaver alpinus, Arabis rosea, Linaria macedonica, and Cyclamen africanus. All round the Yew hedge are Montbretias, which, as you can judge, do extremely well. I never do anything to them except cut them down and clear them off. The Roses in the special bed are Killarney, Robert Scott, and Kaiserin Augusta Victoria."

"You have more Rose-beds on the other side of the Yew hedges."

"They are chiefly Caroline Testout, Mrs. Paul, Duke of Edinburgh, and Frau Karl Druschki. Crimson Rambler and Dorothy Perkins are grown on poles, with Crocuses at the foot, for spring, and subsequently Nigella Miss Jekyll."



ONE OF THE WALKS AT SUMMERS PLACE, BILLINGSHURST.

Special Gardens.

Another feature of the pleasure grounds consists of two special gardens between the hedges.

"One of these," said Mr. Best, "consists entirely of herbaceous borders, two hundred feet long, edged by tiles, over which grow Arabis, Aubrietia, and other rock plants. In the border itself, Delphiniums are prominent; also Heleniums, herbaceous Phlox, Tree Lupins, Solidagos, Doronicums, Hemerocallis, Oriental Papaver, Lychnis, and Asters. Between the Yew and Laurel hedge is the Rosery, approached through an archway of Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha and Psyche, and Briers at either side."

"And your main beds?"

"There are seven, with eighteen trees of one variety in each. These varieties are Madame Ravary, General Jacqueminot, Caroline Testout, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Madame Hoste, Frau Karl Druschki, and Rainbow. The wall at the end is covered with Ramblers?"

Apples on Bushes.

"How large is your kitchen garden?" I asked, as we entered.

"There is an acre between walls and hedges, and about the same quantity outside for growing the rougher vegetables. We do not devote the inside kitchen garden entirely to fruit and vegetables, but make it as pretty as we can, with Roses on arches along the centre, while Pæonies are a great feature of the borders, which run all round. As to other flowers outside, we grow

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Border Carnations in front of one of the houses. I layer them in August, pot them in October, keep them in one of the Vineries, and plant out in March."

"Do you grow Apples entirely on bushes?"

"Yes, and prune them severely in summer and winter. A few Pears are grown, such as Winter Nelis, and Williams's Bon Chretien, but the soil suits Apples much better. We get good crops of bush fruits and Morello Cherries. Of Black Currants we have Baldwin's Black, newly planted, and we are not troubled with the mite. From two or three plants of Loganberry we gather a quantity of fruit. Of Strawberries, only one variety, Royal Sovereign, is grown."

The Cultivation of Early Peas.

"What is your principal vegetable?"

"Decidedly Peas. I suppose the garden Pea is a favourite vegetable with almost everyone. On our very clayey soil, we often have a difficulty to get the ground in fit condition for sowing early Peas, but we like to do this in January. Sometimes we have sown them with frost on the ground, and obtained very good results, though we take care not to sow until there have been two or three mild days, the frost being only just sufficient to make the soil crumble and stop it sticking to one's boots. When the drills have been drawn out, we put in a mixture of soot and ashes. Before sowing the seeds they are sprinkled with water, and then covered with red-lead, to scare away mice. When the seeds have been covered in, I place a few more ashes on the top, which helps to keep the soil more open. A little more soot is sprinkled round the plants as soon as they appear, in order to keep away slugs. When the plants are about an inch high, we draw up some soil round them with a hoe, and then stake them as soon as possible. The pods should be gathered directly they are ready, so that any later pods may have a better chance to fill out."

Forcing Cauliflowers and Rhubarb.

"Do you care to say anything about other vegetables?"

"Between the Peas we grow a row of ordinary Spinach, and sometimes early Cauliflowers. The Spinach Beet is largely grown, and stands well. A certain quantity of Asparagus is forced in a frame, and we start cutting in beds the beginning of May, continuing until the middle of June. It is a mistake to cut later. We force a few Dwarf Beans in pots, using Sutton's Forcing for the purpose, and, for outside growth, Canadian Wonder. Only a few Potatoes are grown, the varieties being May Queen, Harbinger, Up-to-Date, and Superlative. Cauliflowers, brought on in boxes, are planted out in the middle of April."

"I see you force a quantity of Rhubarb outside?"

"We have been pulling it for three weeks. My system is to put pots on the plants after the frost comes, and straw round. But the pots should not be put on till the frost has done its work."

The Range of Glass.

"Then, there are the houses?"

"They include a Peach house, which is entirely cold, with an inside border. We get good crops of Bellegarde, Sea Eagle, Late Devonian, Dymond, Hale's Early and Waterloo. Here we keep in winter our Agapanthus, Hydrangeas, and Campanulas."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Three. In the first we have Black Hamburgh (which are just set); and in the second, Muscats, Buckland's Sweetwater, and Black Hamburgh. This Vinery is also used for pot Roses for the conservatory, the favourite varieties being Liberty, Richmond, Lady Roberts, and Mrs. W. J. Grant. In the late Vinery, which is planted inside with the roots growing out, the varieties are Lady Downe's Seedling, and Black Alicante. Here are the Oleanders, which we stand in front of the house in June, and the Fuchsias, of which the varieties are Ballet Girl, Lieutenant Moriarty, Brilliant, and Royal Purple."

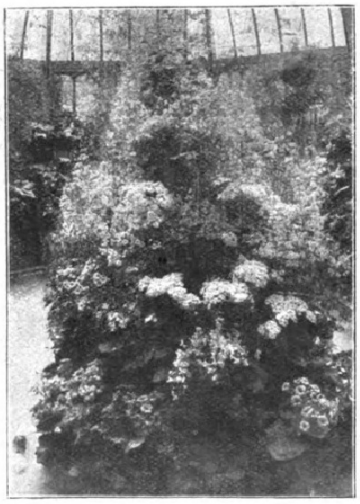
"Do you grow many Carnations?"

"In the cooler house we are now entering are Malmaisons and Perpetual-flowering varieties, of which we grow several up-to-date kinds."

How to Get a Good Display of Chrysanthemums in November.

Then, noticing in one of the houses Mr. Best's double Cyclamen, with a white and crimson centre, and a collection of Orchids in the stove, with a few Dracænas and Crotons, I enquired about the Chrysanthemums.

"They are a big feature with us, and we have a large group of the Japanese varieties in the conservatory. I endeavour to have a good display in November, and to secure this I like to start propagating at the beginning of the previous December. I always select the strongest cuttings because they make the best plants. Before they are put into pots, I invariably dip them in Abol, which prevents them from being attacked by mildew or fly whilst they are in the propagating cases. Using 3-in. pots, I fill them with a mixture of loam and leaf-mould, passed through a fine sieve, with plenty of coarse sand. When this has been firmly pressed into the pots, I place a sprinkling of sand on the top, and the pots are then ready for the cuttings. I put in twice as many of these as I require, so that I may have plenty from which to select the best plants. Four cuttings are inserted round the side of each pot, and they always root better like this than in the middle of the pot. They are next plunged in cocoanut fibre to the rims, in handlights placed in the late Vinery. If they are well watered in, they require little or no water until well rooted. I shade them from the sun, but admit a crack of air to let off excessive moisture. At no time should the cuttings be allowed to droop. On bright days, I spray over with a fine syringe, and find it very helpful."



SPRING FLOWERS AT SUMMERS PLACE.

Artificial Heat.

"What about artificial heat?"

"I only use it in frosty or very damp weather. As the cuttings become rooted, they are taken from the cases and gradually hardened to the sun and air. In about five or six weeks they make sufficient root to be potted up singly. Three-inch pots are again used, and I find a mixture of fine loam and leaf-mould, with a little sand and wood ashes, and a slight sprinkling of soot, very suitable for this potting. I only pot the best plants, and just the number required. Towards the end of March these plants are taken from the Vinery to a cold frame, the frame being well covered on frosty nights by mats. Careful attention is given every day to watering and airing, and as the weather becomes warmer, more air is admitted. The pots become full of roots about the middle of April, and the plants are then ready for another shift."

The Final Potting.

"What size pots do you use on this occasion?"

"Five and six-inch pots, and the soil is used in a coarser state, with a little artificial manure and sifted horse-droppings incorporated. To make the soil firm when potting, I use a rammer. The plants are still kept in the frame, but an abundance of air is admitted on all favourable occasions. Towards the end of April the lights are taken off in the day-time, and by the middle of May I am able to stand the plants outdoors altogether. By the second week in June they are ready for the final potting in 9-in. or 10-in. pots, when the compost used is a mixture of roughly chopped, loamy leaf-mould, horse droppings, wood ash, bones and soot. The soil having been made very firm, the plants are then stood in their summer quarters."

"Do you stake them at once?"

"Yes, it is the only safe plan. As the pots become full of roots, I water the plants with manure and soot-water, also giving them top-dressings of artificial manure about once a fortnight. To avoid any trouble with fly, it is only necessary to occasionally spray the plants with insecticide. A sharp look-out must also be kept for earwigs. I consider that the first week in October is a good time to house the plants, though if any of the buds show colour before this date, they are taken in at once. As the blooms open, a light shading becomes necessary if the sun is very bright. I never allow the flowers to touch one another, or to touch the stakes, because the contact bruises the petals. With a little more watering and ventilating, the result of one's labours will soon be seen."

"How long have you been at Summers Place, Mr. Best?"

"I came here early in March, 1908. With regard to my previous experience, I started under my father at The Vyne, Basingstoke, my father being gardener to the family by whom I am at present employed. I was then for three and a half years at Sandbeck Hall, Lord Scarborough's seat in Yorkshire, next at Deepdene, Dorking, for eighteen months, and then I went to the gardens of Lord Lansdowne, at Bowood, where I remained for two years in charge of the plant house."

ALFRED WILCOX.

MR. WILCOX's article for next week is entitled "Orchids for Amateurs," being an interview with Mr. Arthur Cross, of Achnacone Gardens, Braiswick, Colchester.

THE Asparagus is a genus of the Lily tribe. It is only found in a wild state on the south-western and western coasts, and in Wexford and Waterford, in Ireland.

THE finest form in cultivation of that charming plant, the Japanese Quince (Pyrus or Cydonia japonica), is that known as Simoni. It is not a new plant, but its exquisite colour should ensure it a place in every garden.

ONE of the most beautiful of all deciduous shrubs is the little-known Exochorda grandiflora; this is a near relative of the Spiræas, and by some is included with them, but, charming as many of the shrubby Spiræas are, none of them can equal this for sheer beauty. The large blossoms are of the purest white, with a central ring, or eye, that is quite unique. It is a perfectly hardy subject, and by no means expensive.

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of receiving others for the purpose of dissection, the author has now made a careful examination of the insect. He described the forms of branchiæ in different genera of *Neuroptera*, and pointed out that the peculiarity of *Pteronarcys* consists in its possessing in its winged state, both branchiæ for aquatic respiration and spiracles for the direct respiration of air.

He then described the branchiæ, their connexion with the respiratory organs, and the mode in which the blood circulates through them, as he has seen in a neighbouring family, *Sialis*, and reviewed what is yet known of the habits of the insect in connexion with these remarkable structures.

The author regards *Pteronarcys*, from the circumstance of its possessing in its winged state the means of both aquatic and aërial respiration, as an *Insect Proteus*, the representative of the *Proteus* of *Vertebrata*, both in structure and habits.

The anatomy of some parts of the dermo-skeleton, of the spiracles, and of the distribution of its internal respiratory organs, as compared with that of neighbouring genera, is then described, as well as of the digestive organs, and nervous and reproductive system. These are minutely examined and the structures delineated on an accompanying plate.

Anniversary Meeting.

May 24.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich, President, in the Chair.

This day, the Anniversary of the birth of Linnæus, and that appointed by the Charter for the election of Council and Officers, the President opened the business of the Meeting, and stated the number of Members whom the Society had lost during the past year; and the Secretary read the following notices of those Fellows with whose decease the Society had become acquainted since the last Anniversary.

Mr. Arthur Biggs was for some time gardener to Isaac Swainson, Esq., and afterwards Curator of the Cambridge Botanic Garden. He was elected an Associate of the Linnean Society in 1815, soon after his appointment to the latter office; and in December of the same year he became a Fellow of the Society. While in the service of

Mr. Swainson he contributed to the first volume of the 'Transactions of the Horticultural Society,' a paper entitled "An Account of some new Apples which, with many others that have been cultivated, were exhibited before the Horticultural Society on the 2nd of December last [1806]." He died in the early part of the present year.

John Dunston, Esq., of Castle House, Sidbury, near Honiton, Devon, became a Fellow of the Society in 1818, and died on the 11th of August 1847, at the age of 68.

John Ellis, Esq., became a Fellow of the Society in 1797, and of the Royal Society in 1801.

William Finch, Esq., M.D., of Bellevue, near Salisbury, became a Fellow of the Society in 1837, and died on the 7th of January 1848.

George Townshend Fox, Esq., was a gentleman of property in the county of Durham, and warmly attached to the study of natural history, and especially of British ornithology. He published in 1827 a "Synopsis of the Newcastle Museum, late the Allan, formerly the Tunstall, or Wycliffe Museum: to which are prefixed Memoirs of Mr. Tunstall, the Founder, and of Mr. Allan, the late Proprietor, of the Collection, with occasional Remarks on the Species, by those Gentlemen and the Editor," Newcastle, 8vo. This volume is chiefly remarkable, in a natural-history point of view, for the notes on the capture of the rarer species of British birds, and on the distinctions of the more doubtful, which evince considerable research and knowledge of the subject. Mr. Fox was himself a large contributor to the museum he described, and in which he continued to take great interest up to the time of his death, in April of the present year. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1825.

The Rev. John Hailstone, M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S. &c., was born in the neighbourhood of London, in the year 1759, and at a very early age was placed under the care of a maternal uncle at York, and afterwards sent to Beverley School in the East Riding of that county. At the usual period he was entered at Catherine Hall, in the University of Cambridge; his talents, however, attracted the notice of his friends, and he removed by their advice to a larger place of competition and honour, Trinity College, where he took his degree of B.A. in 1782, and was the second Wrangler of his year, in company with Dr. Wood the late Master of St. John (who was Senior Wrangler), Dr. Raine (late Master of the Charter House), Professor Porson and many other distinguished men. He was soon afterwards elected Fellow of his College, and in 1788 became Woodwardian Professor of Geology in the University, which office he held until 1818, when he relinquished it and his Fellowship, upon

tion by artificial cultures is a fraud is equally wrong. No amount of inoculation or anything else will make up for an imperfectly-prepared seed-bed, bad season, and poor cultivation." What, then, is left? Merely that inoculation, like any good artificial fertiliser, may be some small help to a cultivator who knows his business. Evidently, then, we are still very far from the horticultural millenium which we were led to expect we were entering on. The time when we can sit down and watch our crops grow bountifully, year after year, has not yet arrived, after all. We must still dig and weed and hoe, still manure the ground, still raise our crops with the sweat of our brow (my present assistant will surely groan when I tell him the sad mistake that has been made); but if we do these things properly, inoculation may, in some cases, be of some slight service to us. That is all. It is just another fall for Humpty-Dumpty. The fellow has no business to be getting on walls.

The Scarborough Lily.

October 25th.—The Scarborough Lily (Vallota purpurea) is frequently described as a window plant, and certainly it may often be seen grown to perfection in the windows of cottages. A native of South Africa, it needs protection from frost in winter, and it gets in such positions just the baking in the sunshine which suits it while it is growing. These plants, again, when grown in windows, are not often repotted, and this is also favourable to Vallotas, for they flower much better when they are left undisturbed as long as possible.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at The Heights, Witley, Surrey.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JAMES BINNINGTON.

IT would not be easy to find eight acres of land turned to better account for horticultural purposes than they are at The Heights, Witley. This charming country residence was the property of Colonel Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton until his lamented death, in the summer of this year. It now belongs to his niece, Mrs. Farnham, to whose courtesy I am indebted for the visit which I paid to the gardens on August 31st. The house itself is worthy of its beautiful setting; the exterior is extremely attractive, and the interior has recently been greatly improved. The improvements were only, in fact, completed just before Lord Edward's death, though Mrs. Farnham has the satisfaction of knowing that her uncle was pleased with the manner in which they were carried out. She was good enough to point out to me some of the additions, which have been made with much care and taste, and I had the privilege of seeing some of the very fine paintings which adorn the walls. From the windows of almost every room there is a magnificent prospect. As the name implies, the house stands on an eminence, and the outlook includes some of the most delightful Surrey and Sussex scenery.

An interesting episode in the history of The Heights is that from 1876 to 1880 it was the home of George Eliot, and the famous novelist, like the present owner, must have intensely appreciated the natural charms of the diversified landscape. With these charms, the grounds harmonise in the most remarkable manner, and from the terrace, at the top of the slope, to the kitchen garden, at the bottom, everything is in the most perfect order.

"And, first of all," I said to Mr. James Binnington, the head gardener, as he commenced to show me round, "will you tell me how long it is since the gardens were laid out?"

"About forty-six years. They were designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, and, though many alterations in detail have been made, during the progress of years, pains have always been taken to preserve the main features."

"In what order do you suggest we should take the features?"

THE HEIGHTS, WITLEY, SURREY.

"Perhaps I should explain at the beginning that while we grow an ample supply of fruit and vegetables, the main object always kept in view is to have an adequate supply of plants to decorate the interior of the house and beautify the pleasure grounds."

MR. JAMES BINNINGTON.

"Yes, I observed that there were many beautiful flowers in the house, and the general appearance of the pleasure grounds proves that you are able to fulfil your main purpose."

"As we are speaking of flowers, then, we might deal with the bedding on the terrace, as it is made up at present. For instance, here is a bed of single striped Petunias, edged with Stachys lanata, grown for its silver-grey foliage, which affords an excellent contrast in colour."

"Begonias appear to be a favourite?"

"Yes, there are several beds of fibrous-rooted Begonias, single and double, the edging alternating with either Alternantheras, Mesembryanthemums, or Echeverias. In the two stone vases are planted Ivy-leaf Geranium (Mauve Beauty), with Ageratums underneath. Another bed consists of yellow Lantana and dwarf blue Ageratum, with a centre plant of Abutilon."

"Then there are the four round beds, and two large ones in close proximity?"

"The former are made up of Ageratums, with Iresine, edged with Pyrethrums, and the latter of Iresine (the tall-growing), with Madame Crousse Geraniums, and dwarf Iresine edged with Stachys lanata. Several other beds consist of pink Begonias, with Mesembryanthemum cordifolium (variegated), edged with Alternanthera. Two beds are composed chiefly of Heliotropes (Lord Roberts) nearly a foot across, with Abutilons as dot plants, edged with Alternanthera. I find, by the way, that the Heliotropes do better planted out than in pots."

Cannas and Geraniums.

"I see you have also a large bed of Cannas?"

"Yes, the soil here suits Cannas remarkably well. The Geraniums mixed with the Cannas are Souvenir de Charles Turner, and the edging Geraniums Flower of Spring. In another corner, with a long border edged with Stachys

lanata, and dwarf Iresines, are more Cannas, mixed. Yet another bed consists of Geraniums (White Vesuvius), with Acacias as dot plants, edged with blue Lobelias."

"How do you fill all these beds in spring?"

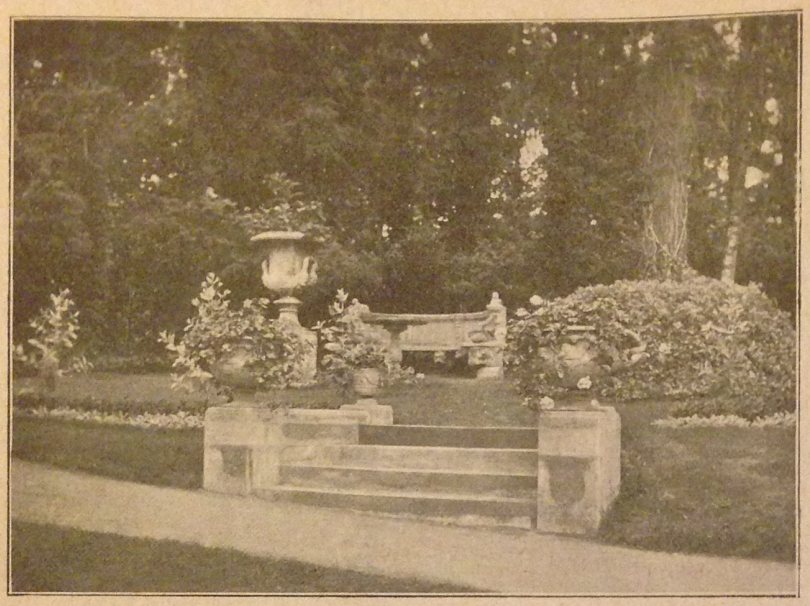
"Almost entirely with Wallflowers, of which we raise between three and four thousand. The varieties include Cloth of Gold, Eastern Queen, Purple Queen, Fairy Queen, Blood-red, Ellen Willmott, and dwarf bedders, brown and yellow."

"I notice that you have Geraniums growing among the shrubs."

"They are scarlet and pink varieties, in baskets, and are placed there in summer for the sake of colour. In the spring we have Rhododendrons in flower."

"You go in considerably for Rhododendrons?"

"Our collection includes some of the best and rarest varieties, such as Pink Pearl (of which we have four beds), George Hardy, Ingramii, roseum elegans, perspicuum, Duchess of Bedford, Mrs. J. Waterer, and Princess Mary of Cambridge. These are for the beds. Then, as standards, we have Mrs. John Waterer, Mrs. Mendel, The Warrior, Sappho, Alexander, The Queen, and roseum elegans. We put peat in the soil of the beds only."



A Picturesque Spot in the Garden.

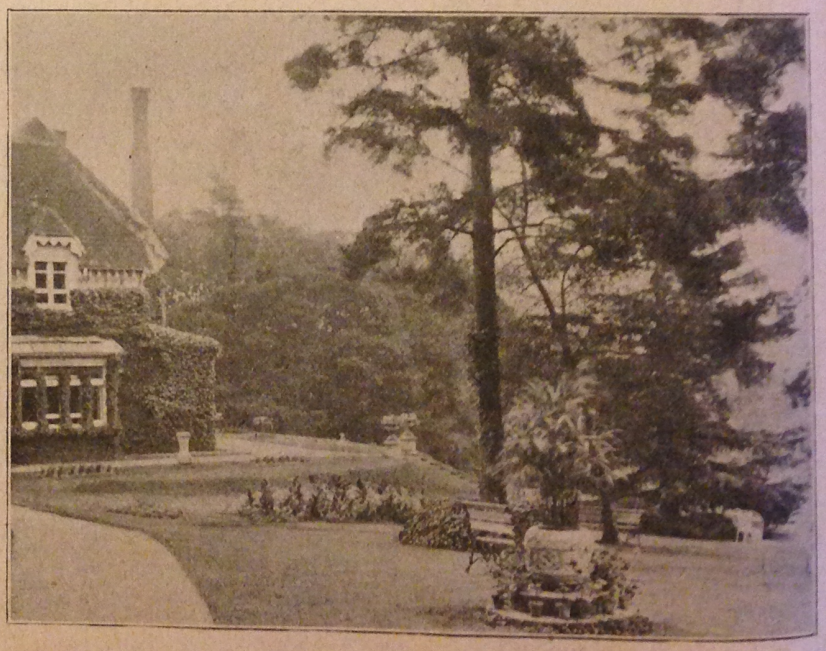
Combinations near the House.

"Perhaps we might now take the immediate surroundings of the house."

"Under the windows in front are Plumbagos, Campanulas (blue and white), and Hydrangeas, all in pots. When they have done flowering, we fill the pots with other varieties. Facing the front door, and backed by trees and shrubs, is a border of mixed flowers, Nicotiana, Tagetes, Nasturtiums, Petunias, and Ageratums being prominent, while one little corner is entirely devoted to Nicotianas of various colours, which are much valued, also, for indoor decorations. On the house itself, Ampelopsis Veitchii is the principal feature, with Myrtles underneath. The kitchen entrance is enriched with a wealth of Laurels, and we think that Irish Ivy on wire makes a better screen for the stable yard than a wall."

"You ought to say a word about the garden round your own pretty cottage."

"The blue and white Campanulas have been a great feature, growing seven feet high; when we were talking about spring bedding, I should have said that the bank of the terrace, which now is bright with St. John's Wort, is in spring planted with Daffodils. In fact, thousands of Daffodils are planted out, as well as a large number of Crocuses. But, before we go down the slope, I should like you to observe the plantation of Scotch and other Pines, among which have been introduced a few Oaks, Spanish Chestnuts, Limes, Beeches and Robinias. The shelter afforded to the house and garden by these trees is appreciated in hot weather."



A Corner of the Pleasure Grounds at the Heights, Witley.

Notable Conifers.

"Which do you consider the most notable of the numerous specimen Conifers which stand by themselves on the lawn?"

"They include Abies pungens glauca, A. pinsapo, A. Douglassii, Cedrus deodara, Retinospora plumosa, Wellingtonia gigantea, Cupressus Lawsoniana erecta viridis, Juniperus chinensis aurea, Pinus cembra, Cryptomeria japonica, Thujopsis borealis, Cupressus Lawsoniana, C. L. monumentalis glauca, C. L. erecta viridis, C. L. gracilis, Pinus macrocarpa, Abies excelsa, and Taxus Dorastonii aurea."

We next came to a Heather garden, containing a great number of varieties of Ericas, arranged. Here, and in several parts of the pleasure grounds, I was impressed with the complete manner in which the principle of ornamentation has been carried out. For example, there are not only handsome carved stone seats and tables in particular places, but at various points are oak and other rustic chairs, comfortable and artistic. Further are beds of Golden Privet and Golden Yew, and a very pleasing effect is created by Clematis montana, planted on the stem of a Scotch Pine, with Ivy round, and a bed of white Petunias below. More striking still was a pyramid planted entirely with West Brighton Gem Geraniums, which last from the end of May till the frost sets in.

"Geraniums," said Mr. Binnington, "are followed in spring by double white Arabis, which, I think, forms even a more effective pyramid than the Geraniums."

Then, having admired the croquet lawn, with its display of fine old lead vases, containing Geraniums (chiefly pink), and the excellent arrangement of shrubs, I asked whether the ground suited Bamboos.

"We have only lately formed that plantation," rejoined Mr. Binnington, "but, so far, they have done very well; the soil and shade suit them, and in about three years' time I hope they will look very well indeed."

"You might tell me the names of the varieties."

"The Arundinarias are aristata, falcata, Hindsii, anceps, insignis, nepalense, japonica and nitida; the Bambusa, fastuosa, Marmorea, palmata, quadrangularis, and tesselata; and the Phyllostachys, aurea, Castellonis, flexuosa, henonis, nigra, Quilloi, and viridi-glaucescens."

From the tennis court we proceeded under several Rose arches, into the kitchen garden, which is approached by two winding walks,

skirting the woods on both sides, and is quite hidden from the pleasure grounds. The kitchen garden, however, is distinctly attractive. The central walk, a hundred and fifty yards long, is also the central feature. There are numerous arches of Roses (Queen Alexandra, Crimson, and other Ramblers), Loniceras and Clematis, and the wide herbaceous border on either side of the walk is planted with great judgment in the matter of colouring.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Binnington, "we go in for wealth of colour in this border, from the tall Sunflowers (growing twelve feet high), and the Cactus Dahlias, to the Nasturtium border. Another contrast in colour is supplied by the Snapdragon (Sutton's new carmine-pink), planted against silver and gold Holly hedges."

"The Sweet Peas deserve a special paragraph to themselves."

"They are grown in rows, according to colour. We used to have a hundred varieties, but I selected the best twenty, and now confine myself to these. They include such popular varieties as Miss Willmott, Dorothy Eckford, King Edward VII., Lady Grisel Hamilton, Helen Pierce, Black Knight, and Navy Blue."

"How many varieties of Violets do you grow?"

"Four—Marie Louise, Mrs. J. J. Astor, Neapolitan, and double white. Border Carnations are grown in quantity for cutting, namely, Old Clove, Duchess of Fife, Pride of Penshurst, Raby Castle, and Rennie Payne."

"Do you go in for any other section of Carnations?"

"Yes, the Trees, for pots, in winter. Then we plant the best of them out in May, and thus get a quantity of flowers, lasting from the end of August until the cold weather sets in. The best varieties are Enchantress, Fair Maid, Lady Bountiful, Mrs. Thomas W. Lawson, Mrs. M. A. Patten, Floriana, G. H. Crane, The Belle, and Royalty. Altogether, we have about five hundred of these."

The Glasshouses.

"How many houses are there?"

"Six. In the first we grow, as you see, Melons and Cucumbers together. The varieties of Melons are Hero of Lockinge, Carter's Blenheim Orange, and Earl's Favourite; the Cucumbers, Carter's Improved Telegraph, Lockie's Perfection, and Rochford's Market. In the second house, Sunrise and Outdoor Tomatoes are grown, with Gloire de Lorraine Begonias, in pots, hanging on the nails."

"You have a fine specimen of Allamanda on the roof of your stove."

"It has been there for three or four years, and lasts in flower nearly all the year. The stove plants include Crotons, Acalyphas, Asparagus, Bougainvilleas, Pancratiums, Pandanus, Dracænas of sorts, Caladiums, Eucharis, Gardenias, and Hibiscus."

"And the greenhouse, in which I observe Fuchsias are a conspicuous feature?"

"There are several varieties, and also several of Geraniums, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Begonias and Coleus. The other plants are, chiefly, Heliotropes, Achimenes, Acacias, Aspidistras, Grevilleas, Kalanchoes, Plumbagos, and Gloxinias. In the Fernery are Palms and Ferns in variety. The Vinery, which completes the list, contains Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, Madresfield Court, and Muscat of Alexandria."

Fruit and Vegetables.

"Have you any specialities in the way of hardy fruit?"

"Pears on cordons do very well with us, notably Beurré Hardy, Beurré Jean van Gwert, Alexandre Lambre, Bon Chrétien, Charles Ernest, Colmar d'Ete, Conference, Dr. Jules Guyot, Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Emile d'Heyst, Fondante d'Automne, Jargonelle, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Olivier de Serres, Pitmaston Duchess, and Princess. Our best Apples are Blenheim Orange, Cellini Pippin, Dumelow's Seedling, King of Pippins, Warner's King, Lord Suffield, Ribston Pippin, Mère de Menage, Beauty of Kent, Scarlet Custard, Bramley's Seedling, and Irish Peach."

"What about vegetables?"

"Most vegetables succeed in this garden, because the soil is very light, and is composed mainly of sandy peat. But, of course, it has been necessary to use a quantity of manure. We go in largely for salads, and you may like to mention specially Raphanus caudatus, or the Rat-tailed Radish. This used to be grown largely many years ago, and I think might with advantage be revived. These Radishes are planted in a row, and supported with sticks, like Peas. They are very useful for salads all through the summer, when it is difficult to get other Radishes."

"Have you been at The Heights ever since Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton bought the place?"

"I came here five years before Lord Edward's time. I was previously for three years head gardener at Brome Hall, Suffolk, and my earlier experience was gained at Claremont, four years; Millburn House, Esher, three years, under Mr. Gardiner (who has just been appointed superintendent of Hyde Park); and Dalton Hall, Yorkshire."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 273.—PLANTS FOR EARLY FLOWERING.

DEAR KATE.—One of the special charms of gardening is this—that it shortens the winter, for, directly the frosts cut off our summer flowers, we set to work to provide bright blossoms for spring, and there is no time in the year when we cannot have plenty of flowers, if we do this. The earliest bulbs (Roman Hyacinths, etc.) are already showing waxen buds; the Poinsettias are unfurling their carmine bracts; the fire-coloured blooms of Libonia floribunda are opening; and the Chrysanthemums are in full beauty, especially in the cold glass porch, where they always last longer and grow more sturdily than in the warm conservatory. But these are autumn flowers, and we must now think of spring.

DEUTZIA GRACILIS.

Deutzias and Spiræas.

Of course, you have plenty of the snowy-white Deutzia (gracilis) which is so easily induced to blossom early? There is now a new pink variety of this graceful plant, Deutzia gracilis carminea, with deep red buds opening to show pale pink petals inside. It is very bright and cheerful looking, and can be grown as easily as the white Deutzias, if you pot up the roots now, let them stand in a sheltered place out of doors until the end of the year, and then bring them into slight warmth, and give them plenty of tepid water. Then there is a new pink Spiræa, called Peach Blossom, which is like the white Japanese Spiræa in habit, but produces erect plumes of pink flowers instead of white; and another variety, Queen Alexandra, is more spreading in shape, with very pale pink blossoms, in fact, they are almost white when forced for early bloom, but deeper in tint when grown in a cool place. All the Spiræas need an abundant supply of water, and the herbaceous varieties, especially, are best treated as semi-aquatic plants; out of doors they enjoy a bog, or a bog-tub in a dry garden, and indoors they should have saucers which can be kept half full of water, for the least check to their growth, when they have once started, is likely to be injurious to them.

Both these shrubs are quite hardy, and yet force well; the Spiræas should be planted out after flowering, choosing a damp spot in the garden for them, and if you divide a large clump into several pieces before doing this, you will have plenty of plants to pot up in the autumn. But if the clump has been much forced, it is better to let the pieces grow undisturbed in the garden for eighteen months or more, taking them in when November comes round the second time after they are divided and planted out.

BINKS Alan of 44 Greycote Shortstown **Bedfordshire** died 14 April 1941 at 3 Kimbolton-road Bedford Administration **Birmingham** 24 July to Mary Ella Binks (wife of John Henry Binks). Effects £123 14s. 9d.

BINKS Alfred Thomas of 47 Elthone Park-road Hanwell **Middlesex** died 28 March 1941 at West Middlesex Hospital Isleworth Middlesex Probate **Llandudno** 5 June to Grace Violet Odell (wife of Walter Westropp Odell). Effects £1125 11s. 6d.

BINKS Alice of Hammond Farm Austerfield **Yorkshire** widow died 22 February 1941 Administration **Llandudno** 19 June to Wilfrid Binks and Herbert Binks farmers. Effects £1637 15s. 10d.

BINKS Arthur of 51 Junction-road Romford **Essex** died 17 January 1941 Probate **Llandudno** 16 April to Harold Arthur Binks temporary clerk Air Ministry. Effects £2768 15s. 6d.

BINKS Charles Richard Atkinson of 18 Treherne-road Rotherham **Yorkshire** died 3 May 1941 Probate **Llandudno** 30 July to Stanley Moss butcher. Effects £589.

BINKS Clara Dent of 195 Prospect-road **Scarborough** spinster died 21 July 1941 Probate **Wakefield** 29 August to The Yorkshire Penny Bank Limited. Effects £208 1s. 9d.

BINKS Fannie of 9 The Crescent Maghull **Lancashire** widow died 22 December 1940 at Ormskirk County Hospital Ormskirk Lancashire Administration **Liverpool** 29 April to Minnie Biglands and Carrie Hudson widows. Effects £1134 11s. 3d.

BINKS George Monday of Lynton 66 Arbutus-drive **Bristol 9** died 30 September 1940 at sea Administration **Bristol** 17 November to Edith Winifred Binks widow. Effects £164 15s. 6d.

BINKS Gladys Eleanor of 154 West Wycombe-road High Wycombe **Buckinghamshire** (wife of Harry Binks) died 2 November 1940 at Maidenhead Nursing Home Maidenhead Berkshire Probate **Llandudno** 20 February to the said Harry Binks retired methodist minister. Effects £7646 11s. 6d.

BINKS Joseph of 115 Brookhill-street Stapleford **Nottinghamshire** died 18 April 1941 Probate **Nottingham** 15 May to Doris Binks spinster. Effects £308 16s. 10d.

BINKS Laura Elizabeth of 244 St. Stephens-road West Bowling **Bradford** (wife of Arthur Binks) died 28 June 1941 at St Lukes Hospital Bradford Probate **Llandudno** 9 September to Thomas Arthur Binks electrician. Effects £645 18s. 1d.

BINKS Matthew Samuel of 125 Leeds-road Newton Hill **Wakefield** died 24 April 1941 at The Clayton Hospital Wentworth-street Wakefield Administration **Wakefield** 26 July to Mary Ada Binks widow. Effects £592 11s. 9d.

BINKS Sarah Jane of 834 Tong-road **Leeds** widow died 2 February 1941 Probate **Wakefield** 22 July to Francis Mould brewery representative and Herbert Edward Harwood incorporated accountant. Effects £1538 11s. 6d.

BINKS Wallace Gordon of Mill End Well near Bedale **Yorkshire** died 8 September 1941 at Tanfield near Bedale Administration **Llandudno** 23 December to Albert William Binks farm labourer. Effects £75.

BINKS William of 103 High-street Bolton **Lancashire** died 11 July 1917 Probate **Llandudno** 11 November to Diana Binks widow. Effects £3360 1s. Former Grants D.R. **Manchester** 11 August 1917 and P.R. 1 August 1925.

BINLEY Frances Maria of 124 Davies-road West Bridgford **Nottinghamshire** (wife of Bernard Edward Binley) died 7 November 1941 Administration **Nottingham** 17 December to the said Bernard Edward Binley retired commercial clerk. Effects £935 5s. 3d.

BINMORE George of 14 Brent-road Paignton **Devonshire** died 7 March 1941 Probate **Llandudno** 2 October to Frank Binmore builder. Effects £235 9s.

BINNEE Florence Minnie of 6 West-street Harrow **Middlesex** (wife of Herbert William Binnee) died 15 March 1941 at The Harrow and Wealdstone Hospital Harrow Administration **Llandudno** 28 July to the said Herbert William Binnee gardener. Effects £165 14s. 9d.

BINNELL Fanny of 121 Clarence-way Kentish Town **London N.W.1** (wife of Alfred Binnell) died 25 April 1941 at Park-crescent Peny garn Abersychan Pontypool Monmouthshire Administration **Llandudno** 16 June to the said Alfred Binnell labourer. Effects £248 6s. 11d.

BINNERSLEY Charles of The Uplands Lower-street Hillmorton Rugby **Warwickshire** died 22 April 1941 Probate **Birmingham** 25 June to Florence Bertha Harvey spinster and Edward Willis-Fleming solicitor. Effects £4153 4s. 8d.

BINNEY Harry of 67 Rosegrove-lane **Burnley** died 26 August 1941 Probate **Llandudno** 3 October to James Binney newsagent and stationer. Effects £2073 8s. 1d.

BINNEY John Tagg of 129 High-street Mosborough **Yorkshire** died 4 December 1941 near School-lane Mosborough Administration **Llandudno** 30 December to Ada Binney widow. Effects £249 2s.

BINNIE Annie of Frimley and Camberley District Hospital Frimley **Surrey** spinster died 27 May 1940 Confirmation of John Binnie garage attendant. Sealed **Llandudno** 24 April.

BINNIE John Ernest of 5 Ellesmere-place Altrincham **Cheshire** died on or since 24 May 1941 on war service Administration **Manchester** 29 September to Ernest Frederick Binnie of no occupation. Effects £162 15s.

BINNIE Margaret Wilson of Mount View Elysium Rothesay **Bute** spinster died 29 December 1940 Confirmation of Robert Aird physician and Margaret Agnes Paterson or Tait widow. Sealed **Llandudno** 14 August.

BINNING Frederick of Wedmore **Somersetshire** died 5 July 1916 on war service Administration **Bristol** 13 June to Alice Norah Binning widow. Effects £25.

BINNING Libbie of Holly House Yarrow Mark **Somersetshire** spinster died 2 May 1941 at High-street Axbridge Somersetshire Probate **Bristol** 27 August to Lillie Binning spinster. Effects £1731 7s. 7d.

BINNINGTON Charlotte Ellen of Chantilly Willerby **Yorkshire** widow died 10 July 1941 Probate **York** 6 October to Tom Shipley and Arthur Garton solicitors clerks. Effects £5334 8s. 9d.

BINNINGTON Henry Foster of 11 Mirfield-road Grimsby **Lincolnshire** died 17 December 1940 Probate **Llandudno** 22 May to Albert Edwin Binnington retired fish merchants manager. Effects £1894 6s. 3d.

BINNINGTON James of Collingwood Wormley Godalming **Surrey** died 12 April 1941 at 1 Wormley-lane Hambleton Surrey Probate **Llandudno** 23 May to Arthur Binnington gardener. Effects £243 17s. 4d.

BINNINGTON Thomas of 8 Woodville-grove **Leeds** died 17 March 1941 Probate **Llandudno** 23 May to Robert Morrod Binnington cloth raiser John Henry Hudson coal dealer and Harrison Sissons funeral director. Effects £2388 17s.

BINNION Albert of 184 Wellington-street Winson Green **Birmingham 18** died 6 November 1940 Administration **Birmingham** 9 January to Kate Binnion widow. Effects £126 9s. 11d.

BINNS Alfred George of 36 The Triangle Altrincham **Cheshire** died 1 February 1941 Probate **Manchester** 19 March to Jeanette Binns widow. Effects £801 0s. 11d.

GC, 1894

Obituary.

MR. HENRY BIRCH.—We regret to announce the death of this widely-known and highly esteemed gardener, who died suddenly of apoplexy, on his return from Northampton to Castle Ashby, on Tuesday, November 27. The deceased, who was forty years of age, began his gardening career with his father at Hatherop Castle, subsequently being placed in the gardens at Sandringham. He filled the situation of foreman in the gardens at Croxteth Park, was head-gardener at Waddesdon, Aylesbury, and for the past eleven years has held the head place in the gardens of the Marquis of Northampton at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire. A widow and two children survive him.

phate of copper in winter, but the remedy is one which should be applied with caution if there are other plants in the bed. Indeed, if they are evergreen, it would almost certainly injure them. Spraying in spring with a solution of sulphide of potassium (half an ounce to the gallon of water, with the addition of some adhesive, such as a little soft soap) is much safer.

Seed Germination.

August 14th.—What proportion of seed out of a packet should germinate? Of course, much depends on the kind of seed and the conditions. But, generally speaking, a good sample, gathered, sorted, and sown under favourable conditions, should yield 80 per cent. of plants. In some American experiments, which extended over thirteen years, it was found that over 89 per cent. of Onion seed germinated. When the seed was two years old, however, the percentage fell to 79; at three years to 57; and at four years to 10. These figures were affected by weather and climate. They were lower in a cold, wet summer than in a dry, warm one, and they were higher in California than in Connecticut. Even for a single plant, it is impossible to lay down a hard-and-fast rule, while the figures which generally hold for one kind cannot be safely applied to any other. The period required for germination is equally variable. Some seeds germinate in a few days, while others, like those of many Palms, often take several years. With regard to Palms, however, a French grower has found that, by treating the seeds like those of Cannas—soaking them for twenty-four hours in very hot water—they will germinate in a fortnight. If this is true, it should make Palms even cheaper than they are at present.

H. C. Davidson.

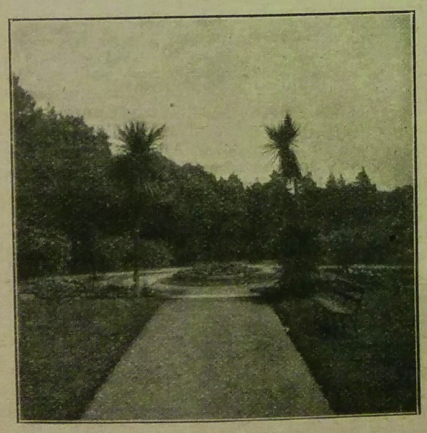
The Gardens of Boldre Grange, Lymington.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. W. S. BLACK.

In all the New Forest there is no fairer spot than Boldre, and the pleasure grounds of Boldre Grange are lovely beyond description. Mrs. John Lane Shrubb, the owner, to whose courtesy I am indebted for a visit paid to the gardens early in July, is herself an enthusiastic horticulturist, and revels in the beauty of all kinds of flowers. Arriving on a perfect summer morning, Mr. Black, the head gardener, first of all showed me some of the attractive surroundings. These are characteristic of New Forest scenery at its best. The feature of the principal drive is a fine show of Rhododendrons on either side, but there is another drive, from the pretty house occupied by Mr. Black, through picturesque woods, fragrant with the perfume of Pines. Near the Grange are several specimen trees, all the more notable because they were all planted when the place was laid out but thirty years ago.

"The soil must be very congenial?" I observed.

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Black, "it is a light, gravelly soil, and everything grows quickly. One of the best specimens here is the Sciadopitys, and the Tulip-tree and Wellingtonias do



A Walk at Boldre Grange, Lymington.

particularly well. The soil suits the Elæagnus, of which we have numerous varieties. The only bedding at this point consists of Digitalis, which is nearly over, and will be succeeded by Hyacinthus candicans."

Proceeding to the south front, from which a charming view of the sea and the Isle of Wight is obtained, we entered the spacious and lofty conservatory. I at once noticed a remarkable

Boldre Grange, Lymington.

specimen of Cyathea, and a Palm bed is quite a feature. Out of this bed several trees with stems a foot in diameter have been taken. Noticing, also, a Camellia bed, I asked the names of the numerous climbers.

"They include Asparagus in variety, africanus being one, Bignonia Tweediana, Bougainvillea glabra, Jasminum grandiflora, Lapagerias alba and rosea, Plumbago capensis and capensis alba, Solanum Wendlandii, Streptosolen Jamesonii (in flower), Bomarea Carderi (a splendid climber, with bell-shaped, rose-coloured flowers), Pleroma sarmentosum (a fine variety, with violet-purple flowers, very free flowering and effective), Tecoma jasminioides (white, streaked red in throat), Acacia dealbata, and Hoya carnosa."

"The flowering plants vary, of course, according to the seasons, and now, I see, you have some Francoas in bloom. Do you give them special treatment?"

"No, merely the ordinary greenhouse treatment. There are two rather nice specimens of Crassula in flower, and the Tracheliums (cœrulea) are very useful because of their colour."

"When did your fine collection of Gladioli begin to flower?"

"The middle of June, and they will last for about three weeks longer. The varieties are Blushing Bride, Prince of Orange, Ne Plus Ultra, Peach Blossom, Rosy Gem, and The Bride."

"Which do you consider the best of the Pelargoniums in bloom?"

"Miss Jessie Cottie, Mars, Godfrey's Pride, Eucharis, Richmond, and Hamlet et Ophelia. Four of the best Ivy-leaved Geraniums are Ryecroft Surprise, Baden Powell, Ryecroft Scarlet, and Galilee; and six of the best Zonals are Countess of Jersey, Mary Pelton, Mrs. Ewing,

The Pergola at Boldre Grange.

Queen of Italy, Fragrance, and Lady Tennyson. Of Verbenas, we think Miss Willmott the best for colour."

"What is the name of the pretty golden flower?"

"Tritonia aurea. We treat it the same as a Gladiolus. The Malmaison Carnations in flower include Princess of Wales, Prince Consort, and Nell Gwynne."

"And the yellow variety?"

"Duchess Consuelo. But that Carnation is more of a Tree than a Malmaison. It is very difficult to get a yellow variety good. The conservatory also contains a number of Japanese Maples, Eulalia japonica variegata (a splendid dwarf plant), and Clerodendron Balfouriana (scarlet and white), in pots."

"There are several climbers on the Grange?"

"Chiefly Banksian Roses, Magnolias in variety, Jasminum revoluta, Myrtles (angustifolia and Communis), Habrothamnus, Mandevillea suaveolens (pure white, scented), and Pomegranate (Punica granatum). By the way, in front of the conservatory is a rather rare evergreen climber, Lardizabala biternata, with racemes of purple flowers and glossy green leaves."

"Then, there are the tubs on the terrace."

"They are filled with Hydrangeas, American Aloes, and Agapanthus umbellata, mainly. The last thrives wonderfully here."

"Do you give it protection in the winter?"

"Only a little, in a cool house. The mild climate and dry air suit the Agapanthus. This applies also to the Yuccas, and still more to the Chamærops Fortuneii."

The Italian Design.

"You go in for Begonias for bedding purposes?"

"There are four beds, two of Heliotrope, and two of Salpiglossis. The straight borders fronting the Grange have, for a first line, Salvia splendens and Bethelii, Calceolarias amplexicaule, and Ricinus; the second line is composed of Geraniums Hermione and John Gibbons alternating; and the third line of double blue Lobelias."

"But the formal bedding faces east, with two lofty specimens of Dracæna australis at the top."

"Yes, that is an Italian design, with a terra-

cotta bed in the centre, consisting of Lobelia cardinalis, Ivy-leaf Geraniums Charles Turner and Little Pet, and Coleus Verschaffeldtii. The remainder of the design is made up of Fairy Queen Begonias, Geraniums La France, Flower of Spring, Henry Jacoby, Hermione, Mrs. Pollock, and Harry Hieover, golden and brown Calceolarias, and dwarf Heliotropes, edged with Lobelias and Diascia, the whole enclosed by Box."

Beyond the bedding on the east side of the Grange is a unique summer-house, with a weeping Elm for a roof, and Laurels on the sides of the corrugated iron. Even when the thermometer, as at the time of my visit, showed ninety in the shade, the summer-house was quite cool. Near it was a Palm tree twenty feet high, just coming into flower, to which no protection whatever is given in winter; and, beyond, on the sloping lawn, are Maples in variety, Cedars, Prunus Pissardi, and Tamarix gallica. Passing the lovely tennis court, surrounded with trees and shrubs, we arrived at one of the most striking pergolas I have seen.

The Decoration of the Pergola.

"How long ago was this highly-decorated archway erected?" I enquired.

"Six years ago. It runs the entire length of the south side of the pleasure garden, has brick and metal pillars alternately, with trellis-work on the top. A little of the brickwork is visible here and there, and the whole has a splendid effect. My experience is that the plants grow as well on brick as on wood, and, in fact, you can judge for yourself."

"Roses are largely represented?"

"Considerably, but there are many other plants intermixed. The Roses are the principal of the newest climbers, notably the Macartney section, and the Wichuriana, such as Réné André. Ampelopsis is represented by Veitchii and hederaceà, Clematis by paniculata and many other varieties, and other climbers in evidence are Aristolochia, Azara microphylla, Berberidopsis corallina, Buddleia variabilis, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Hydrangea scandens, Lathyrus latifolia, Magnolia stellata, Pyracantha Lælandii, Solanum jasminioides, Vitis in variety, and Wistarias. Under the south brick wall, against which the climbers are planted, is a border filled up by a collection of herbaceous plants chosen for colour, in front of these being a wall fifteen inches high."

"I should like to know the names of some of the varieties you consider the most striking."

"Cephalaria alpinus, Galega alba, Antirrhinum, Anchusa (Dropmore variety), Lilium candidum, Alstrœmerias, Campanulas, Geraniums Endresi, and Potentilla Congo (quite new, a pink flower). These are now in flower."

"How is your Yew hedge walk planted?"

"On either side there are Nicotiana in variety, Salvias in variety, Lobelia cardinalis, Abutilons, Maize, Begonia Reading Beauty, edged with variegated Alyssums and Begonia semperflorens. Near the Palm at the end of the walk is a bed of hybrid Calceolarias, edged by Pyrethrums. The hill leading to the kitchen garden is chiefly noticeable for the Eucalyptus tree and Acacias, the border consisting of Sweet Williams, Antirrhinums, and Canterbury Bells. Here, also, are the Sweet Peas, in clumps of one variety, sown in December."

"When did you plant them out?"

"The last week in April, and they flowered the first week in June. The varieties are Henry Eckford, Dorothy Eckford, Miss Willmott, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Gorgeous, and Coccinea. The breadth of Border Carnations consists of Cecilia, Primrose League, Gardenia, Viscountess Melville, Crombie's Pink, and Raby Castle, the most prolific of them all. We find the bed of Pentstemons Chelone (the pink form) most useful for cut flowers. Before we go into the kitchen garden, we might look into the glasshouses at the end. They consist of four parts."

"I see that you have borders to the Vineries both inside and out."

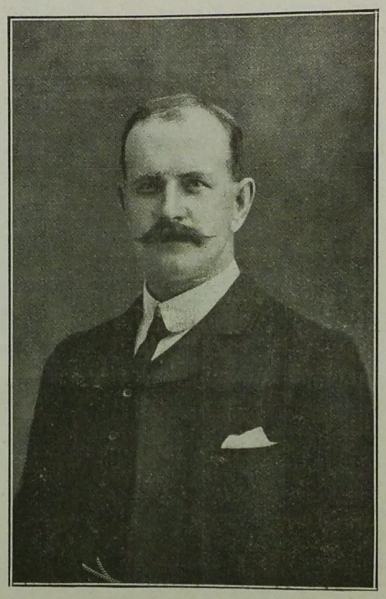
"Yes, I like to have both. In some respects, it saves work, and it certainly gives the late Vines a better chance. The Grapes grown here, which are brought on for cutting in August and September, are Madresfield Court, Duke of Buccleuch, Black Hamburgh, Gros Maroc, and Muscat Hamburgh."

"You have an extraordinary specimen of an Aloe in these Vineries."

"It is so enormous that it cannot be lifted out. I think you would like to mention the quite rare plant, in a tub, with a splendid flower, light lavender striped. It is Mackaya Bella, and has just finished blooming. In this house is also a batch of double-crested Begonias, Phenomené, which come in for August. The varieties of Peaches in the other houses are Rivers' Early, Nectarine Peach, Dymond, Goshawk, Royal George, and Crimson Galande, which latter is about the best. The Nectarines are Chaucer, Humboldt, Lord Napier, and Spencer."

The Newest Dahlias.

"The herbaceous borders are quite a feature of your kitchen garden?"



MR. W. S. BLACK.

"Half the herbaceous borders here were replanted last year, and a considerable number of plants added to the collection. Before we replanted, soil to the depth of nine inches was taken out, and replaced by good loam. The varieties now in flower are chiefly Alstrœmerias chilense and lutea, Delphiniums in variety, Dianthus in variety, Gypsophila, Hemerocallis, Heuchera sanguinea, Kniphofia ruta, Onopordon bracteatum (the Giant Silver Thistle), and Ostrowskia magnifica. Pinks are also planted in these borders, the best six varieties being Richard III., Monarch, Ernest Ladhams, His Majesty, Mrs. Sinkins, and Dauntless. Dahlias also do well, and are largely used for cut flowers. The most noteworthy varieties are Pink Pearl, Mabel Tulloch, Effective, Victor, Septor, and Lincoln. These are all new."

"What about Roses?"

"The Rose border was specially made two years ago. Owing to the natural soil being stony, as well as light, a quantity of heavy loam was added, as well as stable manure. The result is that the Roses thrive and flower splendidly. As to varieties, I consider that Frau Karl Druschki, Maman Cochet, Muriel Grahame, Madame Jules Gravereaux, The Bride, and Boadicea are about the best.

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"About four hundred, in pots—Japanese, singles, Spidery, and a few Anemone-flowered. We have a hundred plants for large bloom, but the most useful are the decorative varieties, which are disbudded. For cut flowers the singles and Spidery are valued, but the Japanese last longer for the conservatory. We cut some nice flowers from these in March."

"Which do you recommend for large blooms?"

"F. S. Vallis, Reginald Vallis, Mr. W. Knox, W. A. Etherington, Mrs. George Mileham, and Mrs. J. Dunn. The six best Decorative varieties are Beau de Lawson, Golden La Triomphante, Madame A. Nonin, Madame P. Radaelli, Madame R. Oberthur, and R. H. Pearson. The best singles are Earlswood Beauty, Eureka, Edith Pagram, Felix, Miss Irene Cragg, and Ladysmith. Of the Spidery varieties, I prefer Cannell's Favourite, King of the Plumes, Mrs. James Carter, Mr. Filkins, Sam Casswell, and Mayflower."

"You seem to have some very good crops of hardy fruit."

"Strawberries, which are all protected by netting, were very early. We picked the first dish of Royal Sovereign on June 8th. The only other variety grown is Noble. Black Currants and other small fruits are a good crop, but the fruit is small, owing to lack of moisture. Considering the Raspberries (Superlative) were only planted two years ago, they are very satisfactory."

"Are you satisfied with your Apple crop?"

"It is fair. Apples are grown as standards and espaliers, and the varieties which have given us the best results this year are Beauty of Bath, Bismarck, Cox's Orange Pippin, Duchess of Oldenburgh, and Irish Peach. Pears on the walls have done very well, indeed, but the crop on some of the standard trees is poor. Clapp's Favourite, Jargonelle, Pitmaston Duchess, Princess, and Souvenir du Congres are the pick of them. The crop of Plums and Cherries is only fair, and I expect they have felt the strain of an over-abundant crop last year. Peaches are doing tolerably well on the walls. Waterloo is a good early variety, and Yellow Eagle comes in very late."

The Vegetable Crops.

"Is the soil congenial to vegetables?"

"No, vegetables are very difficult to grow, and it takes time and labour to obtain anything like satisfactory results. Peas and Beans have to be mulched, and this year they have been watered and syringed twice weekly. They have, however, repaid the time spent on them."

"When did you begin to pick Peas?"

"The second week in June, and unless the frost interferes we go on till November. We begin to plant about the middle of July for late crops. The varieties following in succession are Little Marvel, Early Giant, Early Sunrise, Congress, Maincrop, Prolific, Eureka, Telegraph, Ne Plus Ultra, and Latest of All. Cabbages and Cauliflowers do best when treated with a liberal supply of stable manure between the rows after they have been earthed up."

"Do you sow Onions twice?"

"In addition to sowing in spring and autumn, I plant a few specially in boxes, in order to secure size. The varieties are Ailsa Craig, James's Keeping, and Reading. Both Onions and Carrots do exceedingly well, and do not need any extra care."

The Plant Houses.

"You have some more houses at this end of the kitchen garden?"

"One is devoted entirely to Peaches and Nectarines, and contains some very fine trees, the varieties of Peaches being Sea Eagle, Magdala, and Gladstone; the Nectarines, Lord Napier and Darwin. There are two Vineries, one containing Muscats only, and the other Lady Downe's Seedling and Alicante. The Cannas in one of the Vineries are being kept back for August; the varieties are Cannell's Newest, W.

Watson, Gladiator, Auguste Chantir, J. B. Vanderschol, Linary, and others.

"We have a big batch of Begonias—Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall—in the stove, which we shall bring on in October. In the intermediate house there are some nice Orchids, including Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums, and Cypripediums, also a batch of seedling Coleus, a collection of Bilbergias (the flowers being of many colours), Anthuriums, and Phyllocactus. Cucumbers, Melons and French Beans are grown in the frames outside. Then there are Violets, the varieties now in their summer quarters being Marie Louise, Mrs. J. J. Astor, Lady Hume Campbell, Duke of Parma, and Compte de Brazza. These start flowering about the beginning of October, and supply us with bloom until the end of March. I ought to add that we are extremely well off for water; a pump, driven by a hot-air engine, furnishes us with the needful supply."

"I presume, Mr. Black, that you are a native of Scotland?"

"Yes, I was born in Aberdeenshire thirty-six years ago. I served my apprenticeship at Haddo House, and then went to Broxmouth Park and Gosford House, both in East Lothian. I was next general foreman at Scone Palace, Perth, my first appointment as head gardener being at Hendersyde Park, Kelso. I was there for nearly four years, and I came here in November, 1904."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 316.—GREENHOUSE FERNS.

Dear Kate,—Many conservatories are not as beautiful as they might be, if the plants were well arranged, and also set off with some of the beautiful foliage plants of which I wrote to you last week. But, besides these, plenty of Ferns in pots will be needed to show flowers to the best advantage, and without these the shelves are apt to look bare. The early autumn is an excellent time in which to remedy this state of things, and start a number of young Ferns, as they are then sold (as seedlings) very cheaply, and they soon grow to a useful size.

The Giant Fern, Woodwardia Radicans.

First Favourites.

Adiantums (Maidenhairs) are always first favourites, and, although they are not amongst the easiest of Ferns to manage in a sitting-room, they usually do well in the moist air of a greenhouse, especially if they are not placed in a sharp draught. Adiantum fragrantissimum (which ought to be fragrant, but isn't) is the finest of the greenhouse Maidenhairs, with large and handsome fronds. Then there is the finely-cut Adiantum gracillimum, like delicate lace in appearance, which is very pretty and distinct; A. grandiceps, with tassellated fronds; A. Mariesi, A. decorum, and A. Williamsi, all good varieties (the last of which is slightly golden beneath its fronds); A. tinctora and A. fulvum, with pink fronds when unfurled; A. Pacotti, with doubly-pinnated fronds (making it look something like Parsley), and A. formosum, a very handsome Fern, quite unlike the rest. If you have a warm Fernery, with a minimum temperature of sixty degrees, you may add the beautiful Adiantum Farleyense, growing to the height of two feet, and the fringed fronds of A. macrophyllum bipinnatum, with many another rare and lovely Maidenhair; but even in a cool greenhouse, from which the frost is only just excluded in winter, you can grow the Canadian Maidenhair, A. pedatum, and our native A. capillus veneris, still found occasionally in the south of Devon and Cornwall, usually in inaccessible caves near the sea, for every scrap of it which is within reach of the collector is sure to be confiscated. There are about a dozen varieties of this Fern, however, which are equally hardy, the one called A. imbricatum being one of the prettiest, though A. elegantissimum is larger in growth.

For All Purposes.

The best group of Ferns, both in the house and the greenhouse, is that of the Pterises, many of which are hardy enough to survive a little frost, if kept fairly dry in winter, when they are nearly dormant. From New Zealand we have P. tremula, an elegant plant, which seeds itself all over the floor of a moist greenhouse, and appears in the pots of other things sometimes. Then there is the Ribbon Fern, P. serrulata, with its crested varieties of various kinds, so often seen in a room; and the silvery-centred fronds of P. cretica albo-lineata are also easily grown, P. sempervirens, with fine evergreen fronds, being an excellent variety, too, but without the white lines. P. argyrea is very handsome, with large, silver-banded fronds, but not quite so hardy as the above-mentioned, as it comes from India and other parts of the East Indies; and the loveliest of all the Pterises, P. tricolor, with crimson, silver, and green fronds, is only to be managed in a hothouse, for it looks miserable, and soon dies, without plenty of moist warmth. P. Victoriæ is a new variety, also variegated; but it is as delicate as P. tricolor, or nearly so.

Lomaria Gibba is a Tree Fern from New Caledonia, and its two varieties, crispa and tincta, are also most distinct and handsome. These Ferns are very subject to an attack of thrips, if kept in a room or any dry atmosphere; they enjoy moist warmth when starting into fresh growth, but will grow in a greenhouse if syringed often. Lomaria l'Herminieri is a tiny Tree Fern from Florida, very pretty, for a glass case, where L. Gibba does well, but soon grows too large for its quarters; and there are others, such as L. Banksi, which are also miniature Tree Ferns.

One of the most useful of greenhouse Ferns for cutting (Onychium japonicum) comes from Japan, and has finely-cut fronds, which are shining, and they quite glitter in artificial light. They also last far better than the fronds of the Maidenhairs when cut, and give a very light appearance to a bouquet. Amongst the Aspleniums, two of the most desirable are A. viviparum and A. bulbiferum, both of which produce innumerable tiny plants on drooping their fertile fronds, whilst the rest (being unfertile) stand upright above them. They are good room Ferns, growing to a large size if well tended, and they are almost hardy. You can propagate them very easily by means of pinning down one of their fronds covered with plantlets into a box of compost (peat, leaf-mould, and loam in equal quantities, with some charcoal in small lumps intermixed, will suit nearly all Ferns), and the little plants will grow roots quickly, if you keep them moist.

An Evergreen Fern.

A most beautiful greenhouse Fern (or for a room without gas) is Osmunda palustris, a bog Fern, which must always stand in a saucer of water, for any one of its lovely crimson-tinted fronds which once droops will never recover itself. It is a so-called flowering Fern, which grows to the height of two feet, and is evergreen. The large Osmundas (Claytonia and cinnamonea), as well as our British Osmunda regalis, are hardy enough for a cool Fernery, and so is O. gracilis, which we grow in a bog-tub in the garden. All are decidedly handsome in the summer, but, as the three last are deciduous, they die down completely in the winter.

The climbing Ferns, Lygodium scandens and L. japonicum, are very elegant; they clothe the greenhouse walls on strings or wire netting. There is much confusion between the two, the latter being often sold as L. scandens, which it certainly might be called with truth, as "scandens," of course, means climbing; but the deciduous one, with very light foliage, is L. japonicum, and it is not quite hardy, whilst L. scandens is evergreen—a more robust and taller-growing plant altogether; and L. palmatum, from North America, is almost hardy, except where exposed to severe frost. These beautiful climbing Ferns should be in every greenhouse, but they are usually conspicuous by their absence, unfortunately. Nothing can be more perfect than their long sprays for table decoration, and we ought to grow plenty of them. L. japonicum looks well if trained over a wire balloon, and can be used in the autumn for room decoration, cutting down all the dead

Mr Blackwell

THE GARDENS OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, AT FOXHILL, READING.

THE feature of the gardens of Sir Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., the Attorney-General, is the splendid Rosery. But the whole of the pleasure grounds at Foxhill are interesting, and on the occasion of my visit at the end of April. Mr. Blackwell, F.R.H.S., the gardener, showed me, to begin with, the skilfully decorated conservatory adjoining the house. The scheme of decoration included a bank of Cinerarias, doubles mingling with singles, while upwards of a score of different shades of colour were represented, blue, pink, and mauve especially prevailing.

"As to the arrangement," said Mr. Blackwell, "there are four layers of pots tier above tier, and their occupants go on flowering for seven or eight weeks. Onposite to the Cinerarias is a collection of Primula obconica, and several tiers of Schizanthus, Wisetoniensis hybrids in baskets. They were small plants at the outset, but the experiment has answered expectations. Other baskets suspended from the roof are filled with Asparagus Sprengeri, and on the top of the roof itself are Roses and Cobea scandens variegata. At the end of the conservatory are two Tree Ferns."

"They are very handsome specimens. But you have not mentioned the standard Fuchsias, which make an effective background."

"We shall put most of them outside in June. Close to the steps is a collection of Clarkias, Salmon Queen and Firefly, from which we get a great show of colour."

"You have already a fine show of colour just outside the conservatory, with Kerria japonica a mass of golden blooms."

Kerria japonica for Table Decoration.

"Yes, I suppose that the tree has thousands of flowers on it. We use them for decorating the table, and cut some splendid sprays, the fine colour of the blooms being emphasised by the pretty green foliage. It was planted here five years ago."

"Is the small range of glass devoted to plants?"

"No; entirely to Grapes, Black Alicante in one Vinery, and Muscats in the other. On the shelf are Strawberries, which we commence picking the week before Easter. We manage to bring on a number of Ferns in the Vineries."

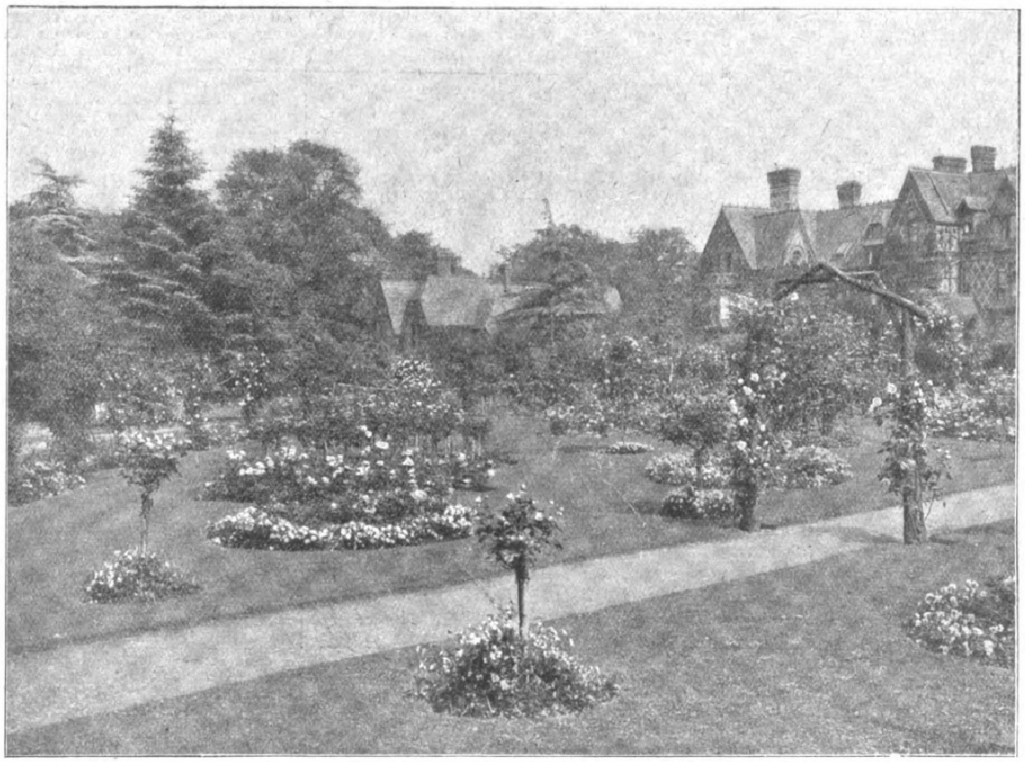
"How do you fill up the border in front of them when the spring flowers are over?"

"The present combination of Myosotis Royal Blue, Daffodils, and Giant White Daisies will be followed by one of Antirrhinums, Asters, and Stocks, with an edging of Alyssums. The Roses in beds here are Hybrid Perpetuals. The weeping standards are Flora, Waltham Beauty, Ruga, Dorothy Perkins, Elisa Robichon, Lady Gay, Souvenir de Pierre Notting, L'Ideal, and Grace Darling. As an edging, fibrous-rooted Begonias are used. In this warm corner the Roses flower in June. The soil is heavy loam, with a clay subsoil. For the pergola, the varieties, in addition to Lady Gay, are Debutante, Hiawatha, Madame Alfred Carriere, Blush Rambler, Crepuscule, William Allen Richardson, and Rubin. The border by the pergola, now filled with Polyantha grown from our own seed, will be replaced by annuals, such as Sweet Peas, Clarkias, Antirrhinums, Stocks, and Godetias, mostly pink in shade. The border of Sweet Peas is blue, Mrs. Heslington and Mrs. Charles Foster (navy-blue), and Flora Nora Spencer and Mrs. George Higginson predominating. The border in front of the conservatory is entirely blue. It is made up of the blue varieties of Sweet Peas, Delphiniums, Aconitums, Veronicas, Eryngiums, Lupins, Anchusas, Michaelmas Daisies, Nigellas, and Canterbury Bells, with an edging of double blue Lobelia, and small Campanulas. The Wistaria sinensis trailing over the conservatory reaches right up the house. Under the verandah are Hydrangeas in tubs, and on the pillars Honeysuckle and Clematis. The Wallflowers in the border are succeeded by Ivy-leaved Geraniums and Ageratums."

Flower Beds Facing South.

"What is the position of the flower beds shaded by that noble Beech tree?"

"They face south. The border near the house with Wallflowers, Daisies, and Forget-me-nots, will be filled in summer with Marguerites and Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Madame Crousse. Two of the beds with the sundial in the centre, with double Arabis, intermixed with



THE ROSE GARDEN AT FOXHILL, READING.

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Tulip Cottage Maid, will have Heliotropes, edged with fibrous-rooted Begonia Princess Beatrice, and the two with Myosotis and Tulip Pottebakker, Zonal Geranium Mrs. Lawrence, edged with a double row of Begonia Fairy Queen. In all the beds there are dot plants of Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall. Pink and blue are the favourite colours of Lady Isaacs, who takes the keenest interest in her gardens."

"Before we discuss the herbaceous borders, you might mention the names of the creepers which adorn the house."

"Golden Euonymus, Magnolia grandiflora, Solanum jasminoides, and Ivy. There is no scheme of colour in either of the herbaceous borders, but one is backed by mixed Sweet Peas. The principal contents are Phlox, Irises, Pæonies, Heleniums, Harpaliums, Thalictrums, and Veronicas, with standards of Lilac, flowering Cherries and Peaches, edged with Pansies Lord Beaconsfield (blue), and Mrs. Sinkins Pinks. The other border, joining the park, is eighty yards long, with tripods of Roses, Dorothy Perkins, at intervals. In addition to some of the varieties already named, it contains Pyrethrums, Asters, Solidagos, Hollyhocks, Delphiniums, Liliums, Rudbeckias, Helianthus, Spiræas, Asphodelines, Sedums, Lychnis, Gypsophilas, Echinops, Hemerocallis, Alternantheras, Erigerons, Saxifrages, Aubrietias, Aquilegias, Monardas, Galegas, Geums, Veronicas, Poppies, Campanulas, Chrysanthemums, Heucheras, Gentians, Violas, Achilleas, and Crassulas, several, of course, not being herbaceous. Now we approach the Rosery, which was made under the direction of Lady Isaacs since Sir Rufus bought the property, six years ago."

"What is the extent of this lovely pleasaunce?"

"About an acre and a quarter. You will notice that it has a hedge of Penzance hybrid Sweet Briers all round, and that all the beds are edged with Violas, chiefly Maggie Mott, Kitty Bell, Mauve Queen, and a yellow and white seedling."

Sixty-seven Rose Beds.

"Can you give me an idea of the number of beds?"

"There are sixty-seven beds of dwarfs, occasional pillars, weepers, Roses on logs, Roses on posts, on rustic arches, and on pergolas. The weeping varieties consist of Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, Jersey Beauty, Flora, Waltham Rambler, Felicite Perpetue, Waltham Bride, Bennett's Seedling, Evergreen Gem, Dundee Rambler, Gardenia, Aglaia, Hiawatha, Bas le Duc, Rubens, The Farquhar, Sweetheart, and Elisa Robichon. Most of these are budded on Briers, five to six feet high; and the growths reach the ground in most cases when they are tied down."

"Some of these you have also, I see, on posts?"

"Yes, Hiawatha, Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, The Farquhar, Aglaia, and Rubens. The other varieties include, notably, Madame Hector Leuillot, which is doing exceptionally well, and grows eight feet high. Then there are Gruss an Teplitz, Bouquet d'Or, Alberic Barbier, Claire Jacquier, Climbing Caroline Testout, Climbing Captain Christy, Ard's Pillar, Mons. Deserg, Francois Crousse, Reine Olga de Wurtemberg, Climbing Cramoisie Superieure, Persian Yellow, Blush Rambler, Madame D'Arblay, Madame Jules Seigfried, Madame Berrad, Golden Queen, Madame Jules Gravereaux, Madame Boursin, J. B. Clark, W. A. Richardson, Crepuscule, and White Dorothy Perkins."

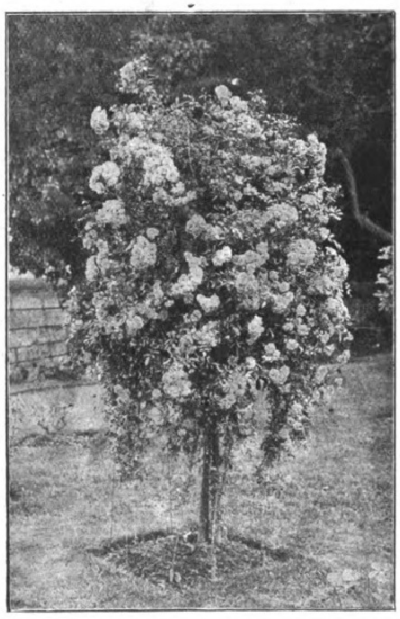
Beds of One Variety.

"I will not ask you to indicate the names of the Roses in the mixed beds, but I should like to have those which you consider it worth while to select for bedding of one variety?"

"The Hybrid Teas are Warrior, Lady Battersea, Killarney, Madame Ravary, La Tosca, Madame Abel Chatenay, Richmond, Liberty, General McArthur, Mons. Joseph Hill, Madame Pernet Ducher, Lady Ashdown, Jules Grolez, Papa Gontier, Betty, La France, Madame Leon Pain, Madame Edme Metz, Madame Melaine Soupert, Earl of Warwick, Gustave Regis, Caroline Testout, Countess Cairns, Konigin, Corola, Etoile de France,

MR. E. BLACKWELL.

Mrs. A. Byass, Pharisaer, Lord Bacon, and Gloire Lyonnaise. The Teas in beds by themselves are Madame G. Nabonnand, Morning Glow, Lady Hillingdon, Madame Antoine



ROSE—LADY GAY, AS A WEEPER.

Mari, General Schablikine, Anna Olivier, and Corallina. Then there are the Hybrid Perpetuals, Mrs. J. Laing, Captain Hayward, Ulrich Brunner, Alfred Colomb, Annie Wood, Dr. Andry, Earl of Dufferin, Hugh Watson, and Mrs. Sharman Crawford."

"Was any particular plan carried out in the construction of the Rosery?"

"To some extent, no doubt; but no hard and fast line was drawn. The object in view has always been to make the Rosery as beautiful as possible. The beds vary in shape and size, and all of them have been cut out of the grass. The varieties on the Rose Temple are Dorothy Perkins and Lady Gay, and round the centre Lavender has been interspersed. The climbers (W. A. Richardson)), pegged down, are also intermixed with Lavender, and the varieties in the centre on the rustic pillar are Gruss an Teplitz and Crimson Rambler. In one corner Wichuriana Roses are trained over old logs, with Rosa rugosa and Chinese Roses in the front, and Cherries planted outside as a border."

"What do you consider the average life of a Rose?"

"Five years. There is one variety, a Hybrid Tea, which thrives for six years; its name is rather appropriate, The Warrior. During the last three years a number of new varieties have been planted, and they are breaking well now Before the Roses are planted we trench the soil from two feet six inches to three feet deep."

Then, after strolling round the Rosery for some time, we passed through an arch of Rubens, into the spacious tennis-courts. Here, too, were Roses, especially a bed devoted to Madame Abel Chatenay, with a groundwork of white seedling Violas. Facing this is a bed of Rhododendron Pink Pearl, and a bed of R. Cynthia.

Specimen Trees.

"The aspect of the carriage entrance is north-west," said Mr. Blackwell, "and the front of the house is covered only with Ivy. From this point many of the specimen trees and shrubs are conspicuous. They include Abies pinsapo, the White Thorn, Cedrus atlantica glauca, Acacias, and Berberis stenophylla. The Roses close to the front door are mixed Hybrid Teas."

"You have some fine specimen trees on the other side of the house sloping down to the lake?"

"Particularly the Chestnuts and the Junipers. Three large clumps of Hybrid Rhododendrons merit notice; they have been in their present position for a number of years, and give a quantity of flowers. The three flower beds in this vicinity will be scarlet and white in the summer, the scarlet Paul Crampel, the popular Geranium, and Marguerites in the centre."

Retracing our steps, we proceeded through an avenue of fine trees, towards the stone lodge at the entrance to the grounds, and crossing the road, which is on high ground commanding an excellent view of Reading, we turned our attention to the picturesque little orchard adjoining the kitchen garden.

"Do you grow many varieties of Apples here?" I asked.

"Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, Fern Pippin, Rosemary Russet, Lord Suffield, Ribston Pippin, Pott's Seedling, and Wellington. In addition to the Apples, we grow in the Orchard the Brassica section of Vegetables, and a plantation of Raspberries, put in two years ago. There is a Nut walk opposite. The kitchen garden is three acres in extent, but only a portion of it is enclosed in walls. Fruit is the chief feature. Apples are grown on pyramids. In addition to the varieties in the orchard, we have Allington Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Hawthornden, and Lane's Prince Albert. The Pears, also grown on pyramids, are chiefly Pitmaston Duchess, Winter Nelis, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Diel, Catillac, and Uvedale St. Germain. The aspect of the kitchen garden is northerly, and consequently fruit and vegetables are rather late, but most of them do well."

"What about Peaches?"

"Planted on the south wall, they give excellent crops, the varieties being Crimson Galande, Belgarde, Amsden June, Rivers' Early York, Sterling Castle, Walburton Admiral, Sea Eagle, and Nectarine Pineapple. Plums and Apricots

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are also grown on the same wall. In order to secure a late crop, Currants and Gooseberries are grown on a north wall, and in an ordinary season, we can pick them as late as September. For earlier purposes, they are grown under a cage."

"How long have you been cutting Asparagus?"

"We commenced on the first of April. There are three beds, four years old, and another much older. We have a special south border for early vegetables, where we pick Peas at the end of May; cut Cauliflowers and Beans about the same time; Spinach during May; and Lettuce in June. Potatoes are also dug in the middle of June."

"How long do you go on picking Peas?"

"Up to the end of September. The varieties are Fillbasket, Duke of Albany, Duke of York, Gladstone, and Centenary. There is one feature in the kitchen garden which I think is still rather unusual. We grow French Beans on poles and wires."

"What is the effect on your season?"

"We started cutting last year, the first week in July, and picked on an average, a bushel daily until the frost cut them down. They not only look better than the rows, resembling a nest of summerhouses, but the foliage on the wires shades the roots and increases the crops. I sow in pots and plant out the last week in May. The varieties are Prizewinner and Ai."

"Do you grow many flowers in the kitchen garden?"

"Five rows of Sweet Peas, thirty yards long. I have to supply, not only Foxhill, but the house of Sir Rufus Isaacs in town, with flowers all through the season, and therefore a great number are needed. Under a north wall, Lilies of the Valley, which like a little shade, are coming on well. In frames, where we grow early Turnips, Carrots, and Potatoes on the French system, Violets are a feature. They are struck in boxes before we plant them out in the spring. But the principal feature of the frame ground is the collection of large flowering Japanese Chrysanthemums. All the glass we have is represented by the two Vineries."

"Have you done any showing, Mr. Blackwell?"

"Last July I won first prize at Reading Rose Show for twelve bunches of garden Roses or Ramblers. That is all the showing I have done at present. But I have only been head gardener here for three years. Before that time I was foreman for three years. My previous experience was gained at Holme Park, Sonning; Cavenham Park, Suffolk; and Sandhurst Lodge, where, under Mr. Townshend, I had charge of the houses."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE gardens of Captain Wiener, at Ewell Castle, Surrey, will be described next week.

CLIMBING ROSES UNDER GLASS.

THE blooming of climbing Roses under glass is practically over, and those left are of small value now that the outdoor Roses are in bloom. A thorough pruning of the plants should therefore be done, so that good, strong shoots may be made for producing blooms next autumn and spring. Strong shoots are already breaking out in various places, and in most cases the whole of the old wood may be cut back to these breaks. This severe pruning is not only good for the Roses, but it is just what is wanted to let in light and sun to plants underneath, which would otherwise become drawn and useless for producing blooms.

Pruning Marechal Niel.

Some varieties of Roses require harder pruning than others. The good old Marechal Niel should be pruned hard back every spring after the blooming is over. I frequently take out six feet lengths of old rods as soon as a strong young shoot shows some sign of breaking. I like to see one of these starting before I cut so severely, and if there is no signs of one growing, I shorten the rods a few feet, and cut the sideshoots back rather close to the rod, which generally has the effect of causing some good breaks to which the rods may be further shortened. Such severe pruning will generally cause a few strong shoots to grow from ten to fifteen, or more, feet long. It is from these the finest blooms are produced the following spring; also these strong shoots will send out other strong shoots from near their base the following season after flowering, when they are cut back again.

Climbing Niphetos is another variety which is best cut hard back at this time. There is no difficulty in getting this to break into a number of strong growths—so much so that it is sometimes necessary to remove some of them to prevent overcrowding.

Climbing Perle des Jardins always produces young shoots plentifully when pruned hard back. This is a good climbing Rose for the greenhouse, having the deep golden-yellow colour of Marechal Niel, when the latter is at its best. It is a continuous bloomer. The first batch of blooms is over before Marechal Niel comes into bloom, and the second commences by the time the Marechals are over. It blooms again in the autumn, and sometimes continues into the winter.

WELL-GROWN AND BADLY-GROWN RADISHES.

Good Greenhouse Climbers.

Madame Pierre Cochet is another deep golden-yellow, which is as continuous in blooming as the preceding. It is a strong grower, and breaks freely. It is very sweetly scented.

Climbing Mrs. W. J. Grant is a wonderfully floriferous variety under glass. It requires hard pruning now, or it will continue blooming, and become stunted in growth. The blooms are a nice shade of pink, a colour which is scarce in good, indoor climbers. The buds come a nice shape for buttonholes and general cutting purposes.

Belle Lyonnaise is a pale yellow, of good shape, and sweetly scented. It is very free and continuous blooming. I have had many of the autumn blooms continue into the winter, when they are much appreciated.

Molly Sharman Crawford is not considered a climber, but it climbs enough for most greenhouses. It is a very fine Rose under glass, large, on stiff stems, coming pure white, and is a free and continuous bloomer. The hard pruning at the present time prevents the continuous blooming during the summer, and less pruning must be practised if blooms are required during the summer months.

Striking Cuttings.

Cuttings may be put in from the prunings, if these are required to produce Roses for future planting. Shoots which have produced blooms are the best, and these should be cut off close to the stems with a slight piece of the old stem on the heel. These may be put in the soil on the north side of a wall or building, burying the whole of the shoot except the top bud and leaf. The soil must be kept quite moist. They will strike more quickly if put in the same depth in pots, inserting about six around the inside of a 6-in. pot, in soil composed of half sand. The pots should be put into a frame, which should be kept quite close and shaded with a mat, and the cuttings should be sprinkled every morning.

This is a good time to plant Roses in the greenhouse, but these should always be first grown in pots. They can still be obtained from most Rose growers.

ROSEUM.

RADISHES

RADISHES figure in collections of salads at shows, but they are very extensively grown by amateur gardeners for home use.

After the early part of June cultivators very often find it rather troublesome to grow tender roots. Now, there is no better place than a border on the north side of a low wall after the very hot weather sets in, and especially in the case of light, sandy soils. But even the best soils will not avail much if strawy manure, or any foreign matter, be dug into it wholesale. The soil must be rich, but it should be made so by the addition of well-rotted manure, broken up thoroughly, and mixed with the soil.

How to Get Good Roots.

Fig. 1 shows how clean and straight the growth of a Radish root is in properly-prepared ground; and Fig. 2 how worthless roots are, when grown in badly-prepared soil. When in contact with lumps of soil, bits of wood, or even fresh straws, the roots begin to fork, and the crown is soon lifted above the surface. Furthermore, the best-shaped roots generally possess the smallest tops, and the ill-shaped ones the largest leaves.

The prepared ground should be quite eighteen inches deep, then there will be ample moisture below. Sift the soil if exhibiting be the chief object in view.

DELAMERE.

GARDEN LIFE "PARLIAMENT."

ALTHOUGH time has proved that the benefits derived from artificial manuring are real and permanent, there are many who still regard it as a vain illusion or agreeable theory. With the object of convincing these, we invite readers to contribute brief, pertinent accounts of their experiences and practice in the matter of the application of artificial fertilisers, and the results obtained thereby. We shall style the discussion:

ARTIFICIAL MANURES IN THE GARDEN: ADVANTAGES AND RESULTS DERIVED FROM THEIR USE.

To the writer of the most interesting letter published each week, we will send a Postal Order for 5s., and to the writer of the second best a Postal Order for 2s. 6d. Letters must be written only on one side of the paper.

All communications should be marked "Parliament," and be addressed to the Editor of GARDEN LIFE, Hatton House, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

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deformans. There is yet an earlier cause—a severe check, such as drought, or, worse still, a keen east wind. It is this that gives the fungus its chance. "The under surface of the leaves," says Dr. Cooke, "in the hollows of the blisters, assumes a hoary or frosted appearance, and when examined under the microscope is found to consist of a number of cylindrical cells formed of a transparent membrane closely packed together side by side, each cell, or ascus, containing the elliptical sporidea in the same manner as in the Pear-blister and the Plum-pocket. This disease is sometimes called the curl, from the curling and distortion of the leaves." It is infectious, and, unfortunately, there seems to be no remedy beyond the removal of the infected parts. "Diseased or fallen leaves should be burned. Branches bearing infected leaves should be pruned back beyond the point of infection. The disease is rampant if the leaves receive a sudden check from fall of temperature. Activity of the disease has been checked by a sudden increase of temperature." Bordeaux mixture, which has proved effective against Pear-leaf blister, a very similar disease, cannot be safely used for Peach trees, because their foliage is much more delicate. Plum-pocket, to which Dr. Cooke alludes in the passage just quoted, is caused by a closely allied fungus, which produces wrinkled blisters on the fruit itself. Here, again, there is nothing to be done but remove the affected fruit as soon as possible—it is bound to drop in any case—and to destroy any parts likely to contain the mycelium.

March 25th.—There is no lack of water this spring. Two years ago, when sinking a well, no trace of moisture could be discovered for a considerable depth; now the water seems to be close to the surface. Raspberries ought to do well, and I doubt whether the usual mulch will be necessary. A mulch helps to keep the moisture in the ground, which is often an advantage, but at the same time it also keeps the heat out, and that may be a more than counter-balancing disadvantage. Rule of thumb won't work in the garden; rule of head is better.

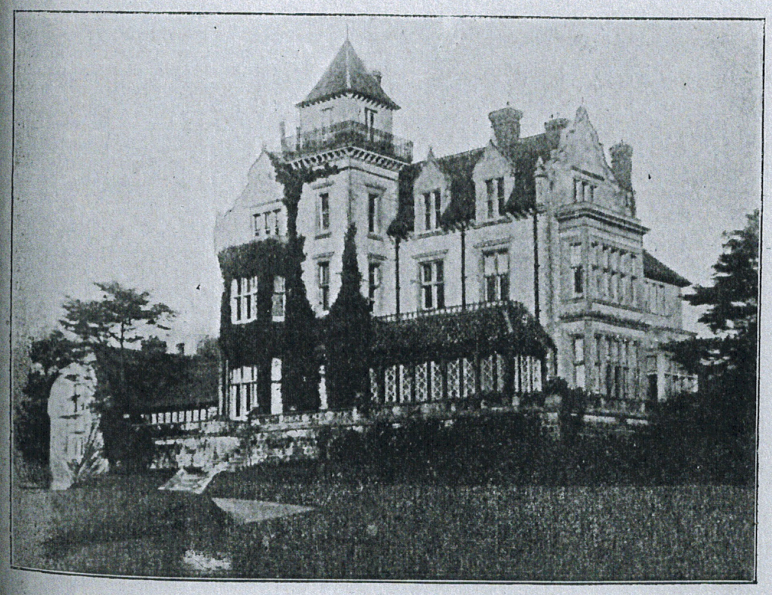
H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 130.—Mr. W. M. Blackwood, at the Gardens, Hethersett, Reigate.

There is one feature about the gardens at Hethersett which is very unusual. They were planned and laid out forty-five years ago, under the auspices of the late Mr. Baxter, who also built the beautiful mansion and resided in it till he died, in 1894. Mr. Baxter not only exceedingly disliked anything in the shape of formality, but he would not have any arbitrary division between pleasure grounds and kitchen gardens. The result is a mixture by no means wanting in charm, and has certainly not been attended by any cultural disadvantages.



Hethersett, Reigate.

"But," said Mr. Blackwood, the present head gardener, as we strolled towards the glasshouses, on the afternoon of my visit in the second week in March, "although in the main the gardens, which are between seven and eight acres, are kept up in the same way as they were when Mr. Baxter owned the property, several important additions have been made. A wing has been built on to the mansion, and four houses have been erected."

"Who bought the place when Mr. Baxter died?"

"Mr. D. C. Apperly. He built the comfortable lodge in which I live, and the bothy was added the first summer I came. Mr. Apperly also finished the north kitchen garden."

"Did you come here from the South of England?"

"No, from the North. I was born at Highcross, Benwell, Northumberland, my father being head gardener there at that time. I first started work in the gardens at Ferndene, Gateshead-on-Tyne, in 1882. I served at Ferndene for three years and a-half, principally in the glasshouses. Subsequently, after gaining experience in several gardens in Northumberland and Durham, I became head gardener to Lord Decies, at Bolam Hall, Northumberland, in 1894, leaving that post when the estate was sold to come here. In 1903 Mr. Apperly sold this place to my present employer, Mr. J. Auerbach, who takes much interest in the gardens, and likes to have everything grown as well as we can do it."

"How many glasshouses, pits, and frames do you run now?" I asked, as we entered the Cucumber house.

"Eleven. With regard to Cucumbers, we begin to cut in March, and keep up a supply until the following Christmas. The only variety

Mr. W. M. Blackwood.

grown is Sutton's Every Day, and I find it the best. It is a nice size for the table, a good setter, and a good doer. We have, in addition to this house, a pit of six lights in the summer for Cucumbers; a great quantity are used for salads."

"What varieties do you grow in the Melon house?"

"In summer we grow Melons in three houses. The first batch was planted the first week in March. The varieties are Royal Sovereign and Hero of Lockinge. Last year we tried the French Melon, Canteloupe, and shall try a few plants again this summer. The fruit is large, very juicy, and of good flavour. Last year also we had a few of the Eastnor Castle variety, which is very good, but I prefer Hero of Lockinge to any other."

"I see that you have some Tree Carnations in your mixed house?"

"Yes, about a hundred. On the other side are about a hundred Geraniums, including some seventy varieties of the best kinds. Here, too, we grow about seventy plants of Cyclamen, chiefly Sutton's Prize. For next year the two leading sorts will be the Giant White and the Cherry Red. We grow Tomatoes in this house in summer."

"What varieties?"

"Only one, Sutton's Perfection. The year before I came here I showed this Tomato in the North at seven shows, and won the first prize at every show."

"How do you manage to do so well with it?"

"My system is to sow the seed in January. As soon as the plants are large enough, we put them into small pots, and, when ready, transfer them into 5-in. or 6-in. pots. When they are nicely rooted we put them into 10-in. pots. It takes about sixty pots to fill the house."

"Perhaps you would tell me about the compost?"

"The plants are potted in about two parts of loam, half a part of rotten manure, half a part of lime rubbish, half of leaf-soil, and a good sprinkling of bonemeal. We add the soil about twice or thrice, as the plants require, during the season. After we have obtained a good set, we feed with cow-manure liquid about twice a week, never allowing the plants to get dry. Watering is a vital point with Tomatoes; in dry weather they should be watered twice a day. In the early part of the season we generally set the flowers with a camel's-hair brush, but later on we simply tap the trellis-work."

"So far," continued Mr. Blackwood, "I have been speaking of the main Tomato crop, but our earliest Tomato, usually cut in April, is Winter Beauty, which we also grow for a late batch. Perfection, if sown in January, is cut at the beginning of May, and we cut from the same plants until October. Each plant of the main crop grows about nine feet high, and we fruit the whole of the plants right to the top. It is quite an ordinary thing to cut three or four fruits, weighing about half a pound each, off one bunch of Perfection. There is another Melon house in which two crops are grown during the summer."

"What do you grow underneath them?"

"Caladiums and various other decorative plants. On the shelves we have about forty pots of Calanthes."

Entering another span-roofed house, I inquired if it was devoted to Carnations.

"Entirely," rejoined Mr. Blackwood. "Carnations are special favourites. We grow about four hundred in pots, as well as several hundreds out of doors. We commenced cutting Tree Carnations in November, and have been cutting every week since. We have also cut several Malmaisons during the same period, and, being much larger and finer than the Trees, they are more appreciated."

"How do you treat the Tree Carnations?"

"We strike them in January, in sixty degrees of heat. They are then potted off into 3-in. pots, and gradually hardened off until they are put into cold frames in May. They are potted into 6-in. pots, when ready, and pinched generally twice. The lights are entirely removed in fine weather. They are put into the house again in August or September, and grown in fifty degrees of heat during the winter. As soon as the pots are nicely filled with roots they require to be fed twice or thrice a week until the flowers begin to open. Then they should only have soot-water and clear water alternately. We disbud all the Carnations in order to get long stems and finer flowers. They require to be neatly staked and tied. We find that thin green Bamboos and the green raffia look very neat."

"And Malmaisons?"

"They are layered, when ready, generally in August. We layer them in frames, in loam, sand, leaf-soil, and a little peat. As soon as they are nicely rooted they are potted into 4-in. and 5-in. pots—some will hardly go into the larger size—then stood in frames and shaded for a few days, gradually receiving more light and air. They are housed in September or October, giving all the air possible in favourable weather. In December or January they are potted into 6-in. or 7-in. pots, their flowering-pots. A few keep blooming, but the best show is in May and June. We cut several last season six inches across the blooms. The potting-soil consists of two parts of loam, one part of peat, half a part of sand, and half a part of rotten manure, with sprinklings of soot, lime rubbish, and Ichthemic guano. The first potting-soil is not made so rich as this last. We also pot some of the one-year-old plants into 9-in. or 10-in. pots, and grow eight and ten flowers from each."

"Which do you consider the best of the Malmaisons?"

"Princess of Wales. The next best are King Oscar, Horace Hutchinson, Robert Burns, Valetta, Mrs. Trelawny, Mrs. Martin Smith, Calypso, Albion, Lady Grimston, Mrs. Everard Wood, Lord Rosebery, Prime Minister, Sir Evelyn Wood, Churchwarden, and Trumpeter."

"You have a fine variety of Crotons in the Croton house."

"We grow them on the one-stem system, suitable for table plants, and in this house various other table plants, such as Dracænas, Cocos, Pandanus, and several varieties of Begonia are grown."

"How many trees are there in the Peach house?"

"Six of Peaches and Nectarines. The varieties of Peaches are Noblesse and Bellegarde; and of Nectarines, Elruge, Rivers' Orange, and Lord Napier."

"They look well set and very promising for the season."

"The Bellegarde tree was only planted as a maiden tree three years ago last February, and last year we gathered a hundred and twenty Peaches from it. This year we ought to gather Peaches in July, just after Strawberries are over. The collection of plants in the Peach house is miscellaneous, Azaleas being a feature."

"How many varieties are there?"

"Thirteen. Some of the best are Hinodegiri, Madame Harman, Leidal, Madame van Cruyssen, Madame Louise van Houtte, Deutsche Perle, Vervaeneana, and Madame José Vervaene. The other varieties, all very good, are Dr. Moore, Bernard André alba, Madame Can. van Langenhove, Empress of India, Simon Mardner, Emperor of Brazil. In this house are also a number of Pelargoniums, several Japanese trees, Hydrangeas (chiefly of the Dr. Hogg variety), and from thirty to forty pot Roses, Hybrids and Teas."

"When did you plant the Vinery?"

"Three years ago. The second year after the planting-canes were put in we fruited them. In 1902 we had three bunches from every Vine, and last year five. The varieties are Muscat of Alexandria, Madresfield Court, Buckland Sweetwater, Alicante, Lady Downe's, and Black Hamburgh. Considering the time they have been planted, they are, I think, showing well for this season. In this house we grow early Tomatoes, and Royal Sovereign Strawberries, and we bring in such things as Gloxinias, Maidenhair Ferns, and Streptocarpus."

"Do you have many pots of Streptocarpus?"

"Forty. It blooms all through the summer. We have a good variety of colours. As to the growth, it can either be raised from seed or the plant can be divided. If Streptocarpus is grown from plants it should be grown in about sixty degrees of heat. This should be continued until the flowers are expanding, and they should then be taken into a cooler house. There the plants stand and bloom, but they should be fed twice a week to keep the bloom continuous. I use cow manure liquid chiefly, and in the potting compost a sprinkling of Thompson's manure. I find them useful for cutting, as well as for decorative purposes."

"You have some Orchids in the Fernery?"

"The front stage is devoted to Odontoglossums, of which there are about a hundred plants. There are also a few Cymbidiums and Disas, which we bought last year. They look very well now, but they are rather difficult to grow. In the stove we have a number of Cattleyas and Cypripediums in flower—Sedenii candidulum. In this house there are two of the best varieties of Anthuriums—Andreanum and Scherzerianum."

In the flowering house the first thing that claimed attention was a grand show of Callas, the feature being the extraordinary strength of the plants.

"What number do you pot?" I inquired.

"About forty. Calla Æthiopica is the chief variety, though we have a dozen of the yellow also, which bloom in May. The latter needs much more heat than the white."

"I suppose you do not plant the Callas out?"

"Never. After the plants have been rested a little in the pots, they are potted up in September in a mixture of good loam, rotten manure, lime-rubbish, leaf-soil, a good sprinkling of bonemeal, and some of Thompson's manure. Then, if the season be wet, they should be stood indoors, but if it be fine they are better out. They should be carefully watered until the pots are well filled with roots. After they begin to bloom we begin to feed chiefly with cow-manure water—my mainstay. We feed twice a week, and give, for a change, a little of Thompson's manure or Clay's fertiliser."

"When do you begin to cut Callas?"

"In December, and keep on until June, almost without cessation. In the same house are more Azaleas, Primula obconica, Freesias, Narcissi, and Cinerarias of both the large-flowering and stellata varieties, the latter being more light and graceful for cutting. The Orange tree here has nearly a score of Oranges on it."

"Now we come to the pits."

"There are ten lights of bedding Geraniums, and Chrysanthemums are just being potted into 5-in. pots. We grow about four hundred of the Japanese and Incurved varieties, mostly

A Stand of Miscellaneous Plants, Shown at Reigate, 1903.

Japanese. Violets are largely grown. The double varieties are Marie Louise and Mrs. J. J. Astor. The latter is the new purple Violet, and a very free bloomer. Our singles are Princess of Wales and La France. We have had a quantity of Violets all through the winter. One frame contains Potatoes, another Lettuces, and a third various vegetables and bedding plants."

"I conclude that you go in considerably for bedding?"

"Yes; for instance, in one of the beds on the sloping banks in front of the mansion there are six hundred Tulips of various sorts. They make a great show when they are in flower. The south border is composed of Wallflowers, the Blood-red and the Yellow, edged with Forget-me-nots and Polyanthus. The "S" beds are full of blue and white Hyacinths, and those of the centres contain red Hyacinths; for the groundwork, Myosotis, which flower underneath, is very effective."

"Do you go in for bedding Begonias?"

"Very largely. We have a house full in the summer. Also I forgot to mention that we grow winter-flowering Begonias largely, both Gloire de Lorraine and Gloire de Sceaux. Reverting to the outside, there are herbaceous borders in two or three parts of the garden, and we have several hundred of very good varieties of Roses. On the front lawn there are four beds shaped according to the four suits of cards—the heart-bed, the spade-bed, the club-bed, and the diamond-bed—and various beds of standards. In one bed only the varieties are mixed; all the others are planted with one particular Rose."

"Then you have a pretty Rose border?"

"Yes, that looks very charming when it is covered with Roses. There are more Roses in the kitchen garden in front of the house. We have all the best varieties."

"I greatly admire the Yew hedge which surrounds the bowling green."

"It is said to be one of the finest in the county, and was planted when the gardens were made. In addition to the bowling green we have large tennis and croquet lawns."

"What do you put, for the summer, in the terrace border close to the mansion?"

"Sub-tropical plants; and we also fill the verandah in front with flowering plants."

"Shrubs and trees are not a great feature, I gather?"

"We have only a few flowering shrubs, but there are plenty of evergreens, and last winter we planted a bed of Rhododendrons and Azalea mollis. There are a few nice Cedars, and a good specimen of Wellingtonia on the lawn."

"You have an orchard as well as kitchen gardens?"

"Two orchards. These are quite independent of the gardens, and contain a varied assortment of Apples, Pears, Plums, Medlars, Quinces, and Nuts. The kitchen gardens are cropped largely both for fruit and vegetables. I may mention that Sweet Peas (like Roses and Carnations) are special favourites at Hethersett, and that we grow all the best named varieties in the front kitchen garden."

"How long has the continuous arch, planted with single cordons, been put up?"

"It is quite new, but we hope that it will be of practical value, as well as ornamental, in the future. There are eighty-four Pear trees, planted two feet apart, in the archway, with the intention of each tree coming right over to the opposite side. The varieties include Beurré Bosc, B. Alexander Lucas, B. de Jonghe, B. Easter, B. Fouqueray, B. Mortillet, B. Superfin, Charles Ernest, Conference, Doyenné d'Alencon, Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Emile d'Heyst, Fondante de Thierot, Jargonelle, Glou Morceau, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marguerite Marrillat, Marie Benoist, Michaelmas Nelis, Nouvelle Fulvie, Pitmaston Duchess, and Triomphe de Vienne. We have a dozen trees each of Doyenné du Comice and Pitmaston Duchess."

"Does your wall fruit include Apricots?"

"A few. Peaches, Victoria Plums, and Morello Cherries also grow on the wall. At the back of the mansion there are Raspberries, Gooseberries, and Red, White, and Black Currants. By the way, we grow about forty plants of the Cape Gooseberry in the front kitchen garden. They reach five feet in height, and are delicious when the fruit is stewed. We plant them between the Potatoes."

"How many persons are employed in the gardens?"

"Six, four of whom live in the bothy."

"Finally, as to showing. Have you any time for it at Hethersett?"

"I only exhibit at Reigate. Last year I took, at the summer show, six firsts, four seconds, and one third. At the Chrysanthemum Show, in November, I took five firsts, five seconds, and two thirds. The year before I came South I won ninety-five prizes at seven shows in Northumberland. That was my record. I have shown Chrysanthemums, Orchids, specimen and table plants, fruit, flowers, and vegetables. It is absolutely necessary in these days to be an all-round gardener."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 87.—SPRING FLOWERS, THE LAWN, AND ASPARAGUS.

DEAR KATE,—At last it is dry enough to work in the garden, and we have been busy putting in (and removing, where necessary) fresh plants for the herbaceous border. This work might have been done a month ago, if the fates had been propitious, but what can we do when it snows and hails every day, as it did during the first half of March?

Pyrethrums, of which we have many first-rate varieties, can only be put in safely during the early spring, for those planted later than September (in the autumn) are very apt to "slope off" during a cold, wet season, and never reappear. We are now propagating them, by taking off small pieces (with roots, if possible) from the side of the clump, and potting each of these in a 4-in. pot, after which they are placed in the greenhouse (or a frame) until they are in full growth, when they can be planted out, but must never be allowed to suffer for want of water during the first summer. After that they will take care of themselves, only needing a little fresh soil over their roots each year in March. It is not desirable to raise the whole clump in taking these offsets, because it will put the whole plant back for the season, but we fill the holes made around it with rich soil.

AQUILEGIAS.

Agnes Mary Kelway is the name of a lovely Pyrethrum in rich pink, and James Kelway is almost scarlet in tint; Mary Anderson is one of the first to blossom, in pale blush-pink; Lorna Doone is deep rich maroon; Queen of the Whites is distinguished by its white cushion in the centre (instead of yellow), and is very valuable as a cut flower. Decoy is a lovely carmine Daisy, of perfect shape; and Apollyon, in bright pink, blooms all the autumn, in a most obliging way, for many of them only flower in spring. But if you wish for plenty of exquisite blossoms for table decoration in May, before flowers are plentiful, put in some of these lovely Marguerites without loss of time. Another favourite flower of mine for cutting is the Aquilegia, especially those varieties which have long spurs, for they are so light in effect, and almost like Orchids, though much easier to arrange, as they have nice long stems. Some years ago I procured some good seed of the best varieties (mixed), and ever since I have been delighted with the beauty of the hybrids raised from the original plants. One of the loveliest is in pale pink, with a creamy-white centre. Most of the flowers (except a few in pure white) have two distinct tints, contrasting, yet harmonising, such as violet and apricot, terra-cotta and yellow, primrose and cowslip-yellow, blue and cream-colour, etc., and it is quite exciting when a new batch of seedlings open their first flowers. We "rogue" them at once, pulling up all those which fail to show long spurs, and especially those in a dull purple, which always have small, close flowers, instead of the broad, elegant petals in the photograph I send you; their foliage is so pretty, too, almost like Fern, and these plants will do well in a city even, for they are asleep under the ground all the winter, and only start into life in March, when the worst of the fogs are over. If you have not a good stock of Aquilegias, you should get some seed of a first-rate strain at once, and sow it in a well-drained box of fine soil, which can stand in a greenhouse, or in a frame, until the little plants are well up, after which they should be hardened off gradually, and planted out in their flowering quarters in September. They will soon, however, disappear for the winter, and if there is a danger of their being "tidied" away when the borders are done up in the spring, it is better to prick them out into rather deeper boxes, when large enough, and keep them in a cold frame through their first winter, planting them out in the spring, just as they appear above the soil. Or you may sow the seed in the kitchen garden in May, but if we should have a dry summer many of the tiny plants will die, for they need to be kept moist in their first stages.

The lawn looks as though there had been snow again, for we have had it top-dressed with lime to destroy the moss which has sprung up these last few months between the grass. The late sunless, wet season has made this a common trouble, I believe, but if not removed the moss will increase and kill the grass in time.

The lime, which we obtained unslaked, was slaked before using it, and mixed with fine, rich, sifted soil, in the proportion of one part to two or three, then spread thinly over the mossy parts of the lawn. The effect looks disastrous for a few weeks, but after that the grass grows with increased vigour, and the moss dies, so that it is worth while to go through the ugly stage of top-dressing to ensure a good sward for the summer.

In February and March we were busy sprinkling lawn-sand (or waste salt) on the Daisies, etc., which are sure to appear every spring; this can be done all through the summer, if necessary, but spring is the best time, as

Art. VI. *Obituary.*

Francis Blaikie, M.H.S. — By a letter received from Mrs. Blaikie, dated Paris, August 6., we learn that this venerable horticulturist and excellent man died in that city on the 19th of July, in his eighty-ninth year, and was buried on July the 21st. We trust that some of Mr. Blaikie's friends will enable us to give a memorial of Mr. Blaikie's life; which, considering that he was in France during the whole period of the revolution, is one of extraordinary interest.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Blaikie, Thomas (1751–1838), *landscape gardener and plant collector*
by Suki Urquhart
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Blaikie, Thomas (1751–1838), landscape gardener and plant collector, was born at Corstorphine Hill, Edinburgh, on 2 March 1751, the youngest in the family of two sons and two daughters of Thomas Blaikie, who owned a small market garden at Corstorphine, and his wife, Janet Fiddes (*b*. 1719). He grew up in a strong Presbyterian household of plain living where the whole family shared in the work of the market garden. A variety of sources indicate that he attended the parish school at Corstorphine (Taylor, 8–9), where he would have studied Latin, writing, arithmetic, and English (his native tongue was Scots and his fluent French was reported to be heavily accented and peppered with Scots words right up until his death). His love of nature was nurtured at Corstorphine, and he wrote later in his diaries that nature was the key to creating a beautiful garden. His familiarity with the Linnaean system of nomenclature, as well as those of Haller and Jacquin, points to the likelihood that he studied at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, under John Hope, who promoted the careers of many young Scottish gardeners.

Blaikie's plant collecting tour of Switzerland in 1775, which established his reputation, was financed by two of Hope's correspondents, the distinguished amateur botanists William Pitcairn and John Fothergill, while Joseph Banks laid out his duties and determined his salary. The Alps in 1755 were unknown territory for travellers and botanists and considered very hazardous. During Blaikie's trip, which earned him about £20 for eight months' travelling, he managed to send back 3500 plants and cuttings of 440 species. Blaikie is now credited with about thirty or so new plant introductions to Britain (Taylor, 53). The diary he kept during the expedition is recognized as an unusually detailed record of alpine life, mountaineering, and travel.

Through another Scottish gardener, the Hammersmith nurseryman James Lee, Blaikie received in 1776 the first of the commissions that established him as a notable gardener and landscape designer to the French aristocracy, and members of the French royal family, in the pre-revolutionary era. He was requested by the comte de Lauraguais to accompany a consignment of trees from Lee's nursery to the comte's Normandy estate at Mont Canisy, the beginning of a thirty-year association with the Anglophile Lauraguais. Blaikie's main work on the Lauraguais properties was the creation of *jardins à l'anglaise* (essentially a landscape where it was possible to wander and enjoy a variety of contrived ‘natural’ aspects and vistas complemented with glades, woods, hillocks, and streams) and ornamental farms.

In 1778 Blaikie accepted an invitation from the duc d'Artois, youngest brother of Louis XVI, to do similar work for him at Bagatelle, to the west of the Bois de Boulogne. Surplus trees were brought from the Mont Canisy and Manicamp gardens of Lauraguais to plant there. The pace of work was as erratic as the flow of money to pay for it, but there were enormous bouts of activity (involving hundreds of workers) when royal visits were impending or some other important function was to be held in the gardens. Plants were brought across the channel from

Blaikie's associates in England, including Lee and his partner Lewis Kennedy, as well as many thousands from the French royal nurseries including the Jardin du Roi in Paris. Demand was so great that Blaikie opened his own nursery at Bagatelle, later supplying other royal gardens. Completion of the Bagatelle gardens was marked in May 1780 by a fête attended by Louis and Marie Antoinette, with whom he developed a friendship.

Blaikie's third major commission of the pre-revolutionary period was for the duc de Chartres (later duc d'Orléans and during the revolution Philippe Égalité) at Monceau, where work began in 1781, Le Raincy, and St Leu.

Blaikie had a son, born to a servant, Thérèse, who worked at Bagatelle. He records payments to her but these apparently ceased after 1783. His amorous attentions to another servant named Barbe resulted in a daughter called Constance Blaikie. She was brought up by Citizen (Barbe) Thuillaux, who in 1803 renounced all claims to money from Blaikie. At some point Blaikie married Charlotte Letitia Lockier, who was born in Ringwood, Hampshire, about 1771, and was possibly the Betty, daughter of George and Mary Lockier, whose baptism is recorded there in May 1771.

The revolution proved financially ruinous to Blaikie, who was left to recoup wages and debts incurred by his royalist clients. In 1792, penniless, he narrowly escaped the wrath of the revolutionary guards, who ransacked his house and placed him and his wife under house arrest. In his diary he records harrowing descriptions of the fate of various of his aristocratic employers. Citizen Blaikie, having turned down the post of director of a national botanical school at Versailles, retired to Chauny as farm manager at the Lauraguais estate, supplying in 1793 the seed potatoes—a crop favoured by the revolutionary government as an alternative staple to wheat—which were cultivated in the Tuileries.

Trapped by the Napoleonic war in France, Blaikie worked on some seventy commissions between 1802 and 1815, including gardens for the empress Josephine at Malmaison and for Marshal Ney at Coudreaux. On the return of the Bourbons in 1814 King Louis Philippe (the duc d'Orléans) awarded him a pension of 600 francs per annum. He was invited in 1819 by the prince of Salm-Dyck to landscape his estate near Düsseldorf; Schloss Dyck, completed in 1820 and now restored, is the only one of Blaikie's gardens now to appear largely as it was when first laid out. In 1822 he made his first visit to Edinburgh in fifty years. After settling in Paris in 1825 he contributed to J. C. Loudon's *Gardener's Magazine* in London between 1827 and 1836, and continued to undertake commissions in France until well into his eighties.

Blaikie died on 19 July 1838 at his home in the rue des Vignes, near the Arc de Triomphe, Paris. He was buried in Montmartre on 21 July, but in 1962 the city of Paris removed his unclaimed remains to the Père Lachaise cemetery. His widow continued to live in Paris after his death, receiving an income from Corstorphine until her death on 20 May 1850. The publication in 1931 of Blaikie's two volumes of diaries, covering eight months in 1775, and from October 1781 to August 1792, renewed interest in his methods and achievement, as well as revealing ‘a man of undoubted charm, shrewd, frank, single-minded and with extraordinary physical stamina’ (Taylor, xiii).

SUKI URQUHAR

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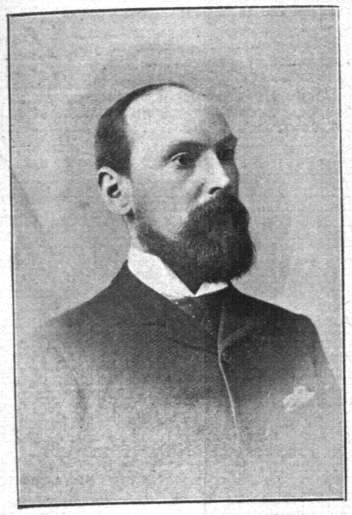
very fine seed. Two or three quarts of these were left behind and sown in my own garden for private use. Planted in really good soil, a very fine yield resulted." He had a similar experience with Potatoes. "Nineteen hundredweight of Snowdrops were planted (on very poor



MR. P. BLAIR.

ground), cultivated and manured according to the most approved theoretical formula. The seed had been obtained from first-rate growers, and from good land. The entire crop of Snowdrops was thirteen hundredweight. After such a failure the growth of these varieties was, of course, discontinued, but the stock was sent to various remote districts. The result was surprising. One grower wrote the following season to say that the one hundredweight of Snowdrops had yielded an extraordinary crop of fine tubers, with which he had obtained six first and two second prizes at various shows." And, again, "A new variety of Radish was obtained, the best specimens grown were carefully selected, seed saved and sown. Some of this, sown on very poor land, produced plants which were not particularly good; the best were selected and allowed to seed, chiefly because the ground, being poor, was not needed. I have always thought with pride that the finest Radishes I ever grew were those obtained from the seed thus produced, although until recently no reason could be given for the result." These are facts worth thinking over, and the principles involved are worth testing. At present the ordinary practice is to destroy old seeds and poor plants growing on poor land, but if reliance is to be placed in Mr. Baker's experience—and it certainly has a rational backing—these might prove to be the most valuable in the whole garden. It is not very long, either, since a French experimenter wrote to recommend the sowing of old seeds of Marrows and Melons, so that his results went to confirm those of Mr. Baker.

July 13th.—The picture which appeared with my notes last week was a photograph of my lawn. The colour supplied by Lilacs, Laburnums, Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Mays cannot be shown, unfortunately, but the grouping is wonderfully effective. I wonder whether anyone could guess what caused the white splash in the right-hand corner. The photograph was taken from my bedroom window, and a spray of Wistaria happened to come immediately in front of the camera.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 146.—MR. P. BLAIR, AT TRENTHAM GARDENS, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

EVEN the fact that on the occasion of my visit to Trentham the weather was more like November than the last week in June, did not prevent me from appreciating the great beauty of the gardens, the splendour of the Duke of Sutherland's Staffordshire home, and the successful manner in which, under difficulties arising from climatic disadvantages, and the proximity of the chimneys of the Potteries, outdoor cultivation is carried on. As, however, it rained hard at the time of my arrival at Mr. Blair's pretty residence, he suggested that the fruit houses, which are a very great feature at Trentham, should be inspected at the outset, and, accordingly, we commenced the run of a mile, which represents the length of the glass. The first house we entered was one of the cool Orchid houses, and here were some very fine spikes of Odontoglossums. I remarked on the number, and Mr. Blair observed:—

"Stafford House is a big place to supply with flowers during the London season. We have cut two hundred spikes of Odontoglossums this week."

"And fruit, also?" I asked, as we passed into one of the late Vineries, with Black Hamburghs and Madresfield Court looking remarkably well.

"Yes, and fruit, too. The Vinery we are now entering was recently planted, and the varieties are Lady Downe's Seedling, Alicante, Gros Colmar, and Appley Towers. In the third Vinery half the space is devoted to Muscats and Gros Colmar. We consider Black Hamburgh our prop."

"How about Peaches and Nectarines?"

"In the early houses we have Royal George the best of Peaches, and Lord Napier, one of the finest of Nectarines; also Violette Hative. We crop very heavily. For instance, one day this week I sent twenty-three dozen Peaches and Nectarines to London, and another day ten dozen, all the fruit being fine enough to show."

"You have still some of the original cases?"

"Several. A portion of them have, however, been pulled down and new ones put up in their places. In this case Tomatoes and Figs are grown. The Figs are Brown Turkey, and the Tomatoes are a selection of my own, grown from seed which I saved. I have tried a great many varieties, but have found no advantage in growing them."

"What Strawberries do you force?"

"Royal Sovereign and Sir Harry. The former is the best, and we force about four thousand of them. We cannot grow Sir Joseph Paxton or British Queen here at all."

"Is that owing to the soil?"

"Partly, and partly to the climate. We cannot, for similar reasons, grow Peaches, Plums, or even Apples and Pears, out of doors. The soil is strong clay, loam and gravel. Though the gardens are in a hollow and sheltered, the climate is cold; and the fact that the river Trent runs through the gardens is not an unmixed advantage."

"When were the cases built?"

"They were built by Fleming between sixty and seventy years ago. The cases answer the purpose very well in the case of Cherries."

"You certainly have good crops. Are they easy to grow?"

"Quite. Only a little peat is required, the most critical time being at the flowering and stoning periods. The varieties are Black Tartarian, the Noble, Governor Wood, May Duke, Rivers' Early, and Elton."

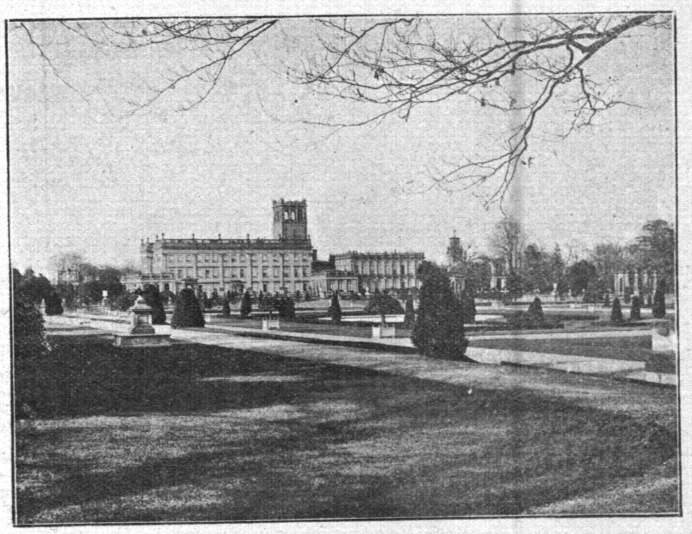
"Which varieties of Plums do you go in for?"

"Jefferson's, Coe's Golden Drop, Transparent Gage, and Kirke's. Transparent Gage is the finest of all. In the late Plum house we have much the same varieties; and also Reine Claude de Bavay, a first-rate dessert Plum. In the late Vinery we have just entered we grow only Black Hamburgh, which we usually cut up to Christmas. The object is to get these as late as possible."

"You have some Tree Carnations in the pits?"

"About a thousand, for winter-flowering. I think that the pick of them are Madame Frau Frau, Mrs. S. J. Brooks, Winter Cheer, Lady de Ramsey, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, and Herbert Kitchener."

Passing through a Palm house, where, in spite of thirty-six Palms from ten to twenty feet high



TRENTHAM FROM THE GARDENS.

being in London, there was a goodly collection, we entered one of the Carnation houses."

"It is impossible to do Carnations well," said Mr. Blair, "unless they have a house to themselves. We grow most of the best varieties of Malmaisons, such as Mrs. Martin Smith, but the Princess of Wales and Thora are the most useful. When the Malmaisons are in flower we often cut about a thousand blooms in a week. Calypso is another favourite."

"Have you any of the very newest varieties?"

"Yes, the most recent one being the Duchess of Westminster. It was raised by Mr. Barnes, of Eaton, and flowers in April without trouble. The feature of the flower is that the calyx does not split, which is a great drawback with most other varieties of Malmaisons. The blue shade of the foliage is very striking."

"Apples in pots under glass seem to be an important feature?"

"We have about two hundred and fifty. In fact, Trentham is famous for its Apples. We have the finest dessert Apple grown—Calville Blanche. To get it to perfection, this must be grown under glass. It is grown largely in France; but it is no use out of doors."

"Of course, it is an expensive fruit?"

"When it is sold at the shops the price charged is half-a-crown an Apple. We pot the trees down annually, and they fruit about October, continuing until March. They are very good keepers. In colour the Apple is a fine transparent, rich yellow, of the most delicious flavour."

"Which is your earliest Apple?"

"James Grieve. Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lady Sudeley, and Beauty of Bath are very fine under glass; and among other varieties that do exceptionally well are Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, American Mother, Wealthy, and Ribston Pippin. Of cooking Apples, Bismarck gets a beautiful colour under glass, and the varieties include Gascoyne's Scarlet, Bramley's Seedling, The Queen, and Newton Wonder."

Next we inspected an Orchid house, in which Cattleyas are grown for cut flowers, the principal varieties being Cattleyas labiata, Mossiæ, Mendeli, and Schroderæ, none of the choice hybrids being grown, as the former are found most useful.

In another Carnation house, I enquired how many houses there were set apart at Trentham for that flower.

"Five. This is the earliest, and the varieties include Cecilia, which is certainly one of the best. Here, too, are some of the Border varieties, notably Mrs. Herbert Cutbush and Sundridge."

In other Peach houses were Lord Napier and Violette Hative Nectarines, kept close to the glass and the light, in order to secure the splendid colour which is their characteristic.

"One tree seems to fill the entire house."

"Yes, that is a Lord Napier, from which last year I took six hundred and thirty-seven Nectarines. It is one of the original trees, and is about thirty years old. The house which it fills is quite forty-eight feet long."

"You have also a fine Brown Turkey tree in the Fig house?"

"It has been here about fifteen years, but it was a large tree when it was put in. The first crop is over, and a second is coming on."

"Pears you appear to grow largely on walls under glass?"

"Chiefly. We find that most of the varieties thrive on the walls. The finest of all Pears is Doyenné du Comice, but among others which do well here are Jargonelle, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis, Josephine de Malines, Beurré d'Aremberg, Beurré Rance, Marie Louise, Bergamotte Esperen, Beurré Fouqueray, and Le Lectier."

Before we reached the large conservatory, we inspected yet another Peach house, containing Bellegarde and Pineapple Nectarines; also Barrington, which take the Peaches up to the middle of October, none being grown after.

"The conservatory," continued Mr. Blair, "really serves the purpose of a small winter garden. Formerly it was full of Camellias, but we did away with them. Just now Palms and Bamboos predominate. In the winter, Chrysanthemums, which we grow in quantities, are brought here, and into the Peach houses."

"Is there anything special in the stove?"

"No; there are only the ordinary plants, such as Crotons. We grow a large quantity of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, which we keep in flower six months of the year. It is particularly useful for decorative purposes."

"Do you grow many varieties of Melons?"

"I am trying a new one—Sutton's Invicta, which seems to promise well. Other varieties are Eastnor Castle, The Countess, Sutton's Superlative, Hero of Lockinge, and one or two selections of my own. I grow Melons in batches instead of having a house full of them at a particular time."

"What is the extent of the kitchen garden?" I asked, as we passed a pretty show of Flag Irises, and a large break of Sweet Peas comprising twenty-four of the best of the pinks, scarlets, whites, blues, and creams.

"About three acres and a half. The grounds, including the kitchen garden, cover about a hundred acres. The pits here are used for forcing Beans and Asparagus. We have Beans all the year round. Other houses include a late Vinery (all Hamburghs), another Vinery of Muscats, a third of Black Hamburghs and Foster's Seedling, and a house of Nectarines (Hale's Early)."

"You do not grow all your vegetables in the three acres and a half of kitchen garden," I observed.

"No; we have a piece of ground of two acres, where all the rougher vegetables are grown, such as Potatoes. Our early varieties of Potato are Sharpe's Victor, Snowdrop, Up-to-Date, and Windsor Castle. I am just trying Northern Star and Discovery."

"With regard to the pleasure grounds, what is the leading outside feature?"

"Rhododendrons and Azaleas, which, as you see, are getting over. We have a few single specimens of Rhododendrons, but they are mainly grown in clumps."

"How many bridges are there over the Trent in the grounds?"

"Three. The gardens also run on both sides of the lake, which is between seventy and eighty acres in area, the woods and hills being on one side. Hollies are very fine here. Our bed of Milkmaids is one of the finest in the county."

"What is the length of the archway near the terrace?"

"A hundred yards. It looks very pretty covered with Crimson Rambler."

From the front close to the conservatory attached to the mansion, which is used as a tea-room, there is a view of the monument erected on the hill by the tenantry to the first Duke of Sutherland. Here, also, the magnificent collection of Yews in the Italian Garden can be admirably seen. These Yews, twenty-four in number, are perfect specimens.

"How many varieties do you use for the two big beds in the Italian Garden?"

"Four, namely, Calendulas, Pentstemons, Lythrum roseum, and Candytuft. These make a mass of colour when the family are in residence at the end of July. The beds on the terrace are principally filled with Geraniums, Calceolarias, Violas, Candytuft, and other showy flowers."

"You do not have Roses in the beds?"

"The manufactories and chemical works in the neighbourhood prevent us from growing either Roses or Violets. They also affect the Conifers and the trees in the park. Plants and shrubs which used to flourish at Trentham years ago, before they existed, will not grow now."

"Do you decorate the entrance to the mansion elaborately?"

"Only when the King, or some other illustrious personage, visits the Duke and Duchess. In the corridors on each side we have flowering plants."

With a glance at the noble front of Trentham, and the charming little garden surrounding the model dairy, we paused to notice a wall covered with some wonderful Ivy.

"That variety," said Mr. Blair, "is the Amurensis, and does better than the old dentata. It lasts all through the year, and is very much admired."

If it had not been for the pouring rain, we should have spent much more time in the open, but we were obliged to retrace our steps to the houses which I had not seen.

In one of these was a lovely show of Masdevallias and Oncidium macranthum.

"You grow these Orchids in great quantity?" I remarked.

"There are a couple of thousand of Masdevallias. Both the varieties flower from April to the end of July, and the long sprays are valuable for decorating the tables. They do so well for groups of plants."

"I see that you have Hydrangeas in the show house?"

"We fill the show house with things in season. Just now, in addition to Hydrangeas, there are Fuchsias, Geraniums, and Lilium longiflorum giganteum. From a single bulb of the last we had twenty-six flowers. By the way, although Roses will not grow at Trentham, we have an orchard at Hanchurch, a mile away, on higher ground, containing some fine old Yews, where outside Roses of different varieties do very well."

"Does the soil suit Rhododendrons, or have you to make it suitable?"

"We have to prepare all the beds before the Rhododendrons are planted. There is plenty of peat in the locality for the purpose. According to my experience, Rhododendrons cannot be grown without peat."

"I suppose that in the season you grow a quantity of Lilies?"

"A great quantity, and also of Lilacs. As to Chrysanthemums, we grow between three and four thousand, about a thousand for large blooms."

"When did you come to Trentham, Mr. Blair?"

"I have been here nineteen years as head gardener, and I had been foreman for four years previously."

"Then you have not held many other appointments?"

"No. I started under my father at Shrublands Park, Suffolk. Then I went to Trentham Gardens as foreman under the late Mr. Stevens, where I stayed four years. Afterwards I was appointed to Messrs. Veitch's as foreman in the decorative department, and there gained great experience in decoration, which, subsequently, proved very useful to me. I stayed there eight years, until appointed to fill my present position."

"I should be glad if you would tell me something about your record in exhibiting."

"I have done a good deal since I have been at Trentham, principally showing groups of plants for effect, with very great success, but I gave it up four years ago, after I beat Mr. Cypher, at Shrewsbury, in a large group of decorative plants. Previously, I had taken the challenge cup at Hull, a first at Manchester and York for groups of plants and Chrysanthemums, and also prizes at all the local shows."

"But not in the South?"

"I have not shown in the South. The distance is greater, and they give better prizes in the North. Since the Shrewsbury show in 1900, I have gone in for judging, instead of showing."

"How large is the staff under you?"

"The number of men employed in the grounds and houses is forty-five. There is accommodation for thirteen in the bothy. The Duke opens the park without any restrictions to the public, and, though a great quantity of flowers are used to decorate at Stafford House, the Duchess gives away largely."

ALFRED WILCOX.

GLADIOLI are sometimes left in dry, warm soils all the winter, but they are always better taken up and stored indoors. In some soils Gladioli are somewhat disappointing, especially among the imported or purchased bulbs.

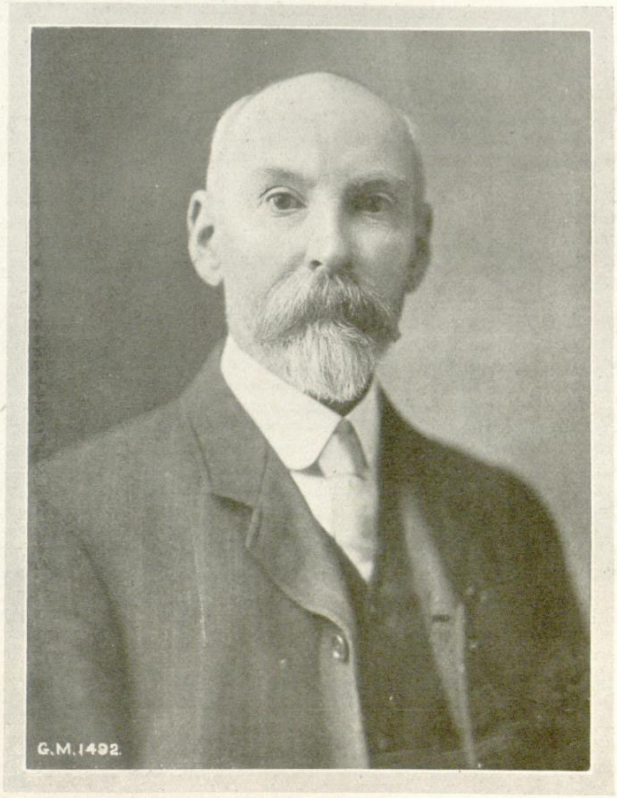
VOL. LIII.—No. 2,975. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1910.

THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.

NOTE OF THE WEEK.

International Horticultural Exhibition, 1912.

The meeting of the General Committee of the International Exhibition, to be held in London in 1912, of which a report appeared in our issue of the 29th ult., was of considerable importance and much interest. It was the first meeting which gave the Executive Committee an opportunity of stating publicly, or what was akin thereto, what had been accomplished during the six months that had elapsed since the meeting was held at which it was decided to hold an exhibition of an international character in the year mentioned. The meeting also afforded an excellent opportunity for obtaining an idea of the interest that is being taken in the proposed exhibition by the general body of horticulturists in the United Kingdom. We certainly regard the meeting as a safe base on which to form an opinion upon the latter point, and the presence of about one hundred and fifty of the leading horticulturists, many of whom had travelled long distances, should be an ample proof that the interest is widespread, and that there is a strong desire to assist in making the exhibition a brilliant success, and in every way worthy of a great country, world renowned for both the practical and scientific aspects of its horticulture. Mr. Gurney Fowler, who is the chairman of the Executive Committee, presided at the meeting in question, and gave a somewhat lengthy, but by no means too long, statement of the steps that had been taken in various directions since the last-named body had been formed. He stated at the commencement of his remarks that at the meeting held in April, when the exhibition was decided upon, a Provisional Committee was appointed to take the preliminary steps, and that this Provisional Committee had a meeting, and invited other gentlemen to assist in forming an Executive Committee. The first matter to receive attention on the last-named committee having been constituted was finance. It was at once recognised that the carrying out of the exhibition on the scale contemplated would necessitate a large expenditure, and it was also recognised that in the event of a loss the members of the Executive Committee would have to bear it. After a full consideration of this all-important question it was decided, as recorded in the report of the meeting which appeared in our issue of the 29th ult., to form a limited liability company. The next step was to form a General Committee, and to prepare a scheme for local committees, and to appoint secretaries of such bodies. A meeting of the latter was held previous to luncheon, as will be seen on reference to the report which appears in another part of this issue. Forty attended, and certain resolutions were passed. The probable cost of the exhibition was dealt with, and the privileges of subscribers and guarantors mentioned by the chairman. The preparation of the schedule, the selection of a site, and some other matters were referred to, and, as far as it went, the statement was satisfactory, but it hardly went far enough. The members of the General Committee were told that it had been said by some of the critics that the exhibition in 1912 would be a glorified Temple Show, and that the Executive Committee intended to hold a real international exhibition. We shall hope, and, indeed, expect, that the exhibition will be of a quite different character to the beautiful shows that have for upwards of twenty years been held in the gardens of the Inner Temple. The fact that the Schedule Committee has been engaged for several months in the preparation of the schedule should be a proof that the show will be of a different character. We have no doubt that cultivators will have such encouragement as will induce them to contribute of their best, and that there will be a large display of such subjects as are available for exhibition in the month of May. We have no apprehension as to the extent of the exhibition or of the quality of the plants, flowers, fruits, and other products; but we should like to know something about the manner in which they are to be displayed. Are they to be arranged in tents, such as have been in use at flower shows held in this country from time well-nigh immemorial? Or will exhibition houses be provided that are large enough for the artistic arrangement of the various objects, and are light and elegant in design, such as those at the international exhibitions at Ghent, Haarlem, Hamburgh, and other of the Continental centres? These are important questions, and unless the second of the two is answered in the affirmative the exhibition will fall short of what it should be. As yet nothing has been said with regard to the educational side of the exhibition, which should be on a considerable scale; or to the holding of a congress for the purpose of discussing matters of importance to horticulturists at home and abroad. It is most desirable that advantage should be taken of the opportunity the exhibition will afford for learning the views of our foreign friends upon the difficulties that have been placed in the way of British horticulturists in sending plants, etc., to a considerable number of European countries. It is advisable that countries should do what is necessary to prevent the introduction of



MR. PETER BLAIR.

insect pests and fungoid diseases, but the regulation should not be so drafted as to practically exclude stock that is perfectly clean, and may not be liable to infection. The formation of the Executive Committee into a limited liability company is not a matter to which objection need be taken, more especially as it places the committee in a better position to deal with those with whom they have to enter into business relations. We attach but little importance to its protective side because we are fully assured that when the full scheme is made public, provided it is commensurate with the character and the importance of the occasion, and an estimate given of the probable cost, the necessary funds will be forthcoming, and the sooner this is done the better. We are, indeed, of the opinion that it would have been an immense advantage had a broad outline of the scheme been published within a reasonable time of the formation of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Peter Blair, whose portrait we have the pleasure of giving in this issue, has so long occupied a prominent position among British horticulturists by reason of his remarkable ability that there is no occasion to make otherwise than the briefest reference to the excellent work he has accomplished. It is now many years since Mr. Blair was appointed to the charge of the Trentham Hall gardens, so long famous for fruits and flowering plants, and those who visited them in the days when the bedding system was in vogue will well remember the success achieved in the arrangement of the various classes of tender plants utilised in the production of summer effects. They will remember also the many valuable object-lessons that were to be obtained in the quarters devoted to fruits, and in the various fruit houses which have long constituted a great feature at Trentham. Mr. Blair has shown his administrative ability in other directions, and nowhere has it been more conspicuous than in the carrying out of the arrangements of the horticultural exhibitions held in conjunction with the shows of the Royal Agricultural Society and the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. The exhibitions held at Liverpool and Leeds during the past summer under Mr. Blair's superintendence were so remarkable for the completeness of the arrangements, as to afford examples that many secretaries of societies may follow with advantage.

Mr. Leonard G. Sutton was unanimously elected president of the Berks and Oxon Chamber of Agriculture for the ensuing year, at the annual general meeting, which was held at Reading on the 29th ult.

Election of Chief Officer of London Parks.—At the meeting of the London County Council, on Tuesday, the election of a Chief Officer of the London parks under the control of that body was proceeded with, and, as we stated in our issue of last week, the General Purposes Committee recommended the appointment of a military officer to the post. There were 145 candidates for the post, and from these sixteen had an interview with a sub-committee of the General Purposes Committee, and from these six were selected to meet the latter body. These were Mr. A. D. Blascheck and Mr. A. M. Caccia, of the Indian Forest Service; Mr. W. H. Morter, superintendent of the Birmingham Parks and Gardens; Mr. J. Weathers, horticultural instructor, Middlesex County Council; Major P. Maud, R.E., of the General Army Staff; and Major C. B. Winter, of the Indian Army. The General Purposes Committee selected Mr. Blascheck, Major Maud, and Major Winter, and recommended that Major Maud be appointed. Mr E. Gray, the chairman of the General Purposes Committee, in bringing up the recommendation, contended that the Council did not want "a Chief Gardener," but the "Head of a department," which was absurd, seeing that in this case administrative ability should be combined with technical knowledge of a high order. Strenuous endeavour was made by several members to have the recommendation referred back, but, on a division, the amendment was lost by 69 to 47. The recommendation was then agreed to, and Major Maud was introduced, and informed of his appointment.

Flowering of Fruit Trees.—At the general meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on Tuesday next Mr. C. H. Hooper will give a lecture on "The Blossoming of Our Hardy Cultivated Fruits."

Orchids at Manchester.—A most interesting group of orchids was exhibited by Mr. E. Rogers, gardener to O. O. Wrigley, Esq., Bridge Hall, Bury, at the recent meeting of the Manchester and North of England Orchid Society, at the Coal Exchange, Manchester. The group extended to two-thirds the length of the centre tabling, and made a most remarkable display. The most prominent features were the finely grown examples of Vanda cærulea. Not only had these remarkable spikes of flowers, but the colour and substance of the flowers left nothing to be desired, which is the more noteworthy when it is considered that the plants have been grown under the smoky conditions of this particular neighbourhood. These remarks may also be applied to the large quantity of Dendrobium phalænopsis Schroderæ shown, which included a remarkably well-flowered plant of the rare D. p. hololeucum. Clusters of Epidendrum vitellinum, Cypripedium Fairreanum, C. Maudiæ, Odontoglossum grande, etc., were also included. Mr. Rogers was deservedly awarded the society's gold medal for high culture.

The Winter Moth and the destructive effects of its larvæ, was dealt with in an interesting and instructive paper by Mr. A. J. C. Biss, read at the fortnightly meeting of the Bath Gardeners' Debating Society. Mr. Biss described the life history of the moth, and the best means of preventing and checking the ravages of the caterpillars.

R.H.S. Trial of Peas at Wisley.—The Rev. W. Wilks writes: At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society on October 25, a letter was read from one of the leading seed firms, pointing out that it was not quite fair in the trial of peas at Wisley to compare, and to adjudicate on the merits of, varieties sown on different dates; and urging that all peas sent for trial ought to be sown on one and the same day. The Council quite saw the point, but felt, on the other hand, that it would not be quite fair to an admittedly late pea to sow it on the same day as an admittedly early one. After consideration it was decided for 1911, and in future, to ask for one pint (instead of half-pint) of seed peas, and divide it into three parts and make sowings of all varieties on three different dates, suiting early, mid-season, and late peas, as in this way only could the two difficulties mentioned be overcome. It is desired therefore to correct the list of trials which appeared in these columns a fortnight ago, by substituting one pint for half-pint of pea seed required to be sent to Wisley.

Lecturer in Horticulture for Fife.—At a recent meeting of the Education Committee of the Fife County Council Mr. George E. Greenhow, assistant lecturer in horticulture to the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, was appointed resident lecturer in horticulture for Fifeshire, at a salary of £150, rising to a maximum of £250. Mr. Greenhow is a native of Cumberland, and began his career in the gardens of Hatton-in-the-Forest, Cumberland, the seat of Sir Henry Vane, Bart. After serving for several years as journeyman and foreman in the private gardens at Greystoke Castle and Styford Hall, he was engaged for a year with the Northumberland County Council as gardener at Cockle Park, Morpeth. He had charge of the fruit plots throughout the county, and he had also the supervision of the forestry section.

R.H.S. Awards to Fruits.—A special sub-committee of the Fruit Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society visited Wisley on October 13, and recommended Awards of Merit to the following, which were confirmed by the council at its meeting on Tuesday, October 25: Apple, Hounslow Wonder, Messrs. Spooner, Hounslow; peach, Salwey, the Duke of Richmond, Goodwood.

Yorkshire Horticultural Society.—This is the title of the new horticultural society which it was decided to found at a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting held in the Town Hall, Leeds, on Tuesday, October 25, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The hope was expressed at the meeting that everyone resident in the northern counties of England would support the society, but as yet the northern counties have not been approached in the matter. It was resolved that the minimum subscription for honorary members be one guinea, and for amateur and professional gardeners five shillings. A strong committee has been formed, and if the enthusiasm shown at the meeting be expressive of the feeling that obtains in Yorkshire with regard to the desirability of forming the society, there is full justification for anticipating that the society will assume large proportions and do splendid work in the advancement of horticulture in the Northern Counties. There is ample room for a strong horticultural society in the North of England, and we trust the new society may achieve a high degree of success. It appears highly desirable that other of the great centres in Yorkshire should co-operate with the horticulturists of Leeds in this important undertaking. The secretary is Mr. P. Clapham, Calverley, Leeds, and Mr. H. J. Clayton, Ulleskelf, is the treasurer.

Dahlia Brentwood Yellow.—Concurrently with the opening of the chrysanthemum season we received from Mr. J. T. West, Tower Hill, Brentwood, a box of blooms of his new decorative dahlia Brentwood Yellow, which he introduced to public notice for the first time at the exhibitions held during the past season. Mr. West has sent us a dozen or so growths, and the majority of these bear two well-developed blooms and buds. The blooms are large, full, of fine form judged from the decorative point of view, and borne on stiff, erect stems, of a sufficient length to carry them well above the foliage. The height of the plant ranges from 30in. to 36in., in height, and it is not difficult to imagine the fine effect produced by masses of the rich golden flowers.

BLAIN Henry Haughton of Ardmore St. Georges-road Abergele **Denbighshire** died 7 July 1937 Probate **Liverpool** 26 August to Agnes Helena Blain spinster and Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited. Effects £8002 6s. 1d.

BLAIN William James of 125 Ranelagh-road East Ham **Essex** died 26 June 1937 at Central Home Leytonstone Essex Probate **London** 24 September to Lydia Spurway Blain and Alice May Blain spinsters. Effects £704 15s. 8d.

BLAIN William Neill of Fossdene Mount Pleasant **Cambridge** died 6 October 1937 Administration **London** 30 October to Honoria Mabelle Long-Brown married woman.
Effects £256 8s. 8d.

BLAIR Andrew of 12 Edinburgh-road **Bathgate** died 28 July 1937 Confirmation of Margaret Blair.
Sealed **London** 25 October.

BLAIR or **GIBSON** Christina Ure of Endycot Dewar-street **Dollar** widow died 17 May 1937 Confirmation of the reverend James Thomas Hall and the reverend George Lyall clerks.
Sealed **London** 24 August.

BLAIR David Logan of Firfield Golf-road Clarkston near **Glasgow** died 24 March 1937 Confirmation of Eliza Jane Ann Blair and James King Walker writer. Sealed **London** 22 May.

BLAIR Ernest of Hillfield Underhill-road Cleadon county **Durham** died 14 March 1937 Probate **Durham** 6 September to Florence Jane Blair widow and Donald Harvey solicitor.
Effects £5135 6s. 2d.

BLAIR Frederick Henry of Glenroy 29 Bradley-road Trowbridge **Wiltshire** died 21 August 1937 Probate **Winchester** 5 November to William Frederick Mackett solicitor and George Frederick Snailum auctioneer. Effects £13313 11s. 8d.

BLAIR Harriett of 67 Fredericks-road Beccles **Suffolk** widow died 5 February 1937 Probate **London** 22 March to Samuel Edward Roofe dealer and James Brindy retired postal official.
Effects £99 13s. 1d.

BLAIR or **HARVEY** Helen of 49 Bannockburn-street **Greenock** died 12 May 1937 Confirmation of Colin Finnie clerk.
Sealed **London** 2 July.

BLAIR Jane Ann of Beacon Hill Cottage Sadberge county **Durham** widow died 16 July 1926 Administration **Durham** 16 June to Thomas White Taylor hay cutter. Effects Nil.

BLAIR Jane Ann of 7 Lonsdale-terrace Crosby Villa Aspatria **Cumberland** (wife of Tom Blair) died 19 August 1937 Probate **Carlisle** 28 September to Susanna Lowther (wife of Robert Lowther) and the said Robert Lowther railway guard.
Effects £406 10s.

BLAIR John of Waterside Coleraine county **Londonderry** died 22 September 1936 at Prospect-road Portstewart county Londonderry Administration **Belfast** to Robert Thomas Blair grocer. Effects £374 9s. 9d. in England.
Sealed **London** 27 May.

BLAIR John Albert Horace Frederick of Aberglebe Stourbridge-road Bromsgrove **Worcestershire** died 27 October 1937 Probate **Birmingham** 15 December to Milly Blair widow.
Effects £878 19s. 2d.

BLAIR John Hunter of 19 Sloane-court **London** died 25 January 1937 at 8 Beaumont-street London Probate **London** 4 March to Evelyn Hunter Blair widow Arthur Croke Morgan solicitor and Eustace Alfred Skinner Oldham stockbroker.
Effects £171200 9s. 2d. Resworn £166442 12s. 8d.
Resworn £166450.

BLAIR or **WILLIAMS** Josephine of 29 Ennismore-road Stanley **Liverpool** spinster died 8 March 1937 at Rainhill Lancashire Administration **Liverpool** 16 November to Alberta Stella Williams spinster. Effects £156 9s. 4d.
Former Grant (in the name of Josephine Williams) D.R. **Liverpool** 19 July 1937 Revoked.

BLAIR Laura Constance of 33 The Avenue Kew-gardens **Surrey** widow died 13 March 1937 Probate **London** 21 May to Barclays Bank Limited. Effects £3982 7s. 3d.

BLAIR or **FILSHIE** Leslie Ward of 7 Sandringham-terrace **Greenock** died 8 August 1937 at Rothesay Confirmation of John Dickie retired surveyor David Blair Williamson electrical engineer and David Laird Boyd solicitor.
Sealed **London** 30 October.

BLAIR Margaret of 33 Woodvale-road **Belfast** spinster died 29 January 1937 Probate **Belfast** to Robert H. Blair brass founder and James Macartney flax spinner.
Effects £585 9s. 5d. in England. Sealed **London** 6 April.

BLAIR Margaret otherwise Maggie of Cluny **Dunblane** spinster died 3 February 1937 Confirmation of reverend Robert Leighton Blair clerk and James Fisher Lindsay.
Sealed **London** 12 April.

BLAIR Nina Richmond of Atley Ranch Oliver British Columbia **Canada** widow died 17 September 1936 Probate **London** 19 February to Henrietta Richmond Blair spinster.
Effects £3777 9s. 2d. Resworn £4452 14s. 6d.

BLAIR Peter of 14 Lydgait **Haddington** died 23 February 1937 Confirmation of Alexander Ramsay (the younger) shoemaker and George Shaw commercial manager.
Sealed **London** 8 June.

BLAIR Peter of 101 Fairbank-road **Sheffield** died 25 August 1937 Probate **Durham** 25 November to Marion Blair and Elsie Moir Blair spinsters. Effects £203 8s. 5d.

BLAIR Peter Christie otherwise Peter of Hobart Lindum-avenue ~~Trentham~~ **Stoke-on-Trent** died 23 October 1936 Probate **Birmingham** 17 February to Doris May Blair spinster.
Effects £567 4s.

BLAIR Robert Douglas of 19 Hereford-road **Harrogate** died 2 February 1937 at Seletar Singapore Straits Settlements Administration **London** 16 August to Constance Blair widow
Effects £958 19s.

BLAIR Robert Westrup of Kuala Lumpur State of Selangor **Federated Malay States** died 10 October 1937 at 20 Devonshire-place St. Marylebone Middlesex Probate **London** 2 November to Victoria Marianne Prenter Blair widow. Effects £500.
Resealed **Singapore** 3 February 1938.

BLAIR Rosina of Blenheim 59 Dartmouth-road Paignton **Devonshire** (wife of William Blair) died 21 January 1937 Probate **Bristol** 26 February to Herbert Nelson Blair station master.
Effects £710 7s. 5d.

BLAIR Thomas Allan of 48 Meadway Ilford **Essex** died 30 April 1937 at King George Hospital Ilford Probate **London** 17 June to Henry Moses Geeson assurance inspector.
Effects £1930 6s. 4d.

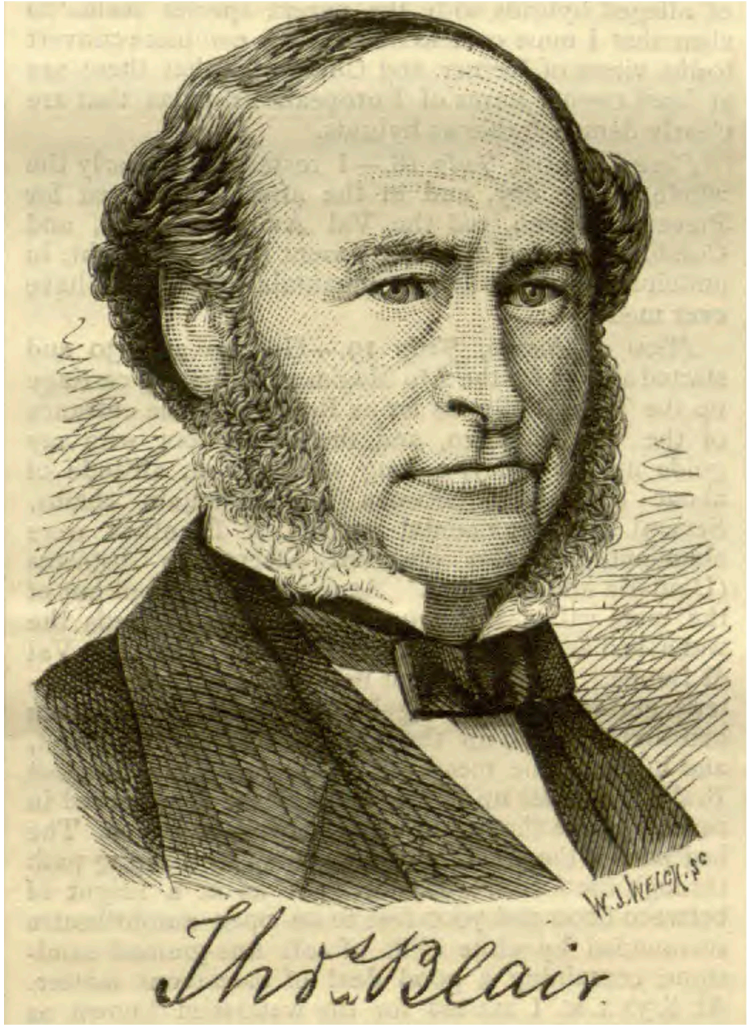
BLAIR William of 66 Old Chester-road Lower Tranmere **Birkenhead** died 20 March 1937 at 56 Church-road Higher Tranmere Birkenhead Administration **Chester** 30 April to Hettie May Blair widow. Effects £558 17s.

BLAIR William of Shaken Bridge Brow Top near Bolton **Cumberland** died 31 March 1937 Probate **Carlisle** 16 June to Esther Blair spinster and Joseph Wells Crookes solicitor.
Effects £1118 12s. 9d.

BLAIR William Nisbet of 38 The Pryors East Heath-road Hampstead **Middlesex** died on or since 26 July 1935 at some place unknown Administration **London** 7 January to Kenneth Gloyne Blair zoologist. Effects £1635 9s. 1d.

BLAIRMAN Wolf otherwise Walter of 805 Finchley-road Golders Green **Middlesex** died 11 September 1936 Probate **London** 10 February to Irene Blairman widow.
Effects £15115 8s. 2d.

BLAIRS Daniel of 38 Dimsdale View Porthill Newcastle-Under-Lyme **Staffordshire** died 29 May 1937 Administration **Chester** 19 October to Laura Blairs widow. Effects £565 9s. 6d.



Thomas Blair

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 4

Mr. Thomas Blair, whose portrait we publish to-day, was born in the year 1819, at Aberdour, Fifeshire. He was early sent to the parish school, where he remained until he was fifteen years of age, at which period he went to Fordell, the seat of Admiral Sir Philip C, H. Durham, and there he served his apprenticeship under Mr. Robert Foulis, who is still head gardener and land steward — a situation which he has filled for nearly fifty years.

After going through the different departments of the garden establishment, under the careful direction of Mr. Foulis, he removed, for further improvement, to Whittingham, in East Lothian, then noted as one of the best kept gardens in Scotland, and here he commenced to collect the native plants and to study their names and peculiarities, with the assistance of a companion, who has now been for many years in America. After spending nearly two years at Whittingham, he engaged to go as foreman in the flower garden at Castle Temple, in Renfrewshire, and the year following had charge of the forcing department, which was extensive, and included the cultivation of various kinds of tropical fruits. He still, however, continued to pay some attention to the collecting of wild plants, the west of Scotland affording a good hunting-ground for them, so that he and his companions had frequent rambles over hill and dell in their pursuit, and they were, he tells us, always rewarded with something interesting.

“Having served two years at Castle Temple, I left Scotland,” writes the subject of our memoir, “and went to Mr. Jackson's nursery, Kingston-on-Thames, at that time famed for its fine collection of Cape Heaths and other exotic plants, and, indeed, the Kingston nursery has not lost its good name, but still maintains a high position as a plant nursery. After being over a year among the plants, I was sent by Mr. Jackson to take charge of the exotic department at the Royal Gardens, Claremont, under Mr. Malleson, the head gardener, and I remained nearly four years there, which ended my period of probation.

In November, 1845, I was engaged as head gardener to Mr. Dundas Durham, Largo House, Fifeshire, where I spent nine years comfortably; but, being desirous to advance in my profession, I entered the service of G. C. Arbuthnot, Esq., Mavis Bank, near Edinburgh, whose gardens were about to be renovated and improved, and remained there between two and three years, when Mr. Jackson, of Kingston (who had not forgotten my former services), offered me the situation at Bank Grove (the late W. Byam Martin), near Kingston-on-Thames, well known for its fine collection of Camellias, Roses, American plants, and rare Coniferae.

I left Bank Grove in the spring of 1862, and was recommended by Dr. Lindley to Admiral Sir George N. Broke Middleton, Bart., as head gardener at Shrubland Park. Of the gardens here it is not necessary that I should speak, their extent and variety being well known, and their keeping being admired by all who have seen them. Sir George Broke Middleton's taste for the beautiful is well known, and he is also a liberal supporter of the horticultural and agricultural societies in the neighbourhood.”

A.W. Blake

THE GARDENS OF THE EARL OF CARNARVON, AT HIGHCLERE CASTLE, NEWBURY.

IT was my good fortune to be able to spend a considerable amount of time on a glorious May day in the gardens at Highclere Castle. The more I saw of them the more I was confirmed in my first impression of the Earl of Carnarvon's famous historic seat. Highclere is majestic, from the magnificent castle, upwards of five hundred and fifty feet above sea level, to the far-stretching woods which form the framework of the pleasure grounds. And the gardens, in their expansiveness and their arrangement, completely harmonise with the architecture and appearance of the castle. The majesty of style is, in fact, preserved everywhere. Highclere is the centre of big things; the little ones do not count. As I started on a walk round in company with Mr. A. W. Blake, the head gardener, I told him I should only deal with the big things, and he said that the rest did not matter. Unquestionably, the trees largely contribute to the majesty of Highclere, whether in respect of age, size, or beauty.

A THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD YEW.

One of the most venerable stands like a sentinel under the shadow of the castle, in the shape of a wonderful Yew. Its age exceeds a thousand years, and it has been decaying for centuries. But there is a good deal of life left in it yet. There is not only life, but vigour in the Cedars, Beeches, Oaks, Black Walnuts, Chestnuts, and other specimen trees which abound in the park, and are amongst the ornaments of the gardens.

"Highclere," said Mr. Blake, "is one of the homes in England of the Cedar, and cuttings came here from Wilton soon after it was introduced in this country. Hence the presence of so many giants. The Cedar just outside the gardens at the east of the castle, which you see is entirely unsupported, was grown from one of the cuttings. It is the finest of all. In height between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and sixty feet, and of symmetrical proportions, it is two hundred and twenty feet through, and the butt is twenty-seven feet in circumference at two feet from ground level. But everywhere, as we proceed, you will observe the health and vigour of the trees of all kinds and every age."

"They are in keeping with the character of the place, or, perhaps, I should rather say, that they help to make it up; and so do the lawns, whose dimensions must be remarkable."

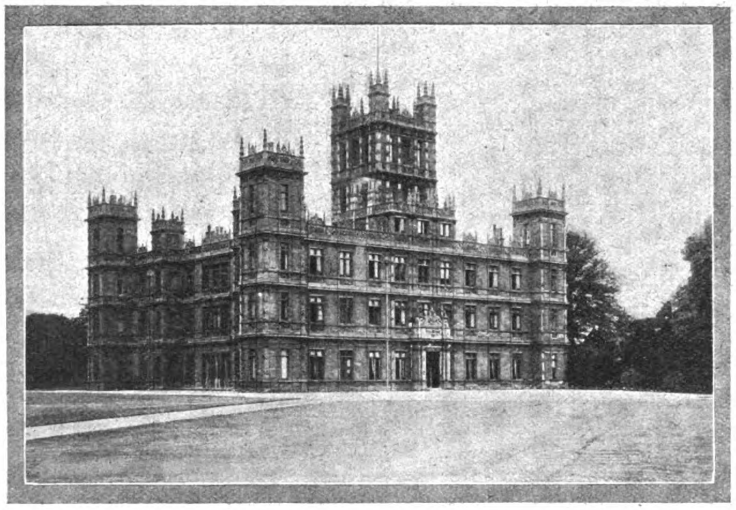
"There are thirty-six acres of lawns, chiefly undulating, which, of course, adds to their attractions. They are emphatically one of the striking features of Highclere, and no pains are spared to keep them fresh and green, pleasant to the eye and pleasant to walk upon. From the south lawn you get a fine view of the highest point of Highclere, Heaven's Gate, on Seddon Hill, nine hundred feet above sea level. The hill itself is clothed with Silver Firs, Beech, and Ash."

"But there are charming views from every lawn?"

"Yes, the country, whichever way you look, is delightful. Nature has been allowed to maintain her sway, and the variety of scenery increases its charms."

THE SHRUBBERY BORDERS.

At this point we paused near the base of one of the slopes to inspect closely a cluster of four splendid Beeches, and here Mr. Blake mentioned an important change which has been made during the five years he has been in charge of the gardens.



HIGHCLERE CASTLE, THE SEAT OF THE EARL OF CARNARVON.

"When I came to Highclere," he continued, "there were numerous displays of bedding on the lawns. They have all been done away with, and the new shrubbery border, started in March, 1911, with its three divisions, now contains our only show of mixed flowers. The border, which is broken up into three divisions, is about nine hundred yards long. The shrubs at the back include Staphyleas, Lilacs, Crabs for colour effect (chiefly John Downie), Golden Yews, Golden Cypress, the Sea Buckthorn, Berberis, Buddleia in variety, Paulownia, and most of the Conifers, which will do well in chalk soil."

"How is the border planted? Is it divided up for colour effect?"

"In three divisions. One is mainly a blue border, the second as far as possible pink, and the third lavender. In the blue border Delphiniums and Anchusas are prominent, with an edging of Viola Kitty Bell. The pink border is chiefly planted with pink Sweet Williams and Antirrhinums, the edging being of Viola Maggie Mott. We use the same edging for the lavender border, in which Lavender is a predominating element. The shrubs, generally speaking, harmonise with the Lavender, the main object of the borders being to give a suitable finish to the pleasure grounds."

A PICTURESQUE ROSE GARDEN.

In close proximity to the shrubbery border is the principal Rose garden, and I asked the plan of it.

"The primary purpose is to secure masses of colour. For example, there are four beds of Lady Ashtown, containing twenty-six dozen plants, with standards, four beds of Dorothy Page Roberts, and Paul Transom on poles. Hugh Dickson fills a very large bed. The arches of the wall which runs across a portion of the garden, are adorned with Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles; and behind the clump of Box at the end rises the head of Charlemagne. Below is a border of Golden Tulips and Myosotis. Through the arches we pass to pergolas of Yews."

"And a very effective border of May-flowering Tulips."

"The variety is Mrs. Farncombe Saunders, and with it is associated Viola Maggie Mott. This Tulip likes a cool atmosphere. It has been in flower all the month. On the wall above are climbing varieties of Roses. Further beds of Roses contain Madame Abel Chatenay and Madame Grolez, with Paul Transom on pillars; and a carpet of J. B. Riding. Behind the quaint old hedge are Roses on pillars, Hiawatha, Lady Gay, and Irish Beauty. Beds of red Roses are carpeted with Viola Swanley White; with Lady Gay, Viola Countess Campana is used; and with Jersey Beauty, Kitty Bell."

RHODODENDRONS IN THOUSANDS.

Ascending the slopes, the Azaleas and Rhododendrons challenged admiration. In all directions were magnificent masses of colour, and the air was delightfully perfumed. I singled out for special comment the gem of the whole, a huge bed of Rhododendron Pink Pearl flowering, and coming into flower.

"How many plants are there in that bed?"

"Exactly one hundred. Judging by the outside small plants, which average forty-three buds or flowers, there must be quite five thousand trusses of flowers and buds in the bed. This is the third year the bed has been in flower, and I think it looks its best this season."

"Next to the Pink Pearl, and indeed hardly next to it, is the Rhododendron Cynthia, which as you see, also throws out glorious trusses of rich colour, the height of some of the plants being ten feet. Close to the bed of Cynthia is a Rhododendron which comes into flower quite late in the season, and forms an excellent combination with an edging of white Heather. It would be impossible to speak of all the Rhododendron beds, but the principle we are observing is to sweep out all the mixtures and substitute varieties of one colour."

"Do you put peat in the soil?"

"All the Rhododendron beds are made with peat obtained on the estate, the ground being excavated three feet, and lined with clay. But if you feed shrubs annually, you can grow almost anything."

THE AZALEA BEDS.

"You observe the same principle in reference to Azaleas?"

"They are grown in masses both in beds and borders, the one-colour idea always being kept in view. One of the most effective beds is made up of golden Azaleas; in another, the late-flowering Ghent Azaleas, with a sundial in the

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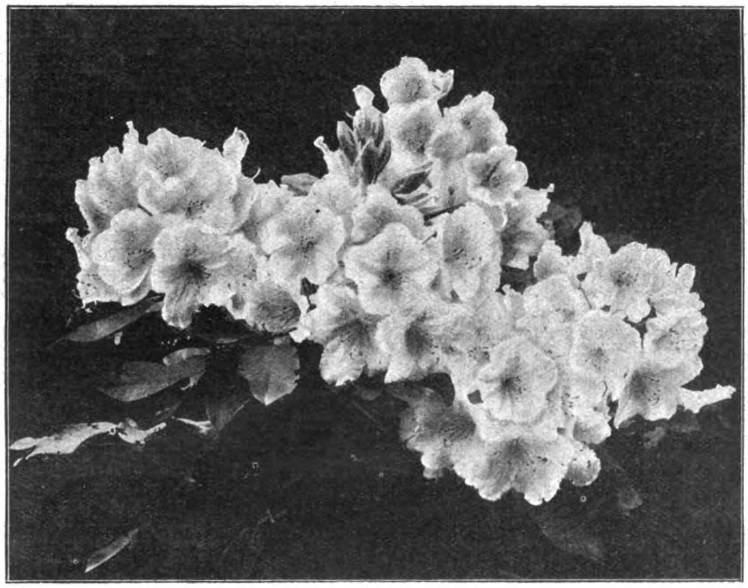
centre, in the shape of a wheel, seventy-two feet through. Many of the Azaleas have been raised as seedlings, and one of these plants, with salmon-pink flowers, is ten feet through, and thirty feet round. Almost every shade of colour, from delicate gold to deep orange, is represented by the Azaleas, and the season is one of considerable length. Later on Kalmias, which are just showing flower, will help to make a show. I said just now that Highclere is one of the homes of the Cedars, but it is supposed to be the original home of the first hybrids raised from the Ponticum Rhododendrons."

Mr. Blake showed me the original plant, which is quite a huge tree, twenty feet high, and seven or eight through. In this neighbourhood, too, I made the acquaintance of a Cedar planted in 1847 by the then King of Spain, and not far off another of the same tribe planted by King Edward when Prince of Wales. The latter formed one of a group planted to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Then, after a peep into the sunk Rose garden, planted chiefly with Caroline Testout and a groundwork of Viola Kitty Bell, Mr. Blake informed me that Roses were being substituted for other flowers in all parts of the pleasure grounds.



RHODODENDRON PINK PEARL.

"They begin to bloom in the middle of June, and go on more or less to the middle of October. In fact, if the weather is open, there are some in flower at Christmas. This applies especially to the new Hybrid Teas. Nothing, I think, is more calculated to maintain the dignity and beauty of the gardens than the provision of great masses of colour, such as Roses are able to supply. It is also far better to have a large quantity of a few varieties than a few of several. Of all points in Rose growing, none is more essential than to find out the varieties which do the best in your district, and when that has been ascertained, to adhere strictly to them."

THE PLANT HOUSES.

The kitchen gardens and plant houses are on a scale commensurate with the pleasure grounds at Highclere. The latter include a flowering house, which at the time of my visit contained a magnificent show of Schizanthus of every shade of colour; a fine collection of Tree Carnations; a number of Indian Azaleas; Lilium giganteum in pots, with nine flowers to a plant; a remarkable collection of Calceolarias; and a large quantity of Hydrangea hortensis with blue flowers, the blue shade being obtained by the use twice a week of sulphate of iron, one ounce in a gallon of water. Other houses are devoted to Grapes, Figs, Peaches, and pot-fruit, including Nectarines, Cherries, Apples, and Plums, all promising satisfactory crops.

There are many notable features in the eight acres devoted to the cultivation of hardy fruit and vegetables, and decorated in the centre with a very fine herbaceous border. Special prominence is given to forcing early vegetables, and a long succession is thus maintained in the supply of Peas, Potatoes, Beans, Cauliflowers, and Carrots.

"I should like you," said Mr. Blake, "to see the house in which I grow Climbing French Beans."

"Do you find that they answer better than growing Beans in pots?"

"Distinctly, and they are less expensive to grow in this manner. Sown in February, they give a supply from early in April to the middle of June. The varieties are Tender and True and Princess of Wales. Tomatoes are grown largely in pots, sown in November and ready in April. Cucumbers are sown in January in a span-roofed house, and a succession is maintained from April to the end of November, the only variety being Telegraph. In the Melon houses Superlative and King George are grown. They are sown in January, and ripen the first week in June."

THE RUN OF PEAS.

"When do you sow your first Peas?"

"On January 16th, and they are ready at the end of May. The variety is Carters' Six Weeks, which is a very prolific Pea. We have Peas outside from the middle of June until November."

"Do you force Strawberries largely?"

"They are grown inside and outside on a large scale, the plants being kept only for two years. I rely largely outside on my young plants for producing the best berries. The varieties grown out of doors are Royal Sovereign, Kentish Favourite, Reward, Utility, Givon's Late Prolific, and Laxton's Latest of All. The season starts with forced plants in the middle of March, and lasts until the end of July. The prolongation so far is partly due to the fact that I have a number under cloches."

"How long have you been using cloches?"

"This is the second season only, but I am well satisfied with the result. We get fruit quite three weeks before it is ripe outside. Strawberries are also grown in frames, but the cloches are a little in advance of the frames."

VIOLETS IN POTS.

"Have you any other novelties?"

"It is rather unusual to grow Violets in pots. We grow two hundred in this way, the only variety being Princess of Wales. Runners are put out in April, in the open, kept carefully watered and syringed in dry weather, lifted in the middle of September, put into a pit, kept close for a week, with air gradually admitted. When the plants have become established, the lights are removed (except when it rains) until October. Then the plants begin to flower. If desired, flowers can be produced in mid-winter, by the expedient of turning on a little fire heat."

"Have you any special varieties in your herbaceous border?"

"It is not limited to herbaceous plants, but includes bulbs in spring, and annuals in summer. Violas are grown in large batches of one colour. We carry out the principle of growing large quantities of a given colour in the herbaceous border. As you see, at the present moment, May-flowering, Darwin, and Parrot Tulips, all of very rich colour, are largely represented. Generally speaking, we work very largely in the herbaceous border on the blue and mauve shades. Very little yellow is tolerated, and we are careful not to let it predominate."

"What is the variety of Pansy, which you grow in quantity in front of the Peach case?"

"Admiration; at least, that is the variety in three rows, and the lighter shade in the row behind is Lord Beaconsfield. In another border, we grow a large number of Pansies mixed. Then there are Sweet Peas, as to which we adopt the modern system of disbudding, which gives on the average four flowers to a spike. The earliest are sown in September, and are now just beginning to show flower. We plant out eighteen inches apart. A wire is strained to two strong uprights, on which Pea sticks are tied, two growths being taken up from each plant, and tied to Pea sticks, all side growth being removed. Or the Peas can be trained along Bamboo canes. The varieties include Countess Spencer, Charles Foster, Mrs. A. Ireland, The King, Thomas Stevenson, Apple Blossom, Evelyn Hemus, Gladys Unwin, Elsie Herbert, and Helen Lewis."

"There are many questions I should like to ask, but as I cannot hope to exhaust the resources of Highclere, please tell me your previous experience before you took charge of these gardens?"

"For thirteen years I was general foreman at Wokefield Park, Mortimer. Previously I was with the late Colonel North, at Eltham, and two years with Sir Charles Seely at Brooke, Isle of Wight."

ALFRED WILCOX.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN JUNE.

DISAPPOINTMENTS with Chrysanthemums often result through inattention to them during June. How often, for example, does one find, after being at all the trouble to get plants into their final pots, that through neglect of staking them at the time, promising young shoots are broken off, either by rough winds, or through birds alighting on the growing soft shoots, presumably in search of insects? The sparrow seems the worst offender in this, often scratching the soil about the surface, and doing damage to the younger leaves. It is well, therefore, to place the stakes in the large pots at the time the shift is made, as if this is done the roots are less disturbed than if the stakes are inserted at a later period.

The summer position should, of course, be one where the plants will get plenty of sun.

GERSHOM.

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is no chance of the spray reaching a painted surface. The solution is excellent for such plants as Hollyhocks, though, of course, only as a preventive measure, and not as a cure, for the fungus which causes the disease develops inside the tissues.

Libocedrus decurrens.

July 25th.—In Windsor Park, near Frogmore Cottage, there is a magnificent specimen of Libocedrus decurrens, often called Thuja gigantea. It was planted fifty-one years ago, and must be now quite sixty feet in height. In California it sometimes attains a height of a hundred and forty feet, but, of course, does not approach that in England. As it is not mentioned by Loudon, I suppose it had not been introduced in his time. Rose calls it "a fine species for grouping with Spruce and Fir," but, as they would tend to dwarf it, it would surely look best when standing alone, as it does at Frogmore. H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Bushey House, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. C. G. BLAKE, A.R.H.S.

SINCE Mr. E. H. Cuthbertson became the owner of Bushey House, eight years ago, both the mansion and the gardens have been greatly enlarged and extended. The mansion is in an elevated position, approached from the main road by a charming drive, and the gardens, which I visited in June, by the courtesy of Mr. Cuthbertson, are of a very varied and attractive character. The head gardener, Mr. C. G. Blake, under whose auspices the extensions and improvements in the gardens have been made, many of them being initiated by him, took me round on a lovely afternoon, when the brilliant sunshine augmented the beauty of the surroundings. The pleasure grounds slope from the mansion to an ornamental lake, and the prospect from the terrace is singularly picturesque. On the mansion are fine pieces of Aristolochia, Jasminum, and Pyrus japonica, while in front are hanging baskets, containing Fuchsias, Geraniums, Tradescantias, and Monardas. On the terrace were four tubs filled with Agapanthus, and a number of Bays.

"The Bays," said Mr. Blake, "we winter in a large house, and bring out at the end of April; also, at the same time, the Pomegranate. While we are standing here, I may say that the pyramids of Ivy-leaved Geraniums (Souvenir de Charles Turner) have three hundred plants to each, while the Rhododendrons, planted on the top of the slope in the park, provide at different times a show of colour which is rather pleasing."

Clarkias for the Winter Garden.

"Is the large glass building, which seems to form part of the mansion, a conservatory or winter garden?"

"A winter garden, and it connects the billiard-room with the gymnasium and ball-room. Among the plants in flower just now are a number of double salmon Clarkias."

"When did you sow them?"

"Early in the spring. They were grown on in the greenhouse, and pricked off, four or five in a 32-in. pot. I also sow a batch of Clarkias in the autumn, and these flower about March. They go on blooming for several weeks, and the shade of colour is very pretty."

"You have also a nice show of pink Spiræas."

"They are the new variety—Queen Alexandra. A cold house and perfectly natural treatment suits them best. The herbaceous Calceolarias, of which you see a number, need very careful treatment, and must not on any account be over-watered. I keep them growing, and do not let them get starved in small pots. They are Sutton's strain, some of them with lovely pips, and one plant is nearly three feet high, with a quantity of blooms."

"Do you grow your Cornflowers from seed?"

"Yes, and I have four plants in a pot, giving them greenhouse treatment. We are always glad to get the flowers. The Sweet Peas here were sown in spring, and grown on in a cold house. As to the Fuchsias in pots, the cuttings were struck in the autumn, and kept going all the winter. The varieties are Rose of Castile and The Doctor."

A VIEW IN THE ROCK GARDENS AT BUSHEY HOUSE.

The Terrace Bedding.

"What is the design of the terrace bedding?"

"Italian. There are two beds of scarlet Begonias, of which we have propagated a number, edged with Echeveria secunda glauca; two of Celosias, yellow and red; two of Fuchsias (Rose of Castile), carpeted with Petunias, and edged with Ageratums; two of Coleus Verschaffeldtii, dotted with Abutilon vexillarium, and edged with yellow Alternantheras; two of Geraniums Henry Jacoby (scarlet), edged with white Alyssums; and a centre bed of Geraniums Henry Jacoby (the golden variety), edged with Lobelias Lady Audrey Campbell (blue and white), which suits the golden Geraniums better than the blue. The wall behind is covered with Ivy, and the ten vases on the terrace walk are filled with Ivy-leaf Geranium Souvenir de Charles Turner."

"Then there are the other beds?" I rejoined, as we paused at a pretty little summer-house at the end of the terrace."

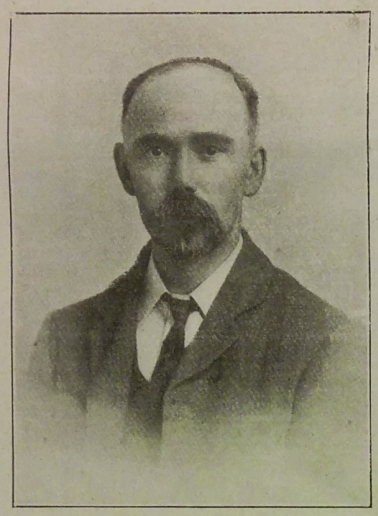
"The bed in a recess is a mixture of Pæonies and Phlox, the latter just coming on. Of the remaining beds, one contains Coleus Verschaffeldtii, and Geraniums Harry Hieover, another Iresines Lindenii and Heliotropes Lord Roberts, interspersed with Geraniums Madame Crousse; three beds are filled with Begonias Worthiana and white Alyssums—scarlet and white, again; two with Geraniums Mrs. Pollock, and Ageratums; one with Heliotropes Lord Roberts, carpeted with Portulaca, pink and white, grown from seed; two with Iresines, carpeted with white Violas, edged with Echeverias; and two with Geraniums Black Douglas, edged with Lobelias Lady Audrey Campbell; while the large centre bed, raised, is made up of Verbenas erinoides, and erinoides alba (mauve and white), dotted with Calceolarias Burbidgii. The Verbenas become

a mass of colour, covering the ground, and the effect is heightened by the ring of Ivy round the bed, two feet high."

The Best Roses.

"What sections of Roses are represented in the long border behind?"

"Teas and Hybrid Teas. Roses are a great feature in the gardens. A big bed on the lawns is made up of standards, and dwarfs



MR C. G. BLAKE.

underneath. Rosa rugosa alba, a very old plant, makes a fine show in another; and further, Alberic Barbier, a standard Wichuriana Rose, is doing splendidly. Jersey Beauty and Gardenia also make fine standards. The same may be said of Caroline Testout, and La Tosca, a magnificent autumn-flowering Rose, similar in colour to Viscountess Folkestone."

"Do you grow many other varieties on the lawns?"

"The principal of the others are Mrs. J. W. Grant, Viscountess Folkestone (the earliest of the Hybrid Teas this year), Madame A. Chatenay, Souvenir de President Carnot, Princess Augusta Victoria, Madame Ravary, Madame P. Ducher, Marie van Houtte, Lady Battersea, Mrs. S. Crawford (the best for cutting), Mrs. J. Laing, Duke of Wellington, Ulrich Brunner, Captain Hayward, Rev. Alan Cheales, and Heinrich Schultheis."

"You go in largely for Rhododendrons and mollis and Ghent Azaleas?"

"Yes. The former are mainly seedlings, but the named varieties include Pink Pearl, Lady Eleanor Cathcart, Cynthia, Kate Waterer, and John Waterer. As the soil is cold clay, we have to make it for the Rhododendrons. We put in a little peat, give a fair quantity of top spit from an old meadow, and afterwards top-dress each of them with a good coating of peat-moss litter from the horse-boxes."

"When were your rock and water gardens made?"

"They were commenced in September, 1903, on the site of a flat field. Messrs. Pulham designed the stonework, and I am responsible for the remainder, including the banks, which were thrown up and planted with flowering trees and shrubs. I had a big staff to help me, but the work occupied an entire winter. At the entrance, near the mansion and the terrace bedding, are planted many hardy British Ferns. It being very shady here, they do well."

"So, apparently, does the large specimen of Aralia Sieboldi."

"It has been growing outside for four winters. Here are the names of some of the other shrubs: — Amorpha canescens, Amelanchier candia, Andromedas (formosa, japonica, and speciosa), Bamboos, Arundinaria Veitchii, A. Simonii (this variety is, unfortunately, flowering this season), A. auricoma, A. Hindsii graminea, Phyllostachys violescens, P. nigra, Cæsalpina japonica (this has not flowered yet), Choisya ternata (this has stood without any protection during the last two winters), Cornuses in variety, Escallonia Phillipiana (a very pretty shrub, with white flowers, just coming out), Exochorda grandiflora, Erica carnea, E. alba cinera, Chamæropsis excelsa, Gaultheria Shallon, Hamamelis arborea (one of the first things to flower in the new year), Hamamelis mollis, Halesia, tetraptera, Hymenanthera crassifolia, Magnolias in variety, Spiræa Thunbergi (white, a pretty little shrub), Spiræa Anthony Waterer (which is cut down every year), Tamarix, Weigelas of sorts, Clethra alnifolia, Garrya elliptica, and Citrus trifolius (not often seen, and the only hardy variety of Orange in this country, as far as I know)."

Plants in the Rock Garden.

"I should also like to have the names of some of the plants that do best in these gardens."

"Androsace carnea, lanuginosa, sarmentosa, Aubrietias Fire King (a good variety), Cheiranthus alpinus, C. mutabilis, Dianthus, Drabas, Epilobiums, Erinus alpinus, Funkias in variety (near the edge of the water), Genista sagittalis, Herniaria glabra, Heuchera, Hutchinsia alpina, Iris, Lithospermum, Alpine Phloxes, Saponaria ocymoides, Saxifrages in great variety, and in a shady corner is Ramondia pyrenaica in flower —a pretty blue."

"Please mention any others that are notable."

"Caragaria jubata has a Pea-shaped flower, flesh colour. The leaves begin to die off after the plants have flowered, and the contrast between the green leaves and the dead is very striking. Another variety is C. pendula, a flower of the same shape, but yellow. A pretty scarlet Helianthus is Mrs. C. W. Earle, and Gypsophila repens does well. On the banks opposite I put in some Rice about a fortnight ago. It was sown in pots standing in pans of water, hardened off, and planted where it is. This is my first attempt at growing Rice."

Crossing the stream by a stone bridge, I noticed some Royal Ferns enjoying the shade and moisture, while in the top of the bridge were many varieties of Sedums planted in pockets. I inquired the names.

"The best varieties," replied Mr. Blake, "are album, Ewersi, E. turkestanicum, stoloniferum alba, rupestris grandiflorum, Middendorfianum, brevifolium, roseum, pulchellum, anglicum, obtusatum, oppositifolia splendens, and anacampseros. Then there are Sempervivum glaucum, arvenense, Fauconnetii, reginæ amaliæ, Boulignyanum, Rozeni, Verlote, arachnoideum Laggeri, fimbriatum, and tectorum. Amongst other plants are Dianthus corsicus and cœsius, Androsaces sempervoides, sarmentosa, carnea, villosa, and lanuginosa."

"You have a varied collection of bog plants?"

"Amongst the more noticeable of these are Pontederia cordata, Sagittaria japonica, and the fl. pl. variety, syphilatifolia, villarsia, and Nymphæoides, Glycera aqualicæ, Menyanthes trifolia, Mimulus, Myosotis palustris, Butomnus umbellatus, Calla palustris, and Ranunculus."

Saxifrages for Table Use.

"I see that the Dropmore Anchusas flower well."

"Yes, they like the soil, and so do the Aubrietias grown underneath. Arums, which are coming on strongly, flowered well last year. Amongst other plants in flower are Alpine Wallflowers, Citrus trifolia, Plumbago carpenteria (between the chinks of the stone), Papaver orientalis, Calycanthus floridus, Genista sagittalis, Draba aizoides, and Gentiana verna. We have several varieties of Saxifrage, and we use a considerable quantity of S. pyramidalis in pots, for house work. They want careful treatment. After flowering, we pot up the small plants, and then grow them on for one season. We flower them in 'forty-eight' pots, and they throw up immense spikes of flower, which we cut for the table. These gardens are flanked with La France Roses, and at the corner of the far entrance you see there is a bed of succulents which have just been put out."

ONE OF THE LAWNS AT BUSHEY HOUSE.

"How is the bed made up?"

"Chiefly of Aloes in variety, with Yucca gloriosa behind. The latter was transplanted from the top part of the garden, and has since flowered several times. In the bed are also several varieties of Mesembryanthemums."

"On the other side of the lake I observe you have Roses in the shape of bell tents."

"They are planted with Climbing Pèrle des Jardins, Alister Stella Gray, Noella Nabonnand, The Garland, Crimson Rambler, Félicité Perpétue, Flora, Carmine Pillar, Madame Pierre Cochet, Belle Siebrecht, The Lion, Bennett's Seedling, splendens, Leuchtstern, Dorothy Perkins, Aimée Vibert, and Gardenia."

"When did you build the terrace wall which divides the lawns, with steps on either side?"

"Four years ago. The wall stands on the site of a grass bank, and a considerable amount of levelling was needed to bring it into line with the new work. As the new wall was an eyesore to the tennis courts, I planted them with choice evergreen flowering shrubs, including Azara microphylla, Abutilon vitifolium, Cotoneaster pannax, Pyracantha angustifolia, Cistus ladaniferus, C. purpureus, C. crispus, Escallonias Langleyensis (a beautiful pink flower), Ingrami, illinita, and Exoniensis, Euonymus, Carpenteria californica (this flowers well), Ceanothus Marie Simon, C. Veitchianus, C. integrinus, Gloire de Marseilles, Camellias, and Grevillea rosmarinifolia, which latter needs protection in winter. On one side of the tennis courts are the aviaries, containing a variety of birds, and growing up the stem of a tall standard Rhododendron is Tropæolum speciosum. Near this is a tree of Davidia involucrata, and opposite the latter is the quaint tea-house."

"Is there a continual stream of water rushing from the mouths of the three frogs on the side of the lake?"

"Yes, it does not cease to flow into the lake. By the side of the latter are some fine specimens of Gunneras, and a bed of Japanese Iris. Then there are the headlands, planted in one instance with Pentstemons (Mr. Gleeson's new hybrid), edged with Cerastiums. Another headland is planted with Lobelia cardinalis and Veronica Andersonii, a third with Pyrus japonica, and a fourth with Begonias Worthiana, Cerastiums, and Aubrietias."

"On the walk at the other side of the lake the Acers seem to flourish well."

"So do the Vitis in variety, and Clematis, especially the new variety, montana rubens. The standard Roses behind these shrubs include Konigen Carola (a fine pink), Mrs. Paul, and Jules Margottin. Amongst the Roses opposite are Sunset, Mrs. John Laing, and Reynolds Hole; and the bank behind is made up of Roses, including Dean Hole (a grand variety), Phlox in clumps of one colour (the varieties being L'Embarrasment, Favourite, La Soleil, and Coquelicot), and Delphiniums Violet Beauty."

A WALK IN THE GARDENS AT BUSHEY HOUSE.
(This walk and its surroundings formed part of an ordinary field five years ago.)

Passing a pond, with a number of old stumps covered with Roses (Penzance Briers), and a bed of Iris, dotted with snowy Mespilus and small plants of Liquidambars, we came to one of the most striking features of the gardens, consisting of fourteen Rose arches, with Golden Privet on one side and common Privet on the other.

"On these arches," said Mr. Blake, "are planted Crimson Rambler, Madame J. Gravereux, Madame Alfred Carriére, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Caroline Testout, Francisca Kruger, Aglaia, and Dorothy Perkins. The Roses planted as standards and bushes, which you see near the arches, are planted in varieties of twenty-five each. Now, before we go into the houses, I should like to introduce you to our reserve garden, on the other side of the park, which was formerly occupied as a separate tenancy. We call it Rising Holme."

"You must find it a most useful addition?"

"One of the most valuable features is the range of heated pits, some fifty-six feet long. During the winter and early spring these are used for growing several thousands of bedding plants. Cinerarias do remarkably well when stood on the cool ashbed, and Roses forced in these pits, thrive; also Pelargoniums are grown here in large numbers. I fill one of the pits with Tomatoes, and another with a second crop of Melons, following on as they get empty with more Melons. Here, too, are our hotbed frames for early Potatoes, and Carrots, Radishes, Lettuce, etc. After the Potatoes are ready, I put in Marrows, and take the frames away as soon as the latter are safe from frost."

"Do you grow Violets here?"

"Yes, and I find the most successful plan is to plant them in their permanent quarters as soon as they have done flowering, and grow them on during the summer, syringing and watering. In September I put the frames on, keeping the lights off until the very wet weather and frosts set in. All our forced plants are brought to Rising Holme, are planted out after being carefully hardened off, and are given two seasons' growth; then they are fit to take up and force again, and make fine plants, as you see. For example, Prunus Pissardi, Lilacs, Laburnums, Wistarias, Stapelias, and Azaleas are treated in this way. Where you see the iron fence, there used to be a very old hedge, which I grubbed up one winter, putting the fence in its place. Having planted some young Gooseberries against it, I cut back all the branches I could not tie in, and they have surpassed my expectations. Last season the crop was enormous, and, grown in this way, Gooseberries do not take up much room. It is easy to net them, and protect the ripe fruit. The variety is Whinham's Industry. The Apple and Plum trees here bear well, and in this quarter are nursery beds containing the plants for spring bedding, such as Wallflowers, Canterbury Bells, and Pansies. These we cut when they are in bloom, to save robbing the other garden too much."

Carnations and Celosias.

Returning to the main garden, we explored the houses, starting with a cool Peach house, which also contained Plums in pots and a number of bedding plants. In the Melon house, Sutton's Ringleader is the chief variety grown, and in other plant houses are Calanthes in variety, Crotons, Ixoras, and Nerines, which are largely grown.

"What are your varieties of Caladiums?" I asked.

"Raoul Pugno, Ramond Lemonier, J. H. Laing, Haageana, candidum sanctonianthon, Marquis de Camden, John Peed, Comte de Germiny, Blue Major, and Rose Laing. These are used for house decoration during July and August. Winter-flowering Carnations are largely grown. The varieties include Enchantress (the best of them all), Flamingo, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Mrs. S. J. Brooks, Mrs. Patten, Floriana, Madame Melba, and Royalty. The Malmaison varieties are Princess of Wales, Blush White, Calypso, Prime Minister, Maggie Hodgson, Lady Rose, Princess May, Mrs. Martin Smith, Miss Measures, Mrs. E. Hambro, Mrs. Trelawney, and H. J. Jones."

"Then you grow a number of Celosias?"

"They are chiefly coccinea aurea. I like to grow them in an intermediate house, and do not give them a check until they are well out, and then I carefully harden them off before bedding them."

"With regard to fruit grown inside, what are your varieties of Grapes?"

"Black Hamburgh (which, you see, are ripe), Muscat of Alexandria, Black Alicante, Lady Downe's Seedling, Mrs. Pince, and Gros Colmar."

"And Peaches?"

"You have seen the cold house. The varieties grown in heated houses are Grosse Mignonne, Sea Eagle, Crimson Galande, Royal George, Walburton Admirable, Noblesse, Dymond, Peregrine (one of Rivers' new varieties), and a very nice flavour), and Duchess of Cornwall. The Nectarines are Rivers' Early Orange, Cardinal, Early Rivers, Elruge, Pineapple, and Precoce de Croncels."

"Do you have good crops of Figs?"

"We gathered a nice quantity at the beginning of June, and shall have a second crop. Figs require very little attention, and not much water. After they have made about five or six leaves, the leading shoot should be pinched, to steady the growth, and then we get plenty of fruit."

A Rare Specimen Plant.

"In your little flowering house you have a remarkable specimen in a pot, which I do not recognise."

"I believe it is very rare. It is called Beaucarnea recurvata, and was as big as this seven years ago; its age must be very great. On the wall of this house, Heliotrope blooms all the year round. I cut it back hard in the early spring, and then it starts away into growth, and keeps on flowering. One of the stove houses is filled with this year's seedling Gloxinias (Sutton's and Peed's strains). We use them as specimen plants in vases during the season. The treatment is just the ordinary. I like to keep them fairly warm, and to thoroughly ripen the bulbs. After they have flowered twice, I throw them away. The next house I use for herbaceous Calceolarias in the winter, and, when cleared out, for Caladiums, Poinsettias, etc."

Fruit in the Kitchen Garden.

"Now, there remains the kitchen garden?"

"As you see, it is divided into four quarters, with a fine Holly hedge on the west side. In the centre of the hedge is a cut Yew archway. I find the top quarter to be the earliest, and keep it for first crops of Potatoes, Strawberries, Peas, and Cabbages. On this quarter, Spinach and Broccoli stand the winter best. The next two quarters are used in rotation for Onions, Carrots, Beets, Peas, Celery, Cabbages, and late batches of Strawberries."

"What are your varieties of Strawberries?"

"Royal Sovereign and Laxton's Fillbasket. The latter is a grand cropper, and comes in as soon as the former is over. The bottom quarter of the garden is reserved for bush fruit, and was covered with wire netting about eighteen months ago, and last year it proved a great economy by keeping the birds away from the fruit. When the fruit is ripe, I have a large panel put up, but at other times the birds have free access. Below this is the orchard, where I have put in some new fruit trees, in place of others which were worn out."

"How are Apples chiefly grown in the kitchen garden?"

"As pyramids, on the Paradise stock. The Apples include Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Ribston Pippin, Duchess of Oldenburgh, Worcester Pearmain, Newton Wonder, Royal Jubilee, Stirling Castle, Lane's Prince Albert, and Bismarck. Pears, as well as Apples, are grown as cordons, and do well, especially Williams's Bon Chrétien, Beurré Diel, Jargonelle, Marie Louise, Doyenné du Comice, Bergamotte, and Knight's Monarch. Plums are again carrying heavy crops. The borders here are used for supplying cut flowers for the mansion, and are planted yearly with large batches of bulbs, such as Spanish and English Iris, and The Bride Gladiolus. These I cover with a good coating of wood ashes after they are planted; it helps to keep them warm through the winter."

How to Get Early Potatoes.

"Would you like to add anything about vegetables?"

"I find Chelsea Gem the best early Pea. It is followed in a few days by Sutton's Early Giant, of which I make several sowings. Then comes Autocrat, also a very good variety. The best early Potato is Ninetyfold, which quickly gets to a good size, and is very white when cooked. I always lay the sets up, to sprout, before planting, and I do not like to plant too soon, as our ground is cold. If the Potatoes are well sprouted, and planted about the end of April, they are up in two or three weeks, and sooner than that they would not be safe from spring frosts."

"Where did you start your gardening career, Mr. Blake?"

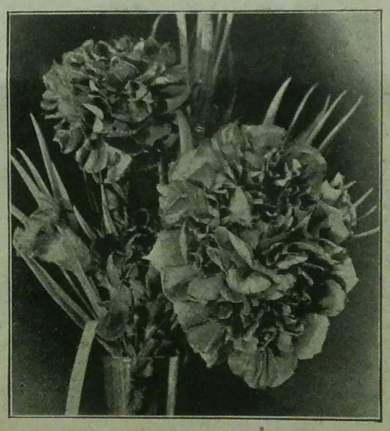
"I am a native of Cornwall, and began gardening under my father, who was a successful exhibitor at county shows. I then went to Bowden Hall, near Gloucester, under Mr. Keen, to whom I am indebted for much that I have learnt. He was a pupil of Frost, of Dropmore—a name very prominent forty years ago. At the end of three years I went to Messrs. Veitch's Royal Exotic Nurseries, and was subsequently sent by them to Monk's Orchard, Surrey. After that I spent three months in the stove houses at Chelsea, and I then took the foreman's place at Monk's Orchard. I stayed there for eighteen months, and then went to Charlton House, Kent, as foreman, where I remained for three years and a half. On the death of Sir Spencer Maryon Wilson, I succeeded Mr. Gilbert as head gardener, and stayed at Charlton three years and a half longer, in that capacity. Seven years ago I was engaged by Mr. Cuthbertson as head gardener here, and you have seen many of the improvements which, under his guidance, I have been able to carry out. Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbertson take the greatest interest in their gardens."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 313.—CARNATIONS.

DEAR KATE,—The Carnations are now in full beauty, and few flowers can rival their brilliant tints. King Solomon (of which I wrote to you last year), and Basuto are both rather early in opening their buds,



MALMAISON CARNATIONS—MERCIA.

and they are both magnificent in crimson-velvet (slashed with apricot in the case of Basuto), of perfect form, and good size. In Shakespeare's time, we read in the "Winter's Tale," "The fairest flowers of the season are our Carnations and streaked Gilliflowers," and still they come, more exquisite and dainty than ever. I was asked the other day to explain the difference between a Pink and a Carnation. They are both members of the same Order (Caryophyllaceæ), but belong to different genera, the Carnations all coming from Dianthus caryophyllus, whilst the Pinks belong to Dianthus plumarius. The petals of Pinks are narrow, and more or less "pinked," whilst those of the Carnation are broader, and should not be serrated, though in America those which have cut edges are, I believe, preferred. The growth of the Pink is far more tufted, and the height of both flower-stem and foliage lower than that of the Carnation, and the Pink blooms earlier than the Carnations; but, when all these differences are enumerated, it is still a little difficult to make sure to which group they belong, sometimes, and I think that there have been hybrids between the two. The plants of this Order can be hybridised in some instances. One of the best of our newer herbaceous plants is Dianthus Lady Dixon, a hybrid between a fine Clove Carnation and a Sweet William (Dianthus barbatus); it has foliage which is greener than that of the Carnation, and produces tufts of handsome double blossoms, as large as an ordinary Carnation, in bright crimson—altogether a most desirable plant.

Carnation Classification.

But to return to the Carnations after this long digression. They are, of course, divided into several sections; for the Malmaisons (of which the origin still appears to be obscure, although they were first recognised as a distinct group in Marie Antoinette's favourite garden), the winter-flowering Carnations, and the Border Carnations are different in some particulars, yet all are so mixed up by hybrids that they are not easily classified; whilst the colours, again, are grouped under the heads of Selfs, Fancies, Yellow-ground Picotees, and White-ground Picotees. The Self Carnation is, of course, of one colour only; the Fancy varieties display two or three streaks or blotches, whilst the Picotees have white or yellow petals, more or less broadly edged with a distinct tint, usually some shade of red, from pink to maroon.

All the Carnation tribe will do well in a city garden, if cats and wireworms can be kept away from the borders. They seem to enjoy soot in every form. They are also excellent plants to grow in a cold glass porch, or a greenhouse without hot-water pipes, but in such a case an abundance of air and sunshine are necessary to prevent mildew in winter, and a good lamp should be placed on the floor at night, in severe weather, both to dry the air and prevent the soil in the pots from freezing, for plants in pots suffer more from this cause than in the open border, their roots being more exposed to the frost. Pot Carnations blossom a month earlier than those in the garden, and the blooms are more easily protected from rainstorms, so that those who exhibit these flowers usually grow their finest flowers under glass in winter, though they should stand out of doors in the full sunshine during the summer; but plenty of air is needed for them all the year round,

H.W. Blake

THE GARDENS OF THE EARL OF ONSLOW, AT CLANDON PARK, GUILDFORD

DURING the lifetime of the late Earl of Onslow, after his retirement from the Governorship of New Zealand, many important changes and developments were made in the always beautiful gardens at Clandon Park. Under the auspices of his son, the present peer, and of Lady Onslow, the care and attention given to them in the past are not likely to be abated. I am indebted to the courtesy of Lord Onslow for the opportunity of describing the principal features of his pleasure grounds, which for variety and taste, cannot easily be surpassed. They are in charge of Mr. H. W. Blake, who, on a brilliant summer afternoon, did his utmost, in a limited period of time, to show me all their charms. It was convenient to begin our tour with one of the recent additions, the Dutch, or sunk garden, which is adjacent to one of the approaches to the mansion.

The Dutch Garden.

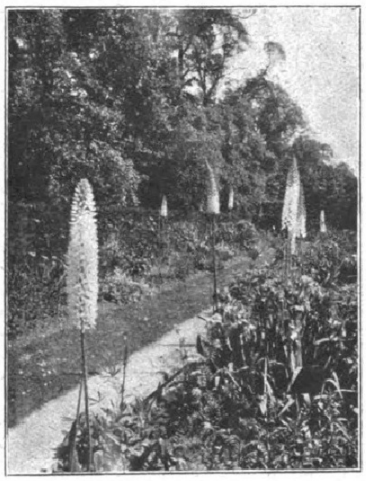
"When was this made?" I enquired, as we surveyed a glowing expanse of flowers of many colours, gaining in impressiveness by the excellent fulfilment of a clever design.

"About ten years ago. The late Lord Onslow designed it on the lines of the Dutch garden at Hampton Court. The decorative parts include the topiary work, trained Yews, and numerous Japanese shrubs. Eremurus in variety, from five to six feet high, are prominent. All the soil was imported, and below it are two feet six inches of gravel."

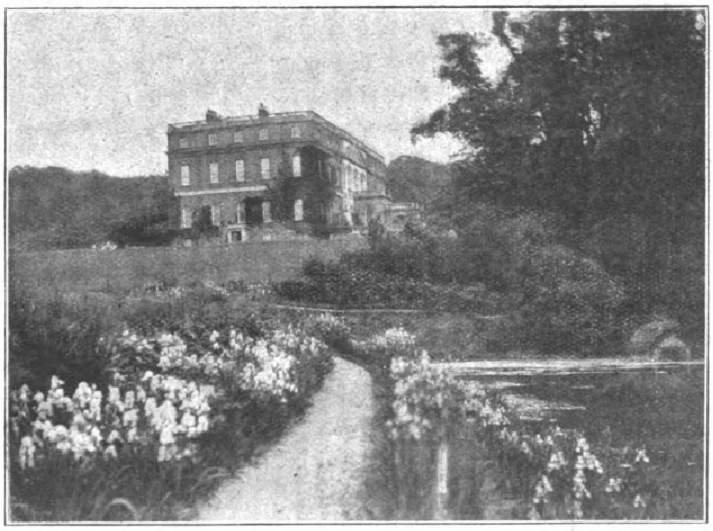
"Speaking of embellishments, the Sweet Williams at the far end of the garden make a fine show, which is accentuated by the rise of the slope, the rustic seat, and the magnificent Oak overshadowing it."

"When Lord Onslow selected the site, he was mindful of the Oak. The latter is seen at its best from the Japanese lantern at the other end of the pergola, through which the Dutch garden is approached from the house. The more conspicuous contents include Lychnis chalcedonica and viscaria splendens flore pleno; Œnothera Youngii; Chrysanthemums maximum and King Edward; Rudbeckia Newmanii; Michaelmas Daisies in about a dozen varieties; two varieties of Dictamnus; Echinopsis; Achilleas, Eupatoriums, Heuchera sanguinea; Asclepia tuberosa; Bocconia cordata; Anchusa Dropmore variety; Sidalcea canadensis; and Trollius Phœnix. The principal annuals, in addition to the Sweet Williams are Dianthus, Stocks, Clarkias, Antirrhinums, Poppies, Ornagalis, Linums, and Mignonette. Pink is a favourite colour."

"Before we proceed through the pergola," continued Mr. Blake, "you may like to take note of what we call the Bulb Park, a piece of ground formerly also outside the pleasure gardens, in which there are planted upwards of four hundred thousand bulbs. The first to flower in spring are the Crocuses, then the Narcissi, next the Darwin Tulips, and finally the English and Spanish Irises, with Oriental Poppies in patches. They all come up in the grass, and some of the Irises look like gigantic butterflies. Then there are big beds of flowering shrubs, such as Crabs, Prunus, and clumps of Crimson Rambler and Carmine Pillar Roses. This was done piecemeal, the fence being often moved for purposes of enlargement."



CRINUMS IN CLANDON PARK.



CLANDON PARK, GUILDFORD.

"There are striking specimens of Wistarias on the left of the pergola."

"They were imported from Japan, and there are three varieties represented. The flower stalks of W. multijuga give masses of bloom—they were better than ever this year. The only drawback to the variety is that it drops its flowers. The tub of W. multijuga in the centre of the Wistaria bower heightens the effect. We find that the plants imported from Japan have more strength, and the foliage more splendour, than any English-grown plants. The soil is all made, and embraces loam, leaf-mould, and cow manure. Every other year we mulch heavily with cow manure."

"I conclude that you had to make the soil for the Rose pergola?"

"Three feet of it. The pergola, like the sunk garden, and the bulb ground, was taken out of the park, fifteen years ago. The design was obtained by Lord Onslow during a visit to Italy. The pergola is about a hundred and fifty yards long, and is dotted with all the best varieties of climbing Roses; Aristolochias, Clematis in variety, Polygonums, Honeysuckle (Dutch and Japanese), Jasminums, Wistarias, Virginia Creepers, and Laburnums. All the finest Wichurianas are represented amongst the Roses, notably Lady Gay, Dorothy Perkins, and Reine Andre—a most beautiful Rose for table decoration on a white cloth. One of the best of the singles is Leuchtstern; it remains in flower for a fortnight, an unusually long time for a single. In conjunction with Aimée Vibert, it makes an admirable table decoration. The growth of Alister Stella Gray is tremendous. We cut out old wood every year, and tie in young wood."

Japanese Acers.

"Now we come to a magnificent stretch of colour on the expansive lawn—I mean the big bed of Japanese Maples."

"That bed has been described as the finest bit of colour of its kind in the county. All the contents were imported from Japan. The principal is sanguineum, with its many varieties, including A. dissectum, the drooping form. The bed is edged with dwarf-growing varieties, such as A. Chiso and A. Seigen. I do not know which is admired more, the deep bronze in the autumn, or the deep crimson in the summer."

"Are there any special points to be observed in cultivation or position?"

"As to position, you will notice that the Acers are well protected from north and east winds, and at the same time fully exposed to the sun. There is not much to be said as to cultivation. Acers do equally well in heavy or chalky soil. Nor are they injured by lifting. All these were lifted twelve months ago last autumn, and came out as clean-rooted as possible. At the same time, great care is necessary in the process of lifting. Almost opposite the Acers is the collection of New Zealand Tree Ferns sent by Mr. Seddon to Lord Onslow."

"They appear to be flourishing exceedingly."

"The shade suits them. We put them out at the end of May, and take them in when the

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frosts begin. We keep them well syringed, and their growth has been wonderful. The varieties are Dicksonia antarctica and squarrosa; Cythia dealbata and Urechilari. In this part of the lawn there are several specimen Japanese Acers, an avenue of Cupressus Lawsoniana growing in chalk, with a number of Italian vases containing Geraniums Madame Crousse. Here, too, is the Warwick vase, or a copy of it. It is in a sheltered position under a Beech tree, and close to a Yew on the edge of the wilderness."

The Aromatic Garden.

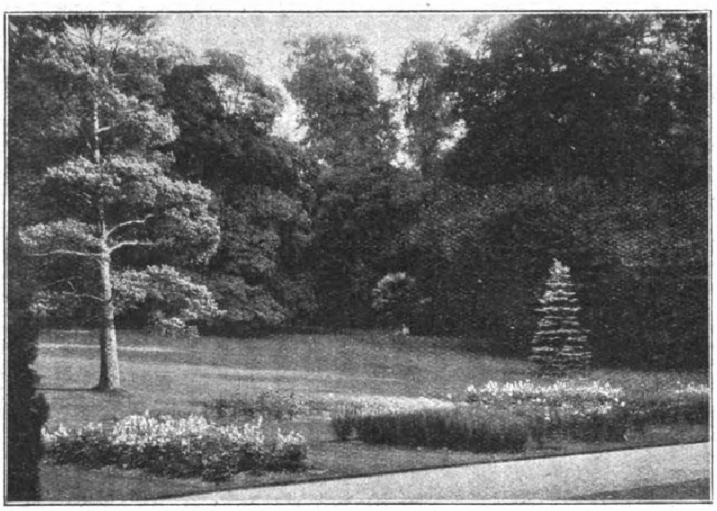
"How do you describe the bedding in front of the house?"

"We call it the Aromatic garden. No spring bedding is done in this garden, because it would not be policy to lift or shift Roses or Lavender, which are a great feature in summer. Practically only the beds containing Anchusas would lend themselves to this treatment. They are made up of Veronicas, amethystena and King of the Blues; Salvia patens, Clematis integrifolia, Anchusa Dropmore variety, of which we have a very great show; Echinopsis Rito; Campanula carpatica; Gentiana verna; Campanula grandiflora; Hepatica cœrulea; Aster Bernice; Ajuga reptans; Geraniums grandiflorum; and Delphiniums in variety."

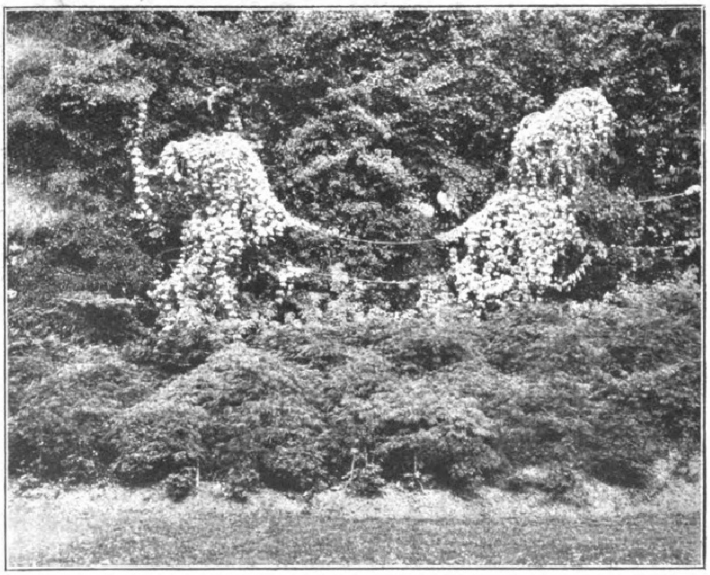
"The idea," continued Mr. Blake, "is to combine fragrance with a mass of lovely colour. The beds on each side are filled with Tea Roses and Heliotropes, edged with Sweet Brier Roses. Recently imported from Venice, the marble well-head makes a splendid centre for the beds. There is a good show of blooms in these beds until the end of September. Each year we mix a certain amount of new soil with the old. The north side of the mansion, which was built in 1735, is severely plain, but it faces the noble Cranley avenue of Copper and Green Beeches."

A short distance from the house is a flight of steps, and at the foot Bamboos, imported from Italy, are growing on the top of a spring head.

"Bamboos," observed Mr. Blake, "require as tender care as Maples. The wind, which is so destructive, cannot reach them here; we do not tie them too severely, as when snow falls they go down under the weight of it, if tied before they very often break away. They are always kept moist. Some of them make a growth of fifteen feet in a year. One of the best is palmata, but anceps, japonica, quadrangularis, aurea, nitis, and nigra, all find the situation and the conditions of cultivation satisfactory. The next feature on the way to the Maori House is the Iris border; or I should say borders, wet and dry. The former consists of Japanese Iris, including Kæmpferi of the best class, and other imported varieties. This border is one hundred and fifty yards long, but the dry border is two hundred and fifty yards long and twelve feet wide. Here the varieties include Victorine, Rigoletti, asiatica, Queen of May, Madame Chereau, Maori King, Purple King, Oriflamme, Monsignor, Cyprina, pallida, dalmatica, Prosper, Langier, Edouard Michael, Mrs. Newbonner, and Comte de St. Clair. The Iris season begins after the Narcissi have done flowering, and lasts until the end of July, covering the whole of the banks on one side of the extensive ornamental water. English and Spanish Irises are also represented. They are backed with a hedge of Golden Privet, with which is interspersed Spiræa gigantea. On the opposite bank of the water, is the Lily border, eighty yards long. Here are beds of Azalea mollis, with Tamarisks, Spiræas, and Privet behind."



THE AROMATIC GARDEN AT CLANDON PARK.



THE MAPLE BED AT CLANDON PARK.

"You might mention the names of the rarest and best of the Japanese Iris?"

"The lævigata type include Monnieri, Monspur, ochroleuca and o. aurea, Shelford Giant, Dorothy Foster, Toll Long, and Tollmeana. Dorothy Foster was, of course, one of the late Sir Michael's varieties, of which we have several. Passing the Japanese Temple at the end of the Iris walk, we reach the Primula Dell, but you are too late in the season to see it in flower."

The Primula Dell.

"You might tell me something about the varieties?"

"Primula denticulum grows two feet high, with flowers as big as a tennis ball. P. Bulleyana makes a very beautiful bed; and P. japonica, close to the water, thrives exceedingly. Other varieties are P. rosea, P. frondosa, and P. Veitchii, which is now flowering for the second time. All the Primulas are grown on rank clay and leaf-mould, yet they make a good holding. In this part of garden we grow a great number of seedling Polyanthus. Further on is the water garden, and on the banks of the water are Gunneras in variety, New Zealand Grass, and Astilbe Davidii. It is worth while to mention the Verbascum Olympus, which in a few weeks will be a mass of flower. They are planted three or four feet apart, and require a great quantity of manure, but they are only at home in a large space. Other features include a fine specimen of Gunnera manicata, with its toes in the water; and a very rare kind of Iris, called albo - purpureum cæruleum. In the Lily pond are Nymphæas Excelsior, gloriosa, Robinsonia, rosea, Ladyica purpurea, Ellisonia, carnea, and Marliacæa Colossus. Pæonies do magnificently in this congenial spot. Now we are in sight of the Maori House. I may say that the Iris borders and The Dell were the outcome of the erection of the Maori House."

"Is it quite unique?"

"It is, I believe, the only one of its kind in England. In summer it is pleasant for rest and the look-out is very pretty, particularly the clumps of Roses and Anchusas mixed—a combination of pink and blue which we use as much as possible. In front of the Maori House are several plants which were sent by Mr. Seddon, and are thriving in their new home. They include the New Zealand Broad-leaf, the Bottle-brush tree, Kohia sopheca, and Titora podorcorpus.

After a brief stay in the Maori House, we retraced our steps in the direction of the kitchen garden, which also contains the glasshouses.

"These," said Mr. Blake, "are not on a large

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scale, and were built many years ago. In the one and only Vinery, we have Black Hamburgh, Mrs. Pearson, Madresfield Court, and Duke of Brunswick. Then there is the Melon house, with a collection of Calanthes, which are very restful to the eye. We grow about one hundred and thirty, chiefly C. Veitchii and the remainder Vestatis. About a couple of hundred Malmaison Carnations are grown, the principal varieties being Princess of Wales, Albion, and Lady Coventry, a flower with a lovely scent. The houses include a Peach house and a Fernery. The favourite Melon is Emerald Gem, and the favourite Tomatoes Duke of York and Carters' Sunrise."

"Do you grow many Chrysanthemums?"

"About two hundred, of all the leading varieties."

Outside the houses there are many objects of interest in the kitchen garden. First a Rose walk, which is really nothing less than a Rose garden, attracted my attention. I asked Mr. Blake to explain the scheme of planting.

"There are a number of Roses in beds, eighteen in each, Tall weeping Roses are planted in the centre of each bed. In making a selection of varieties, we choose as far as possible those that flower for the longest time. Originally, this Rose garden was a Potato ground, which had to be blotted out of existence, but the Yew hedge was allowed to remain. More Roses are grown in a second Rose garden.

The Stream Garden.

The vicinity of the Rose gardens, as well as the gardens themselves, is very attractive, with grass paths on each side of the long herbaceous border, and a Lily pond in the centre of an octagon of arches clothed with Roses, Laburnums, and Honeysuckles. Beyond is a blue border, consisting of Scilla italica, Campanula cœrulea, Allium azureum, Muscaria Heavenly Blue, English Iris King of Blues, Chionodoxa sardensis, and Camosia esculenta. In this garden, also, are the clumps of Sweet Peas. A few fruit trees have lately been planted at intervals in the Stream Garden, with Stocks as groundwork."

"I ought to say something about your fine show of hardy fruit," I observed.

"Apples and Pears are the chief, though all the others are grown. The best dessert Apples are Allen's Everlasting, Gladstone, Worcester Pearmain, Early Harvest, Wealthy, King of Pippins, Cox's Orange Pippin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and D'Arcy Shiel; the best cooking varieties are Bramley's Seedling, Round Winter Nonsuch, Newton Wonder, Mere de Menage, Golden Noble, Lord Suffield, and French Crab. The collection of Pears include Jargonelle, Williams's Bon Chretien, Souvenir de Congres, Thompson, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Superfin, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Diel, Winter Nelis, Marie Louise, and Easter Beurre."

"And vegetables?"

"Peas in succession are William I., Sutton's Improved, Early Giant, Duchess of York, May Queen, King Edward, Best of All, and Sutton's Selected Longpod. The Broad Beans are Sutton's Exhibition Longpod, and Giant Green Windsor. I use Up-to-Date for the main Potato crop, and Ashleaf and Midlothian Early for early work. With regard to the kitchen garden generally, of which there are four acres, I believe in deep cultivation, and in sowing, cleaning, and thinning at the proper time."

Mr. Blake's Career.

"How long have you been head gardener at Clandon Park?"

"Twenty-one years on August 4th. I started at Stoke Park, Guildford, and my father has been on this estate all his life. My first post away was at Gunnersbury, under Mr. Hudson, and I was next at Haydon Hall, Harrow, for three years. Then I became general foreman at Clare Lawn, when Sir Frederick Wigan was the owner, and from Clare Lawn I came here at the age of twenty-eight."

"Have you done much showing?"

"It has never been a feature here, but I have shown at Guildford and Woking, and locally we have swept the boards. For six years we were first for Grapes, Madresfield Court, at Richmond; and we have also won at Richmond for table plants, Melons, and Tomatoes."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week—Interview with the president of the Society of British Ferns: Mr. W. B. Cranfield, F.R.H.S.

ORANGE TREES IN THE GREENHOUSE.

ONE can never hope to cultivate the Orange in an ordinary greenhouse with the same degree of success as is obtained under temperate house treatment. At the same time, it is quite possible to have both green and ripe fruits, also flowers, upon the trees over at least nine months in the year, provided a few important details are attended to.

Amateurs often fall into the error of overpotting, the evil being aggravated by the collar of the plants being covered with soil, and the leaves literally smothered with dirt deposits and insect pests.

Treatment for Success.

Rational treatment consists in affording a medium of turfy loam, with a small quantity of leaf-soil, charcoal, and sand added. It is a huge mistake to incorporate rank manure.

As the trees develop and demand roomier quarters, give them pots with a 2-in. diameter in excess of those they previously occupied, the soil being solidified by ramming as the work proceeds. Efficient drainage is an important detail, and in addition to plenty of crocks, a thick layer of moss should be used.

Orange trees appreciate overhead waterings, and it should be carried out with regularity, dating from the time the main crop of fruits have set in early summer until October.

It will occur to the cultivator to suspend the operation of syringing immediately before the blossoms expand; otherwise failure to set fruits will be recorded. Atmospheric moisture during this time can be produced by damping down the floor and between the trees. When the fruits commence to swell freely, a mild form of stimulant may be given with advantage. A perfectly safe fertiliser for our purpose is found in soot.

Pruning.

A word as to pruning. All that is necessary is to stop or pinch strong growths that tend to destroy the symmetry of the trees, and to prevent anything in the shape of density throughout. Cleanliness must be observed, both the leaves and stems being cleansed from time to time with an approved insecticide.

Those who have sampled home-grown Oranges will bear me out when I say that the imported article is not to be compared with them. There is as much difference as between the ordinary white Grape of our house walls and choice Muscats of Alexandria.

Those who have sufficient glass accommodation should cultivate a small collection, preference being given to St. Michaels, Dom Louise, Excelsior, and Bittencourt. Then we have the aromatic Tangerine, Blood, Jaffa, White Orange, and Washington Navel Orange.

WALTER H. AGGETT.

THE ORANGERY AT BOWOOD.

Bowood is the country residence of the Marquis of Lansdowne.

HARDY CYCLAMEN.

FOR rockwork or planting in grass, the hardy Cyclamen are interesting, and but little grown. Their requirements are simple, consisting in perfect drainage, shelter from cutting winds in spring, and scorching sun in summer, while some lime or mortar-rubble and leaf-mould should be around the corms. Cyclamen africanum has blush flowers, with a purplish centre in autumn, and huge foliage, heart-shaped in form, with a fine silvery zone. All the corm varieties are spring flowering, and of these, too, the foliage is very prettily variegated. Europæum is sweetly scented, and flowers during August and September, with crimson blooms; it should be placed five inches deep in peat.

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ignored. And the gain is great. As it is in Art, so it is in the garden, but our artists have moved faster than our gardeners.

Another Problem.

July 8th.—Some weeks ago I propounded a social problem in connection with gardening. Here is another: A nurseryman, an old man, has got what he believes to be a treasure—an Auricula with green-edged flowers. He is tending it with the greatest care, intending to propagate it by means of seed and by division, and thus raise a large stock. He thinks there is money in it, and, when it was flowering, nothing pleased him more than to invite people to come and see it. Of course, he is labouring under a delusion. As most gardeners know, green-edged Auriculas are by no means uncommon. There is a special class for them at every Auricula show. Now, what should one do? Blunt, outspoken, honest John Bull will probably answer offhand, "Why, tell the man, and save him years of disappointment." But consider! The years are really of pleasant anticipation; the disappointment, when it comes, will be, if sharp, at least comparatively brief. Why deprive him of the former? He is an old man, too, and it will take him years to get his stock; he may then not be here, and so may escape the disappointment. That is my solution, but I may be wrong.

MR. H. J. BLOXHAM.

Gerbera Jamesoni.

July 9th.—When writing about Gerbera Jamesoni over a month ago, I made a mistake. I said that the three plants which I had left in the border all winter in order to test their hardiness had been killed. Since then, one of them has been discovered, and is now doing well. As the result of the exceptionally dry spring and cold nights, it was so late in showing above ground that its death was regarded as certain. After what it has passed through, this particular plant may now fairly be called hardy—here. And in future there need be little anxiety about it. Perhaps, too, if seed be saved from it, the offspring may be still hardier than the parent. It will be a great gain if we can succeed in establishing Gerbera Jamesoni in our borders.

Grass v. Gravel Paths.

July 10th.—So far as appearances are concerned, there can be no doubt that a grass path is superior to any other kind of path in the garden. It must, however, be kept in perfect order, and that means trouble and expense, and it has the disadvantage that it is often too damp for thin shoes when a gravel path is quite dry. In consequence, a compromise is generally made—gravel for paths which must be in frequent use, and grass for paths which need not be used except for pleasure. H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Tongswood, Hawkhurst.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. H. J. BLOXHAM.

ON Wednesday next the flower show under the auspices of the Hawkhurst Horticultural Society will be held in the pleasure grounds at Tongswood, the seat of Mr. C. E. Gunther, in the heart of some of the loveliest scenery in Kent. Apart from the attractions of the show itself, many people will doubtless gladly take advantage of the opportunity of seeing the beautiful gardens which I was able to visit during the month of June. They are the worthy setting for a very fine mansion, which has been vastly improved and extended by the present owner, and is still being further enlarged. The features of Tongswood, from a horticultural point of view, are chiefly outside. We commenced at once to pay attention to these, starting with the splendid avenue of Limes at the north entrance. In this direction there is a Pinetum, and I asked for the names of some of the Conifers which are grown.

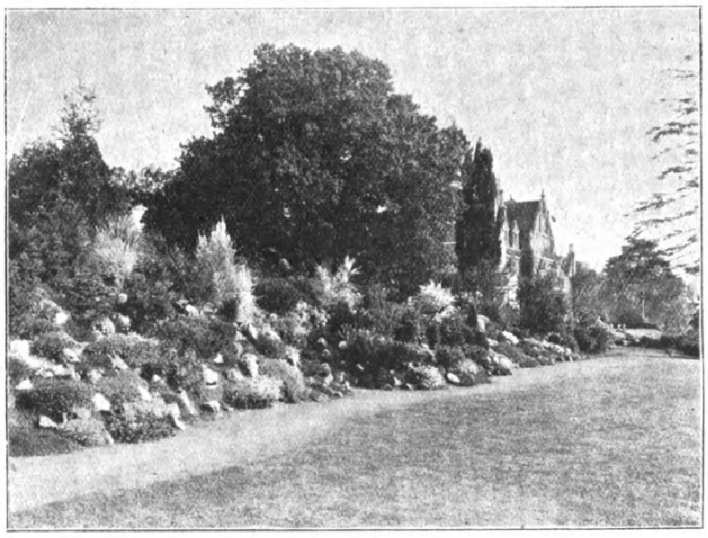
"Abies," said Mr. Bloxham, "are represented, amongst other varieties, by excelsa, nigra, orientalis, polita, pungens, Parryana glauca, and P. pendula glauca, Smithiana, concolor, Lowiana, nobilis, Nordmanniana, pinsapo, Veitchii, Albertiana, Douglassii, and D. glauca elegans. The soil suits Abies."

"It seems to suit Cedars equally well."

"Especially C. atlantica glauca, a. aurea, Deodara robusta, and Libani. The Cupressus is another Conifer which is strongly represented. The varieties embrace C. Goveniana, Lawsoniana, C. L. Allumi, C. L. erecta viridis, C. L. filifera, C. L. lutea, C. L. Shawii, C. L. Stewartii, C. L. Triumph of Boskoop, C. L. Westermanni, C. L. Wisselii, C. macrocarpa, and C. m. lutea."

"Then, there is the family of Pines?"

"Of these, the varieties are half a score—P. austriaca, insignis, laricio, montana, ponderosa, maritima, Sabiniana, Massoniana, excelsa, and strobus. The Retinosporas are ericoides, obtusa aurea, o. Crippsii, o. Mariessii, plumosa, and squarrosa. Other Conifers include Cryptomeria japonica elegans, Juniperus canadensis, J. c. aurea, and J. chinensis alba variegata; Libocedrus decurrens, Sequoia gigantea, and



THE ROCKERY AT TONGSWOOD, HAWKHURST

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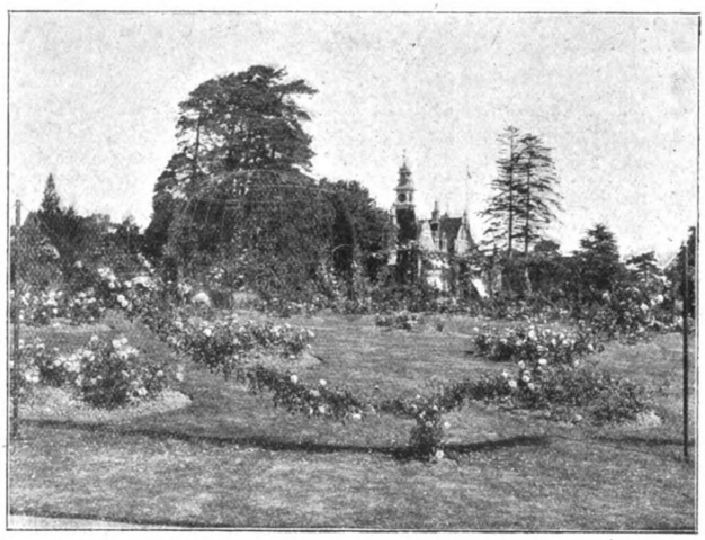
sempervirens, Taxus Dovastonii, T. baccata aurea, and T. fastigiata, and Thujopsis dolobrata variegata."

Shrubs in Masses and Beds.

"Not less important than the Conifers," continued Mr. Bloxham, "are the shrubs in masses and beds, most of which were only planted four years ago."

"Which do you consider the best of the evergreen varieties?"

"Some of the best are Aucuba japonica, Berberis aquifolium, B. Darwinii, B. stenophylla, B. vulgaris, B. purpurea, and B. Thunbergii, Buxus japonica aurea, Cerasus rotundifolia and lusitanica, Choisya ternata, Cotoneaster microphylla and Simonsii, Cratægus Lælandii, Daphne cneorum, Escallonia macrantha, Euonymus ovatus aurea, Ilex Golden Queen and Silver Queen, Ligustrum aureum variegatum, Magnolia grandiflora, Olearia Haastii and nitida, Photinia Benthamiana, Skimmia fragrans, Veronica Andersonii, Viburnum tinus, and Yucca recurva."



THE ROSE GARDEN AT TONGSWOOD, HAWKHURST.

The Best Deciduous Varieties.

"Which are the chief varieties of deciduous shrubs and trees?"

"First of all, there are the Japanese Maples, of which, as you see, we have some fine beds. The other varieties include Acer negundo aureum variegatum, A. pulvatum aureum variegatum, and A. p. atropurpureum, A. dissectum, A. flavescens, A. laciniatum, A. rubrum, A. lobatum reticulatum, A. sanguineum, and A. versicolor. Alnus is represented by glutinosa aurea, Amelanchiers by canadensis, Amygdalus by Davidiana and persica flore pleno, and Buddleias by variabilis. Then we have Cerasus avium multiplex, Cytisus scoparius, and C. alba, Cornus alba Spaethi, Cratægus coccinea, etc., Deutzia Sieboldii, and S. Lemoinei, Exocnorda grandiflora, Forsythias Fortunei and viridissima, Hydrangeas hortensia, Thomas Hogg, and paniculata grandiflora, Hypericums calycinum and Moserianum, Kerrias japonica and flore pleno albo, Liquidambar styraciflua, Liriodendron tulipifera, Loniceras fragrantissima and Standishii, Magnolias stellata, Campbellii and conspicua, Philadelphus Coulterii and grandiflorus, Prunus Pissardi, spinosa, and triloba, Pyrus japonica alba, Malus alba plena and floribunda, Quercus coccinea and macrophylla, Rhus cotinus, Ribes aureum, atro-sanguineum, and others, Robinias hispida grandiflora and angustifolia elegans, Sambucus nigra and aurea, Spartium junceum, Spiræas Anthony Waterer, ariæfolia, etc., Syringas Emodi, persica alba, Dr. Lindley, Leon Simon, Emile Lemoine, and President Carnot, Tamarix parviflora and tetrandra, Viburnums opulus, placatum, and macrocephalum, and Weigelas rosea, Eva Rathke, hortensis nivea, rosea variegata, and Abel Carriere."

The Terrace Bedding.

"You have also a large number of Azaleas and Rhododendrons."

"Yes, but the Rhododendrons you will see in profusion a little later on. Near the mansion there are a few beds planted with one variety, such as John Walter. The soil is hardly suitable, being very heavy loam, but we add large quantities of peat and sand, and we also give them a good mulching of peat-moss manure in the autumn, under which treatment we find they grow successfully. Here, also, adjoining the tennis court, are a number of Roses, in beds of one variety, planted three years ago, to give masses of colour. We use a good many Ramblers, such as Alberic Barbier, for climbing over old stumps of trees."

"What are the creepers on the mansion?"

"Chiefly Wistaria sinensis, Virginia Creeper, and Roses, with Golden Yews below. Under the wall below the mansion is a border the whole length, planted with Geraniums Paul Crampel, and Salvias Pride of Zurich, alternating. On the wall behind are Cydonia Roses, which bloom in spring before the Geraniums and Salvias are in flower."

Combinations on the Lawns.

From the terrace we proceeded to the main pleasure grounds, which have a Holly hedge, carefully kept, all round them.

"Beds on the slopes are the feature here," said Mr. Bloxham.

"Are they chiefly of one variety, or in combination?"

"They vary. Here, for instance, is a bed of Golden Privet and Prunus Pissardi, and next to it is a combination of Berberis with flowering Cherries and Almonds."

"You have a number of small beds of a more formal character."

"They are specially planted for summer flowering, and are filled with Begonias Fairy Queen and Bertram, Pelargoniums H. Jacoby, King Edward VII., and Charles Turner, Schizanthus, Nemesias, and Marguerites, the edging throughout being composed of either Lobelias Kathleen Mallard or Pyrethrum Golden Feather."

"How are these beds planted for spring?"

"For spring bedding, here and elsewhere, we use mainly Wallflowers, Tulips, Hyacinths, and Polyanthus, with an edging of Myosotis and Arabis flore pleno."

"You have a large bed of Gladiolus, with a Palm in the centre."

"And dotted with Phlox Drummondi, the varieties of Gladiolus including Peach Blossom, Brenchleyensis, Salmon Queen, and Colvillei."

A Transformed Pit.

At this point Mr. Bloxham suggested that we should inspect a recent addition to the gardens, which now forms a part of the pleasure grounds. Two years ago, an old pit was cleared out, the space was filled with water, and the banks studded with shrubs, Ferns, and flowering plants. Among those in flower were numerous Rhododendrons, Anchusa italica (Dropmore variety), Rambler Roses, Magnolia, and Dielytra spectabile.

"What are the varieties of Rhododendrons that do best in a shady spot like this?"

"Mrs. Holford (salmon-pink), Lord Roberts (rosy scarlet, black spot), Marchioness of Lansdowne (pale rose, black spot), John Walter (rich crimson), Cynthia (bright rose), General Hutton (large white), and Mr. R. S. Holford (an extremely good rose colour)."

The Best Rhododendrons.

"As we are talking of Rhododendrons, you might conveniently name a few of the varieties which are grown in other parts of the gardens."

"There are literally many thousands. In addition to the varieties I have already mentioned, the principal are Ascot Brilliant (blood-red), Baron Schroder (plum-yellow centre), Charles Dickens (dark scarlet), Charles Waterer (scarlet, light centre), Duc de Brabant (yellowish-white, spotted red), Florence (pink, with white centre), James Marshall Brookes (rich scarlet), John Waterer (deep crimson), Kate Waterer (clear rose-crimson), Lady Clementina Walsh (red, edged pink), Meteor (fiery crimson), Michael Waterer (bright scarlet), Mrs. J. Wallace (white centre, crimson edge), Prince Camille de Rohan (white, shaded rose), Sylvia (rich purple), Vesuvius (crimson-scarlet), Pink Pearl, and Gloriosum (light lilac). As to other plants in this dell, Bamboos, Foxgloves, Polygonums, and several Alpines do well, and there are a few aquatics in pockets round the pond."

"I should like to know the names of the varieties of Bamboos which do best in such a situation."

"Arundinaria japonica, palmata, pumila, Simoni, auricoma, graminea, nitida, spathiflora, and aristata; Phyllostachys aurea, fastuosa, flexuosa, nigra, and viridi-glaucescens; Bambusa anceps, tessellata, and pygmæa. The other hardy aquatics include Funkias, Butomus, Primula japonica, Astilbe Davidii, Gunneras, Saxifrages, Typhas, Spiræas, Trollius, Eulalias, and Ranunculus."

Returning to the main pleasure grounds, I noticed clumps of Pampas Grass, dotted with Tritomas, and a bed entirely devoted to Delphiniums.

"Our object," said Mr. Bloxham, "is, of course, to get dark and light blue shades. The varieties chiefly used are King of Delphiniums, Belladonna, Cantab, Chaucer, formosum, Beauty of Langport, Empress Queen, Isabella, The

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Guardsman, Persimmon, Bandmaster, Calypso, Faust, Hamlet, and Unionist."

"I suppose you have a number of choice Nymphæas in the ornamental water in front of the mansion?"

"Yes, chiefly of the Marliacea section; but we have also Gladstoniana, Laydekeri lilaceum, odorata, gigantea, Andreana, fulva, odorata maxima, Aurora, Ellisiana, sanguinea, gloriosa, and Robinsoniana."

Near the Italian fountain, with grass all round, is the rock garden, of which a great feature is the collection of hardy Ferns, but I asked Mr. Bloxham to mention the names of some of the flowering plants blooming in June.

"Aconites, Alyssums, Aquilegia glandulosa, Arabis, Asters, Aubrietias, Cheiranthus, Dianthus alpestris, Erigeron alpinus, Geranium Endressé, Geums, Helianthemums Attraction and others, Heucheras, Lithospermum prostratum, Lychnis, Megasea cordifolia, Papavers in variety, Phlox in variety, and Saxifrages in variety. Beyond the rockery is a great collection of Ericas, embracing a number of choice varieties."

A Magnificent Rose Garden.

"And below, the Rose garden, with its striking dome over a fountain in the centre. What is the height of the dome?"

"Twenty-five to twenty-six feet. With the Roses growing on the dome are Polygonum Baldschuanicum, Clematis, Wistaria, and Japanese Honeysuckle. A great feature of this garden is the number of Ramblers on festoons. The borders are mixed, and the beds consist of one variety only. The varieties on festoons include Electra, Trier, Mrs. Flight, Claire Jacquier, Blush Rambler, Leuchstern, Delight, Hiawatha, Psyche, Paul's Perpetual, Thalia, Aglaia, Lady Gay, Helene, Euphrosyne, Dorothy Perkins, Philadelphia Rambler, Crimson Rambler, Mr. D. J. Orpen, Queen Alexandra and Edmond Proust."

"Which varieties do you use for the beds?"

"They include Richmond, La France, Caroline Testout, Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Lambard, Dean Hole, Dr. Grill, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Betty, Ma Capucine, Jeanne Nabonnand, Maman Cochet, Mrs. John Laing, Marquis of Salisbury, Madame Hoste, Clara Watson, Hugh Dickson, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Madame Eugene Resal, Grace Darling, Marquise Litta, Viscountess Folkestone, and Liberty."

The Treatment of Pæonies.

"I see that you have also in the Rose garden a very fine bed of Pæonies."

"That bed was only planted three years ago; we cut thousands of flowers from it. Between the Pæonies are planted Lilium auratum, which flower after the Pæonies have ceased."

"Can you tell me the names of the Pæonies?"

"Nivalis, Modeste, Festiva maxima, Princess Christian, Comte de Paris, Deep Magenta, Humea Carnea, Claude de Lorraine, Decora, Prolifera tricolor, Triomphe de l'Exposition, Mrs. Chamberlain, Baroness Schroder, Anemoneflora alba, Vanderbilt, Achille, Princess Beatrice, Whittleyi, Prince George, Lady Leonora Bramwell, Lemon Queen, Henri de May, Berlioz, The Dragon, Pale Rose, Chrysanthemiflora, Princess of Wales, Marquis of Lorne, and others."

"With such a noteworthy collection, I should be glad if you will give me any information about the treatment."

"Pæonies, being gross feeders, require plenty of liquid manure, also an occasional dressing of artificial manure when they are growing freely. In the autumn, after they have died down, it is a good plan to cut the growths off below the surface of the soil. I know they are often cut off above the surface, but this is a mistake. If they are cut below the surface, the Pæonies are not so liable to suffer from disease. A good dressing of farmyard manure, say, from four to six inches, and put on after they have been cut back, is of great benefit to them."

"You have a nice herbaceous border in this vicinity."

"That is only a minor border, planted with dwarf varieties, and in panels of different colours. The great herbaceous border is beyond the Rose garden."

"What is the width of it?"

"Eighteen feet on each side, and it is sixty yards long. The principle of planting in panels is also observed, dwarf varieties being planted in front, and tall-growing behind. It would take up too much of your space to give you, even at this early season of the year, a list of the plants now in flower, but they include Aquilegias, Geums, Geraniums, Heucheras, Irises, Lupinus, and Pyrethrums, all in numerous varieties."

Hardy Fruit.

Just outside the herbaceous border is a large orchard, planted with Apples, Pears, Plums, Cherries, Currants, and Gooseberries, the Pears and Apples as espaliers, and the Plums as pyramids. I had previously been into another orchard, in which a number of Apples, fifteen to sixteen years old, were transplanted four years ago. These, as well as a plantation of Raspberries, a plantation of Plums (all standards), and a row of Damsons, were all looking extremely well, and in the large orchard the appearance was equally satisfactory.

"You might give me a dozen names of the best Apples on standards and pyramids."

"Charles Ross, Lord Derby, Wellington, Cox's Orange Pippin, Lane's Prince Albert, Beauty of Bath, Blenheim Orange, Royal Late Cooking, Allington Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Bismarck, and Golden Spire. Twelve of the best Pears are Durondeau, Emile d'Heyst, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, Saint Edmond's, Bon Chretien, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Superfin, Conference, Fondant d'Automne, Knight's Monarch, and Louise Bonne of Jersey."

Cherries on the Walls.

Passing a number of Loganberries, Japanese Whinberries, and Cumberland Blackcaps—a fruit closely resembling a Blackberry—we entered the kitchen garden inside the walls.

"Sweet Cherries," said Mr. Bloxham, "are just ripening on the walls. The varieties embrace Frogmore Early Bigarreau, Ludwig's Bigarreau, Bigarreau Napoleon, and Bigarreau de Schercken, Black Circassian, Waterloo Heart, Elton Heart, Florence, Governor Wood, St. Margaret's, The Noble, Windsor, and May Duke."

"Do you suffer from Black Currant mite?" I enquired, as we strolled round the garden.

"Very little, indeed. I always give the bushes a dressing of caustic alkali during the winter, and pick off and burn all affected buds."

"How long do you keep your Strawberries?"

"Three years. The varieties grown are Royal Sovereign (the best for forcing), Sir Joseph Paxton, Louise Gauthier (a white-fleshed variety, very sweet), Elton Pine, Givon's Late Prolific, and Waterloo."

The glasshouses, though not on an extensive scale, are very up-to-date, and admirably arranged. Proceeding through the Peach houses, Mr. Bloxham said,

"We grow here, and on the walls, including those grown outside, Peaches Alexander, Amsden June, Alexandra Noblesse, Barrington, Dymond, Hale's Early, Princess of Wales, Prince of Wales, Sea Eagle, Stirling Castle, Waterloo, Dr Hogg, Condor, and Late Admirable, with Nectarines, Cardinal, Dryden, Humboldt, Lord Napier, Pineapple, and Victoria. In the early Vinery you see Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling just colouring. In the late Vinery are Muscats and Black Alicante. The variety of Fig on the back wall is Bourjassotte, which is of very good flavour, though not very often grown."

"What about Melons?"

"You will see, in the next house, that we go in rather largely for them, keeping up a long succession. The varieties are Sutton's Universal, Triumph, A1, Superlative, Ringleader, Emerald Gem, and Hero of Lockinge; the Cucumbers are Telegraph and Every Day, a very fine variety."

"What do you consider the features of your flowering house and stove?"

"In the former there are in flower a number of Show Pelargoniums, Azaleas, and Schizanthus. There is also a nice batch of Malmaison Carnations, and you may like to

A VIEW OF THE GARDENS AT TONGSWOOD, HAWKHURST.

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note the Spiræas, Queen Alexandra, Peach Blossom, and japonica. In the stove, Dracænas, Crotons, Palms, and Caladiums in variety are prominent. The Caladiums are Hebe, Lord Derby, Blue Major, Flambeau, etc. There are a number of Coleus, and Gloxinias are just coming into bloom."

"Do you grow many Chrysanthemums?"

"Chiefly the large-flowering. The best varieties of these are Mrs. Norman Davis, Bessie Godfrey, F. A. Cobbold, Godfrey's Pride, Henry Perkins, Madame Nagelmackers, Magnificent, Mr. F. S. Vallis, Mrs. A. H. Lee, Mrs. A. T. Miller, Mr. F. W. Vallis, Mrs. Greenfield, W. Duckham, and Madame Paolo Radaelli."

"What is your system with Sweet Peas, of which I see you have several outside in flower?"

"They are planted in rows and clumps, autumn- and spring-sown. The best varieties are Dorothy Eckford, White Spencer, Queen Victoria, Paradise, Apple Blossom Spencer, John Ingman, Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, King Edward VII., Evelyn Byatt, St. George, Flora Norton, Prince Olaf, A. J. Cook, George Gordon, Black Knight, Horace Wright, Black Michael, Frank Dolby, and Henry Eckford."

"Do you care to say anything about vegetables?"

"We grow a number of Potatoes for trial, but the chief varieties used are May Queen, Sutton's Ashleaf, Ideal, Centenary, Lord Dalmeny, Duchess of Cornwall, King Edward VII., and The Factor. Peas are a feature, the principal being Ideal, World's Record, Pioneer, Duke of Albany, Peerless Marrowfat, Superlative, Centenary, Perpetual, Autocrat, Latest of All, Gladstone, and Quite Content. Onions, I find, succeed best on well-manured and cultivated ground. The varieties grown include Ailsa Craig, A1, Exhibition, Long Keeping, and Giant Lemon Rocca. The chief varieties of Cabbage are Sutton's Favourite, April, Flower of Spring, Ellam's Early Dwarf, and Blood Red. Just outside the kitchen garden is a large bed of Kalmias, and in the new drive beyond the sheds are some of the principal beds of Rhododendrons, also a fine large bed of Lord Penzance Brier Roses."

These I was only just able to glance at and admire, while enquiring how long Mr. Bloxham had been at Tongswood.

"I came to Tongswood," he replied, "in October, 1904, as general foreman, and succeeded Mr. Brown as head gardener in January, 1906. My previous experience was chiefly gained at the gardens of Gunnersbury Park, Waddesdon Manor, Paddockhurst, and Mentmore."

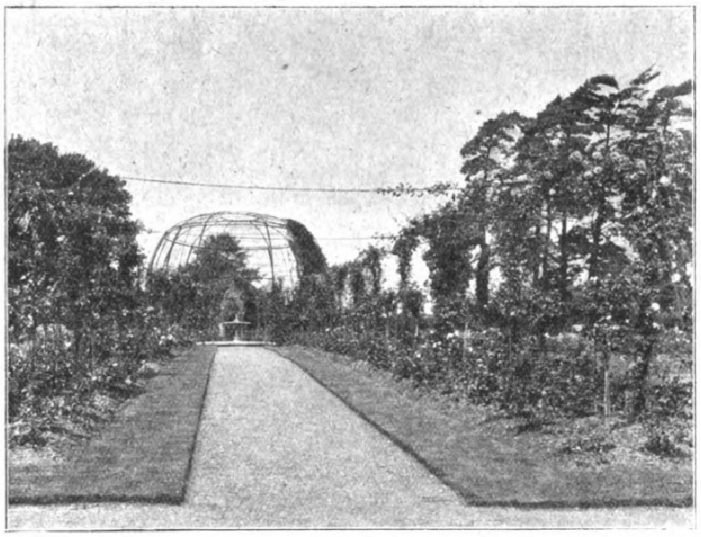
ALFRED WILCOX.

[The illustrations in this interview are reproduced from photographs kindly supplied by Mr. G. Williams, of Hawkhurst.]

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 363.—ROSES.

DEAR KATE,—I have been comparing in my own mind the various ways in which my friends grow their Roses, which, by the bye, are remarkably fine this year, probably from the good effects of the heavy falls of snow in January and in March. There is my friend, Mr. Brown, who exhibits, and sometimes gets a prize (though more often a disappointment) at the shows. His whole garden is given up to Roses, and just now it is beautiful in its way, though I don't admire the bare mulch of manure which covers the soil between the plants, which are set four feet apart. He cut his Rose trees down hard early in April, for he only wants two or three very large blooms for competition; but during the rest of the year (when these are cut) his garden is, in my estimation, decidedly dull.



THE HERBACEOUS BORDER AT TONGSWOOD, HAWKHURST.

Then, Mr. Jones (who also goes in for the title of Rosarian, but does not exhibit much) orders hundreds of Roses at a time, and fancies that in this way he will fill his Rose garden satisfactorily. But somehow, the effect is not good. Many of the new Roses are so weak in constitution that they make no show at all in the garden, though their blooms (cockered up as the Rose growers know how to do it) are magnificent on the show-board. Planted indiscriminately (without other flowers, except a few rather untidy annuals between the rows), some of the Roses grow tall and strong, some spreading, and many remain low and weakly-looking. Again, there is something wanting in effect in this plan.

In Mr. Thompson's garden, the Roses are nearly smothered just now by the luxuriant growth of perennials, which crowd them so badly in the herbaceous borders that the poor things can scarcely see out of the foliage; and it is evident at once that Roses cannot be grown well amongst such tall growths as those of blue Delphiniums, Pæonies, Foxgloves, and Dahlias. But what is to be done? We must have Roses, and yet no place seems to suit them exactly.

I believe the right answer to this question is this—Study your plants (every one of them separately), and so arrange them (in October) that each one shall have its fitting setting. Most dwarf Roses will do well in a border three or four feet wide, arranging those which are inclined to grow strongly at the back row (three or four feet apart), and the weaker kinds in the front of them. Colours, too, need to be considered, for either masses of one tint or well contrasted shades are desirable, but a medley of all sorts is not so good.

Subjects to Grow among Roses.

Amongst the Roses, and at the edge of the border, you may grow dwarf bulbs (Crocus, Scillas, Snowdrops, early Tulips, etc), Violas, Forget-me-nots (Myosotis), Pinks, Carnations, etc., filling up in May with Heliotrope, blue or white Lobelia, and other low-growing things in cool tints; but all these plants must be kept in their places, and not allowed to smother a weak Rose, using them only to enhance its beauty. The border will no doubt need a mulch of well-decayed manure in spring, but this can be quickly hidden by sifting a little fine soil, mixed with one-sixth of its bulk in soot, over the surface, which you will find deodorising, as well as very becoming to the flowers, which always look their best in dark soil.

In this way, you will not be bereft of colour in your borders in July, when the first bloom of the Roses is over, for the Carnations are then just opening their buds in gorgeous and varied tints; and when these are gone, the second bloom of the Roses begins, and lasts (often) until the late autumn. Never order Roses by the hundred, but make notes of all the loveliest you see just now (ready for planting-time), adding their colour, growth, height, and their fragrance, or want of this, for many fine Roses are wanting in this charm, and without it can scarcely be called a Rose.

Roses for Amateurs.

Many of the introductions of twenty or thirty years ago are still amongst the best for the ordinary Rose grower. Amongst such are La France (pink, and exquisitely fragrant), Fisher Holmes (in richest blood-red), Caroline Testout (of fine form, in pink), Madame A. Chatenay

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The author there ascribed the opening of the flowers of the night-blooming Cereus to the more liquid condition of the sap in India after the hours of sunset, and it is possible that the same explanation will cover similar instances in this country. Most, if not all, of the plants flower in summer—the Nottingham Catchfly, for example, in June or July—that is, when the sun is hottest, and evaporation most rapid. They would, therefore, be most likely to feel the effect of these conditions during the day, while any additional moisture which they obtained in the evening would have less influence on the far-off, delicate stamens than on other parts, and thus they would soon shrivel, as noticed by Lord Avebury.

A Plague of Snails.

May 29th.—I do not know whether I am peculiarly unfortunate, or whether others are suffering in the same way, but I have never seen so many snails before. This is the more remarkable, as hitherto the garden has been almost entirely free from them. This spring they swarm everywhere. They have eaten up a batch of Chrysanthemums put out in small pots; they have invaded the rockery; they have played havoc in the borders. People shake their heads and say, "Ah, that Box edging!" But in the Box edging, at any rate, I know where to look for them, and by a careful search I have found so many that I doubt if there can be many left. Certainly, their depredations have almost ceased. But, have others been troubled in the same way? It would be interesting to learn whether snails are generally more numerous than usual. It is quite possible that the damp weather of last year may have been favourable to their increase, though ants, which are favoured by dry weather, are also numerous.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Castle Hill, Rotherfield.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JOHN BLYTH.

IT would not be easy to exaggerate the natural beauties of the gardens at Castle Hill, which, by the courtesy of Mr. George Burt, J.P., I had the privilege of inspecting on a lovely day in May. And, if the natural beauties are great, everything has been done to develop and emphasise them. It was exceedingly difficult to realise the fact that thirty years ago the gardens did not exist, though the house is very old, and has a splendid site six hundred feet above sea-level. The late Sir James Stansfeld converted the original meadows and woods into pleasure grounds of the most varied and attractive character; and since Mr. Burt acquired the property, eight years ago, he has further improved and embellished it.

THE SUMMER BEDDING AT CASTLE HILL.

"There are disadvantages," said Mr. Blyth, the head gardener, as we strolled on the terrace in front of the mansion, "so far as gardening is concerned. The situation is high and cold, and the mixed clay soil is difficult to work. We have to plant between wet and dry periods, because if it is worked wet it gets very hard in summer, and cracks badly. On the other hand, we can stand drought in summer better than most people. The lawn seldom gets brown unless we have an extra dry season."

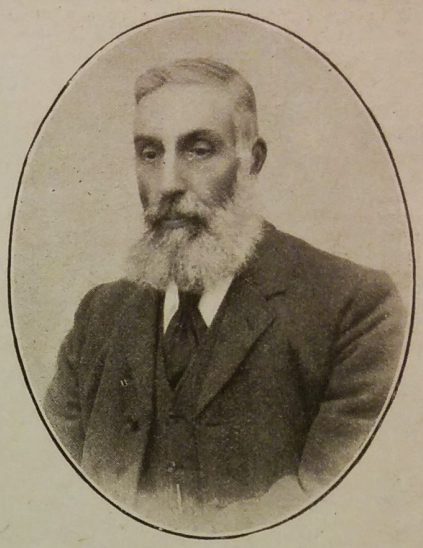
"I notice that you wire your flower beds."

"It is absolutely necessary to wire them in spring to protect the plants from the rabbits. The scheme of the five beds in front of the house for spring embraces two varieties of Wallflowers—Blood-red and Belvoir Castle. The centre bed also includes double Arabis, Polyanthus, and Myosotis. The two inner beds are edged with Euonymus radicans, and the two outer with Myosotis."

The Scheme of Flower Beds.

"How do you fill these beds in summer?"

"In the middle one we have Abutilons and Cannas, mixed with Castor-oil plants, Nicotiana of sorts, and Perilla. The two inner beds are filled with dark Fuchsias, the Euonymus edging being kept up, and the two outside with Geraniums (Madame Crousse), edged by blue Ageratums."



MR. JOHN BLYTH.

"But your principal beds are at the side?"

"Yes, there are twenty-five beds at the side. The centre is dark Wallflowers, edged with Pyrethrums. On each side there are two filled with light Wallflowers, two with double Arabis and Myosotis, two with dark Wallflowers, two with mixed Primroses, one with light Wallflowers and Myosotis, two with Aubrietias, and one with mixed Pansies."

"And in summer?"

"Last summer the centre bed consisted of white Marguerites, Oak-leaf Geraniums, and Geraniums (Madame Crousse), edged by Mesembryanthemums. Of the other beds, four were Geraniums (Henry Jacoby), edged with dwarf blue Ageratum; four, pink Geraniums (Mrs. Paul), edged with Pyrethrums; four, Manglesii Geraniums and Iresine Lindenii; four double Geranium (Madame Thibaut), edged with blue Ageratum; four, Begonia semperflorens, edged with Dactylis; and four, Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock), edged with blue Lobelias. Practically, the blend of colour was red, white, and blue, with a shade of pink. No netting is needed in summer."

Rhododendrons Without Peat.

A bank planted with shrubs forms a fine background to these beds, while below is a croquet lawn of great length.

"Shrubs," said Mr. Blyth, "do very well when they once get a start, and there are several excellent specimen trees here and there on the slopes, notably Wellingtonia gigantea, Pinus pinsapo, Abies Douglasi (the black), and Thuja. In the woods beyond there will be a carpet of blue by the end of May, consisting of wild Hyacinths. But here is what we call the new lake."

"When was it made?"

"It was finished eighteen years ago. The idea of Sir James Stansfeld was that it should represent the Shamrock in shape, with an island in the centre. The lake itself contains yellow and white Lilies, and it is studded all round with Aponogeton distachyon. The latter originated ten years ago in a little 5-in. pot, and, the plant being put out, it grew away right over the water."

"Then there are the Rhododendrons. Are they named?"

"Most of them; but they are largely mixed with ponticums. We have a great variety of colour in the blooms, and enormous trusses of flowers in June. I have not used any peat for years. I admit that I prefer it; but, as a matter of fact, the Rhododendrons do just as well in the turfy soil. The shrubs along the Green Walk, which is five hundred yards in length, are all Rhododendrons, with ornamental Conifers behind."

The Dell and Lake.

Proceeding down the Green Walk, and noting a very fine Cedrus deodara beyond, we went down steps into the woods, and so on to the dell, a charming natural retreat, with Rhododendrons conspicuous, and the golden Gorse a great feature.

"Do you give the Pampas Grass any special treatment?"

"I merely start it in light soil, and then it flourishes. A feature on the banks of the large lake which we are approaching is the collection of Weeping Willows of sorts There are also Weeping Ash and Elms, and there is an island in the centre."

"There seems to be no end to the lake."

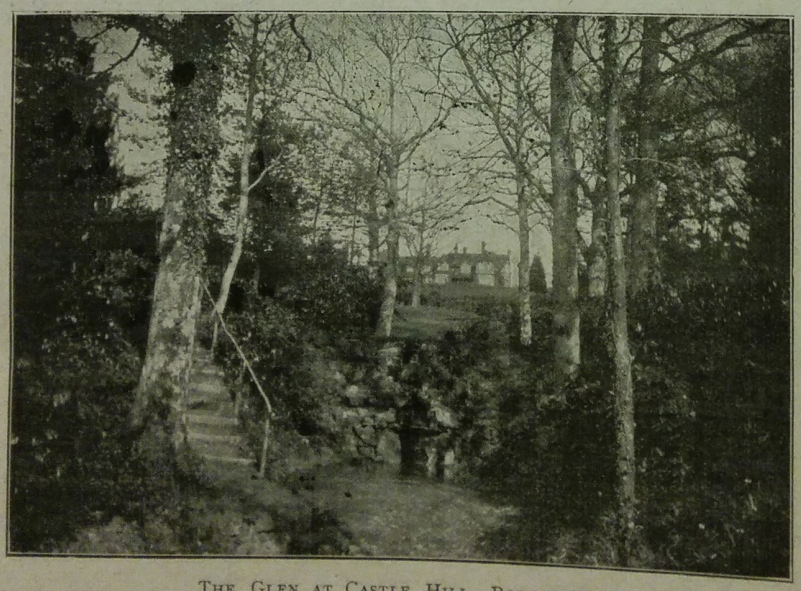
"It was so designed as to create the impression of great length, and its effect is heightened by the boathouses, and by the thousands of shrubs which are planted near it. Two years ago the sheltered walk which you see in the direction of the house up the slopes was a ditch. Now there are standard Roses, with clumps of Sweet Peas, and borders filled with herbaceous plants. Nearer the house is an American garden, planted with Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Kalmias. The Kalmias really require peat."

I asked Mr. Blyth to point out any other recent improvements, and he rejoined:—

"About two years ago, Mr. Burt diverted the road in front, and planted the bank with shrubs, so that the house is now entirely hidden from the road. Many of the shrubs were transplanted, and none of them have flagged in the least. We shift a number of trees every winter, without detriment to them."

Figs in a Cool House.

"You have a zig-zag walk from the house to the kitchen garden?"



The Glen at Castle Hill, Rotherfield.

"Yes, planted with flowering and other shrubs, and filled up with any plants we have to spare. The Laurustinus does well, and a Pinus nobile thrives in this walk. At the end, this side of the kitchen garden, is a Fig house, without heat."

"Do you get two crops?"

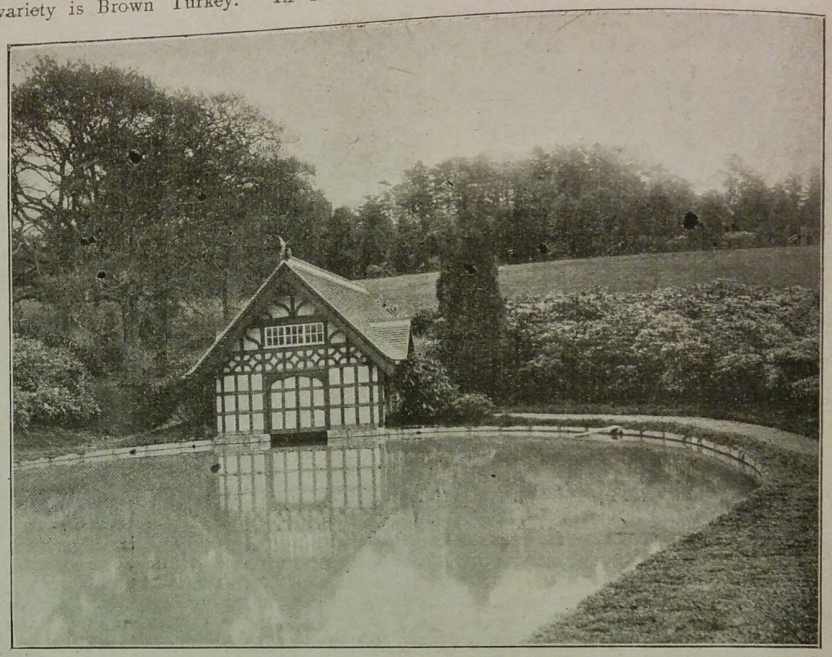
"No, only one; but we get a much better crop in July than we had on the front of the wall before the house was put up over it. The variety is Brown Turkey. In front of the house is a little Rosery, planted entirely with standards, and protected by Thujas. The principal Rosery lies below, and faces south."

Roses and Violas.

"Are the Roses mixed?"

"There are Hybrid Teas in the round beds, and Hybrid Perpetuals in the others, with Dorothy Perkins on a pole. The Rose beds are all edged with Violas, yellow, white, blue, purple, mauve, and white. The varieties of the latter are Nellie Barr, Nellie Maclean, Royal Sovereign, Skylark, and Archie Grant. A thick Holly hedge at the end provides an excellent shelter from the wind."

Entering a little Melon house, which is also used for propagating purposes, I saw some fruit well set, and, in the old greenhouse adjoining, a Heliotrope planted at the bottom and growing up to the roof is quite a feature.



The Boathouse on the Lake at Castle Hill.

"We cut flowers from here, both in summer and winter," continued Mr. Blyth, "in fact, we are not at a loss for blooms in the winter at all. Chrysanthemums last in flower until March. Only a few for large flowers are grown, but we have a quantity of the bush variety in all colours, which I use for decorative purposes. Another house is devoted entirely to Roses, the varieties being Niphetos, Frau Karl Druschki, and Pérle des Jardins. Here we have also in pots Rehmannia angulata, the flower of which is like the Foxglove. The next range was only put up three years ago. We are going to increase the number of winter-flowering Carnations. In the plant stove are chiefly Orchids, Dendrobiums being in flower."

Treatment of Browallias and Clerodendrons.

"What treatment do you give to your Impatiens, which look so well?"

"Only the ordinary stove treatment. There are two varieties, Holstii and Sultani. The Browallia speciosa major has been flowering all the winter. We find that it does better in a stove than in a greenhouse. These plants have been in flower since November, and they are very useful, because blue is a colour hard to obtain at that period of the year."

"Is there anything special in your cultivation of Clerodendrons?"

"No. They like a little peat; we dig down in the winter, and start the plants in the spring. The flowers are very useful for cutting. The variety is Balfourii. In the Croton house, Tomatoes are fruiting well. The two varieties grown are Frogmore Selected and Charlton's Emperor. Here are some more of Sutton's Scarlet Melon, Up-to-Date, Comet, and Sutton's Ringleader, the only varieties we have at present."

"You likewise grow Tomatoes outside on sticks in front of your Peach house."

"Yes, in front of a cold Peach house, which is also used for hardening off bedding plants. The varieties of Peaches are Barrington, Belle-

garde, and Stirling Castle, and the Nectarines Pineapple and Rivers' Royal."

"When do you begin to cut Grapes?"

"At the beginning of July, when we cut Muscats and Black Hamburgh in the early Vinery. Grapes are kept back in the late house as much as possible, and we get them as late as March. The varieties are Gros Colmar, Black Alicante, Lady Downe, Foster's Seedling, Black Hamburgh, and two young plants of Muscat. I intend eventually to get rid of the Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. Tomatoes in pots are a feature on the stage, and Figs cover the back wall."

"Do you force many vegetables?"

"Only a few French Beans, Sutton's Forcing. As to Strawberries, I have tried several sorts, but there are none upon which I can depend so much as Royal Sovereign. Fruit begins to colour about the latter end of March."

"What are your varieties in the early Peach house?"

"Nectarines, Rivers' Early, Stanwick Elruge, Victoria, and Waterloo; Peaches, Bellegarde, Royal George, and Walburton Admirable. The Vines growing on the roof are Millhill Hamburgh, of which last year we gathered eighty bunches of fruit; it colours better than the Black Hamburgh. The late Peach house is quite cool, and nearly the same varieties are grown to keep up the succession.

Carnations and Hydrangeas.

"Do you grow anything special for your flowering house?"

"We have a large stock of summer-flowering Carnations, of which the best varieties are the White Blush, Malmaison, Churchwarden, Lord Roberts, Emperor, John Cole, Cecilia, Triumph, Prince of Wales, Mrs. Webber, and H. J. Cutbush. Hydrangeas also stand well in the house, and some of them flower in the border. The ordinary colour is pink, but, there being a good deal of iron in the soil, many of them become blue. The Violets grown in the frames are Marie Louise and Lady Hume Campbell; and, outside, Czar and Princess of Wales."

"Do you grow many Sweet Peas?"

"A few rows for cutting, and they are generally mixed. Roses and Sweet Peas are largely used for decorating in the house."

Hardy Fruit.

"I notice that in the fruit garden you have whitewashed all the trees."

"We seldom do it, but last year was such a year for vermin that we have been obliged to whitewash. The Apples are grown chiefly as pyramids, and some of the best varieties are Cox's Orange Pippin, Prince Albert, Lord Derby, King of the Pippins, Blenheim Orange, Worcester Pearmain, Keswick Codlin, and Dominie. Gooseberries are grown amongst the Apple trees, and we have to net them, and, in fact, all the bush fruit, during the summer."

"Have you many varieties of Pears?"

"A considerable number of pyramids of good sorts. Pears are also grown as cordons and on arches, with an arch of Crimson Rambler Roses at the top. But the varieties are not numerous. The Plums are Victoria, Greengage, Kirke's, and Reine Claude de Bavay. Neither the crops of these nor of any other fruit outside appear to have been affected by the weather. We used to grow Cherries on the wall now covered with cordon Pears of many new varieties, but the birds took them all. The Strawberries grown outside are Laxton's Reward, Bedfordshire Champion, Leader, and Auguste Nicaise, a late variety, and a fine Strawberry, with a good flavour. We grow extensive breadths of all the vegetables, and Peas in several varieties, of which the best are Magnum Bonum, Perfection, Bountiful, and Ne Plus Ultra."

"Where did you start your gardening career, Mr. Blyth?"

"In Scotland, under the Duke of Buccleuch, at Bow Hill, Selkirk, and I subsequently came to England, was foreman at Wray Park, Reigate, and then head gardener at The Elms, Southwold. From Essex I went to Laverstoke Park, Hampshire, and nearly eighteen years ago I came here as head gardener. Mr. Burt takes a very great interest in his gardens, and under his auspices we constantly make additions."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 304.—HYDRANGEAS, PELARGONIUMS, AND A CUTTING-BOX.

DEAR KATE,—When the last of the Azaleas are over, and before the Begonias and Gloxinias are in full bloom, the conservatory is likely to look rather dull, unless there are plenty of "Show" Pelargoniums, Hydrangeas, Cacti, etc., to fill the gap. The Hydrangeas, especially the white one, called Dr. Hogg, should be grown by everyone, for they are almost hardy (needing only the protection of a cold frame in winter), yet they can be forced into bloom quite early, or kept back until late, just as you like; they are subject to no blights, and do not require repotting every year when they are in fairly large pots—only a top-dressing of rich soil, and plenty of liquid manure once or twice a week. But, although they can be kept nearly dry in winter, they are some of the most thirsty plants possible when in growth, and should be given a saucer under the pot, or they are sure to get short of water just as they are coming into bloom. Nothing can be more desirable for house decoration than these plants, for they will stand in a hall or a shady corner for many weeks, and will only need to be placed in the open air during the autumn to recover their health thoroughly. The plants should be pruned into shape directly after flowering, and may be repotted at the same time, or they can be given a shift when necessary, just as they start into growth in the spring. The pink Hydrangea (Hortensis) is very delicate in tint when forced for early bloom, the flowers being in pale pink, shading to white. Cuttings of these plants can be rooted in July or August without difficulty, if they are kept in a cool, moist atmosphere, and will make nice little plants for the following season.

A HANDSOME HYDRANGEA.

The beautiful Regal and Show Pelargoniums in many brilliant tints, contrast delightfully with the cooler tones of the Hydrangeas, but they are much more trouble to grow, because green-fly is so certain to attack them, unless measures are taken to keep this enemy at bay. The plants should be cut back after flowering to within an inch or two of the older wood, allowing their roots to become decidedly dry at the same time. Then they should be placed in a frame or an airy greenhouse for a time, syringing the plants daily, but not watering their roots more than necessary until little green shoots appear, when water will be needed more often, gradually increasing their supply as the leaves require it. When the new growths are an inch long, however, the plants should be turned out of the pots, shaking away all the old soil, and pruning any old, woody roots you may find, although as much of the fibrous rootlets as possible should be retained. They will then fit smaller pots than before, and should be repotted in good rich loam and leaf-mould, with soot and sand in small quantities, and some small lumps of charcoal if the loam be at all heavy. After repotting, they will need the same careful watering as before, always giving enough at one time to moisten the whole of the soil, then waiting until the surface soil is fairly dry before giving another dose. But these plants always enjoy syringing, and should have plenty of it at all times, except when they are in bloom. As soon as they have recovered from the shock of repotting, the plants will do best in the open air, where they should remain until the end of September, hardening their new wood in the full sunshine.

The points of their shoots should be pinched out once or twice during the autumn, to make

BLUNT Ellen Martha of Brookside Meole Brace **Shrewsbury** spinster died 3 October 1931 Probate **Shrewsbury** 17 November to George William Blunt assistant schoolmaster and Agnes Blunt spinster. Effects £2873 7s. 7d.

BLUNT Emma Jane of 16 St. Germans-place Blackheath **Kent** spinster died 11 February 1931 Probate **London** 23 April to Thomas Herbert Sowerby manufacturer. Effects £6228 11s.

BLUNT Emma Matilda Sarah of 54 Chelverton-road Putney **Surrey** spinster died 6 December 1930 Probate **London** 5 March to Mary Maxwell Pringle spinster and James Arthur Barker schoolmaster. Effects £188 3s. 3d.

BLUNT Felix of Bridge-street Cradley **Worcestershire** died 13 March 1931 Probate **London** 15 April to Walter Charles Blunt grocer and James Herbert Hall merchant. Effects £6637 15s.

BLUNT George of 27 Lowick-terrace Moulton **Northamptonshire** died 30 May 1931 Administration **Birmingham** 15 June to Sarah Ann Mabbutt widow. Effects £64 9s. 4d.

BLUNT Henrietta of 10 Joseph-street Radcliffe **Lancashire** spinster died 4 March 1931 at the Royal Infirmary Manchester Administration **Manchester** 11 April to Emily Smith (wife of John William Smith). Effects £2382 11s. 9d.

BLUNT the reverend Henry Wilfrid of Bridgham **Norfolk** clerk died 22 January 1931 Probate **Norwich** 7 March to Blanche Mary Blunt spinster and Reginald Blunt gentleman. Effects £4183 8s. 4d.

BLUNT Hugh Roper of Strinagar Kashmir **India** died 21 January 1931 Probate **Winchester** 18 May to Dorothy Alcock (wife of George Frederick Alcock). Effects £1960 3s. 7d.

BLUNT Isabella of Blaby Hill **Leicestershire** widow died 19 October 1930 Probate **Leicester** 19 March to Isabella Bruce Baird Noel (wife of Harold Ernest Noel) Thornton Blunt bank manager James Sholto Cameron Douglas professor of pathology and Vivian Mackay Woodhouse solicitor. Effects £48583 12s.

BLUNT Jeremiah of 74 Rook-street Cottenham **Cambridgeshire** died 10 April 1931 at Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge Administration **Peterborough** 1 May to Mary Caroline Blunt widow. Effects £138 8s. 1d.

BLUNT John of 47 Edgehill-road Winton **Bournemouth** died 11 September 1931 at 14 The Grove Moordown Bournemouth Probate **London** 1 October to Grace Lillian Butler (wife of Alfred Trego Butler). Effects £712 0s. 9d.

BLUNT William of 225 Great King-street Hockley **Birmingham** died 12 August 1931 in Windley Pool Sutton Coldfield Warwickshire Administration **Birmingham** 14 September to Lilian Riley (wife of John Riley). Effects £391 3s. 4d.

BLURTON Gilbert of 11 Radcliffe-road West Bridgford **Nottinghamshire** died 6 September 1931 Administration **Nottingham** 4 December to John Frederick Blurton medical practitioner. Effects £1875 5s. 9d. Resworn £1751:5:9.

BLURTON Richard Albert of Woodcote Stourbridge **Worcestershire** died 18 January 1931 at Saint Chads Hospital Birmingham Probate **London** 21 May to Walter Robert Blurton stockbroker and Sydney Samuel Shakespeare cashier. Effects £29808 6s. 10d.

BLY Mary Ann of 4 Willow-avenue Sandon-road Edgbaston **Birmingham** widow died 2 September 1931 Probate **Birmingham** 24 October to Harriet Skelding (wife of Joseph William Skelding) and Walter Grove chartered accountant. Effects £591 18s. 3d.

BLYDE William Henry of 32 Upper High-street **Worthing** died 12 November 1931 at National Hospital Queens-square Bloomsbury Middlesex Administration **London** 16 December to Beatrice Kate Blyde widow. Effects £901 12s.

BLYTH Anna Maria of 69 Sussex-road **Lowestoft** widow died 20 July 1930 at the Infirmary Oulton Suffolk Probate **Ipswich** 28 October to Wallace Tibbenham insurance agent and Francis William Osborne superintendent registrar of births. Effects £1322 18s. 1d.

BLYTH Catharine of The Manse Newport **Essex** spinster died 10 June 1931 Administration **London** 23 July to Alice Mary Blyth spinster. Effects £408 6s. 10d.

BLYTH Fanny of Brook-street Dedham **Essex** (wife of Henry David Blyth) died 15 January 1931 at Bay House Stratford St. Mary Suffolk Probate **Ipswich** 12 February to the said Henry David Blyth engine driver. Effects £606 3s. 6d.

BLYTH Frances Theresa of Durley Dean Gildredge-road **Eastbourne** spinster died 22 January 1931 at 74 Royal Parade Eastbourne Probate **London** 1 April to Gerald William Pritchard solicitor. Effects £2431 5s. 2d.

BLYTH Frederick Thomas of Lothair Eastern Transvaal **South Africa** died 15 October 1930 at the Royal Northern Hospital Holloway Middlesex Probate **London** 7 July to Edith Blyth widow. Effects £335 11s. 8d.
Resworn £2599 0s. 11d.

BLYTH George Samuel of 1 Gascoigne-road Barking **Essex** died 17 December 1930 at King George Hospital Ilford Essex Administration **London** 11 February to Mary Blyth widow. Effects £162 18s. 8d.

BLYTH Henry George of 140 New England **Peterborough** died 8 December 1930 at The Memorial Hospital Peterborough Administration **Peterborough** 2 February to Henry James William Blyth fitter and Elsie Jane Blyth spinster. Effects £56 6s.

BLYTH James Alexander of 18 Queen-square **Glasgow** died 18 December 1930 Confirmation of Robert Cullen writer. Sealed **London** 21 January.

BLYTH James Frederick of Hill House Nayland **Suffolk** died 20 December 1930 Probate **London** 11 February to Annie Blyth widow. Effects £15939 10s. 7s.

BLYTH or **DUN** Jane of Woodmill **Auchtermuchty** (wife of George Dun) died 13 August 1916 Confirmation of Dorothy Maybel George Dun spinster. Sealed **London** 17 January. Former Confirmation Sealed **London** 20 March 1917.

BLYTH John of 9 Euston-road **Great Yarmouth** died 4 August 1929 Probate **Norwich** 10 January to Annie Maria Blyth widow. Effects £311 10s.

BLYTH John of Llanfoist Beeches-road Crowborough **Sussex** died 26 July 1931 Probate **Lewes** 15 September to Emma Eliza Blyth widow John Alexander Blyth gardener and Marion Hetty Blyth spinster. Effects £765 11s. 11d.

BLYTH Meredith Wynter of Lacton House Tankersley Barnsley **Yorkshire** died 25 March 1931 Probate **London** 12 June to Christiana Mary Blyth widow and Meredith Henry Wynter Blyth engineer. Effects £15324 15s. 11d.

BLYTH Mildred Constance of 39 Tisbury-road Hove **Sussex** spinster died 31 July 1931 Administration **London** 28 August to William James Blyth gentleman. Effects £757 8s. 9d.

BLYTH Samuel of 12 Long-row Highgate Kings Lynn **Norfolk** died 17 December 1930 Probate **Norwich** 31 January to James Charles Blyth railway clerk. Effects £175.

BLYTH Thomas of 57 New-street Brightlingsea **Essex** died 22 September 1931 Probate **Ipswich** 12 November to William Isaac Osborn retired council clerk and Edwin Blyth retired builder. Effects £1086 19s.

BLYTH Thomas Thornton of Temple House Temple Balsall **Warwickshire** died 22 September 1931 Administration **Birmingham** 7 October to Kate Blyth widow. Effects £1766 17s.

BLYTH William of Laverstoke Gardens Whitchurch **Hampshire** died 8 May 1931 Administration **Taunton** 4 June to Kate Blyth widow. Effects £430 19s. 5d.

BLYTHE Arthur of 42 Curzon-street Loughborough **Leicestershire** died 29 June 1931 Administration **London** 27 July to Fanny Maude Blythe widow. Effects £942 3s. 1d.

Kirk helps materially with favourite manures. Cherries on the walls were large and in quantity. Small fruits and Strawberries were abundant, but Apples had not turned out as expected. Begonias on the parterre were conspicuous for their large flowers; and other outside decoration was on a par with other departments.

Plants from Keir at Edinburgh.

Conspicuous among the plants exhibited by Mr. Lunt, of Keir Gardens, Dunblane, at the Royal Caledonian Society's show, were specimens of unusually high cultural merit, and as some of the leading newspapers state, "carried all before them," Croton Chelsonii, 7 by 5 feet; C. Holdsworthii, do.; Dracæna Youngii, 7 by 6 feet; Alocasia metallica, 6 feet across; Dieffenbachia Bausei, 4 feet 6 inches through; Anthurium Veitchii with leaves 4½ feet long; two immense Dracænas Shepherdii and Baptistii, we do not know their size, but health and colouring were of the highest order; of great size were Palms Areca Baueri, Kentia Belmoreana, K. Fosteriana, Rhapis flabelliformis, and Areca lutescens, and a Cycad 9 feet through. Mr. Lunt, as reported in Edinburgh papers, received a medal for high culture. Now that this clever cultivator has made his *début* in Edinburgh with plants (he has been a successful exhibitor of fruits for some years), he will be looked for in the future, and welcomed by lovers of plants such as are really creditable at exhibitions like those promoted by the Royal Caledonian Society. *M. T.*

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN HORTICULTURE.

Although it may be a new thing for County Councils to offer prizes for the nicest-kept and best-cropped gardens, as Mr. D. T. Fish suggested recently in these pages, it was part of a system practised in my own knowledge by some school-managers of over thirty years ago. When a boy a school, in a quiet Oxfordshire village, I had my small plot, and was not a little proud of the commendations received for my method of cultivating it; and it may be said that any encouragement offered in this way gives rise to a desire to acquire further knowledge on the part of the recipient. Horticultural societies in rural districts can do much towards increasing a taste for gardening amongst cottagers, by offering prizes for the best-kept garden; in fact, I know of no better way of improving the cultivation of their gardens than by offering money-prizes to those *bonâ fide* cottagers. Some persons may retort, but what is a *bonâ fide* cottager? Well, it is perhaps a difficult question to answer. I have filled for the last ten years the office of secretary to a society which is mainly intended for the improvement of cottage-gardens in this neighbourhood, and have therefore had much opportunity of observing the progress which has been made by some of the competitors. We have two classes of competitors whose status is defined by the amount of wages earned, and which does away with the jealousy that arises when some are handicapped by their neighbours who happen to be in receipt of higher wages, and have therefore an advantage in the matter of purchasing seeds and plants.

The two classes are defined thus—those whose regular weekly wages exceed 15*s*., and those who are not in receipt of that sum. The spirit of emulation is keen in the cottage gardener, and they will try hard not to be beaten by their neighbours, working laboriously to improve their gardens in their spare moments. According to my experience of teaching horticulture by means of lectures, something is required beyond speaking; the mere matter of preaching to them, as it were, is not sufficient to interest them. If County Councils were to instruct their teachers to give demonstrations on the platform in such subjects as the pruning of fruit trees, including root-pruning, preparatory to planting them, and the best means of staking the trees, much real good would be done. It is not merely a question of how many bushels of Potatos ought to be produced from so much land; nor how much a cottager should get for his fruit crop—but how such crops are best obtained, and the best methods to pursue. A few practical demonstrations of this kind would do much more towards enlightening the hearers than the chatter that some lecturers indulge in. Plenty of cottagers in rural districts can judge the amount of practical knowledge possessed by the lecturer more accurately than he supposes, and if they discover that his teaching is largely based on theory, the impression that he will make on them is not lasting. Lectures without demonstration are almost valueless in teaching cottagers how to manage their gardens, they know perfectly well that the lecturer would not know how to do the work he professes to teach them. *E. Molyneux.*

—— It seems at this time of day almost superfluous to dispute either that there is a need for, or a benefit derived from, technical education. But as an example of the need of such teaching, I would quote from that excellent magazine, *Work*, where, on p. 247 of the June number, we find this note:—"According to the report of the London County Council, by Mr. Llewellyn Smit, apprenticeships have practically died out in all trades excepting a few, such as shipwrights and barge-builders, so far as London is concerned." He adds that workmen he has come into contact with have been practically unanimous in thinking that the old system cannot be revived, and that technical education, imparted through classes, must in future take its place.

But apart from the consideration of such questions as those involved in the above statement, any thinking person must be struck with the fact that so-called education does not produce, or tend to produce, that all-round development of the bodily and mental capacities as intelligent persons desire. There is no doubt, owing greatly to the dull and rigid routine of our elementary schools, where memory takes the place of thinking, and the standard of attainments required, seems to indicate that boys and girls are supposed to turn out a mongrel—something between a clerk and a philosopher. The training of the children in the elementary schools seems chiefly to fail in not teaching them the common facts of every-day life. But as soon as we begin in the technical school to teach them how to do something, daylight and hope begin to dawn on us.

Of what use is it to teach children how to add up thousands of pounds? But when we see a child able to darn its stocking, or sharpen a knife, there seems to be a clear gain to the child and humanity itself.

Now the experience of practical men in this immediate neighbourhood is most encouraging in respect of the acceptance and result of technical education. The first season it was put into working order, the attendance was very small, hardly making an average of ten. But this last season has seen an average attendance of thirty, taking several villages together; and about 400 at Wolverton. At the lectures attended by these people, instruction was given by practical and proficient men in bee-keeping, fruit-growing, and vegetable culture, and diagrams, implements, apparatus, and specimens of growths for pruning were handled before the spectators, and at intervals, under the control of the chairman, the audience were encouraged to enter into discussion on points raised by the lecturers.

One important subject handled was the method of the prevention and cure of insect pests and diseases of fruit trees and general crops, and, considering the ravages of the Gooseberry-sawfly for the two last seasons, it is a matter of congratulation that the lectures made the matter so clear, and gave it so prominent a place. Since the spread of this information, people take a hint much more readily regarding the method of dealing with these diseases and pests, and several cottagers have saved their crops by following instruction based upon information given at these lectures.

So much good has already resulted from the practical and sociable way in which the instruction was imparted—for in some cases a little music and recitation helped to draw and keep the people together—that it is to be hoped next winter will see a further development of this form of teaching a knowledge of matters of every-day use, and if the allotment-holders of the neighbourhood can be influenced to the same extent as the men at Wolverton, who work small patches of land there, a decided advance will be soon manifest in the methods of work, and better crops, the outcome of intelligently-directed effort.

It remains to be seen that fuller demonstrations are afforded of methods of pruning, and courses of tillage, the management of bees, &c., during the summer months, and thus we may hope that the intelligence of our rural population will steadily increase. *J. Milsom.*

Obituary.

Death of Mr. G. Bogue.—Many will hear with regret of the death of Mr. George Bogue, of 10, Hill Street, St. Albans, which took place, at the age of 86 years, on Tuesday, September 19. Mr. Bogue was a native of Lanarkshire, and came to St. Albans as head gardener to Lord Verulam, at Gorhambury, about forty-six years ago, and remained in his lordship's service for twenty-eight years. In his time Mr. Bogue was a gardener of some repute, and used frequently to contribute articles to the *Journal of Horticulture;* while for many years he supplied annually to this paper a rainfall table. The deceased, during his connection with Gorhambury, was a member of the committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and seldom failed to attend their monthly meetings in London; and in the latter years of his life the deceased often referred with pride to this, and would speak in glowing terms of the times when he had sat at a committee meeting with the late Prince Consort. During the last eighteen years Mr. Bogue had lived a life of retirement. The funeral took place at St. Michael's Church, St. Albans, on Saturday, September 23.

[By the term "accumulated temperature" is meant the aggregate amount, as well as the duration, of degrees of temperature above or below 42° Fahr. for the period named; and this combined result is expressed in Day-degrees — a "Day-degree" signifying 1° continued for twenty-four hours, or any other number of degrees for an inversely proportional number of hours.]

Districts.	Temperature.						Rainfall.			Bright Sun.	
		Accumulated.									
	Above (+) or below (—) the Mean for the week ending September 23.	Above 42°, for the Week.	Below 42°, for the Week.	Above 42°, difference from Mean since January 1, 1893.	Below 42°, difference from Mean since January 1, 1893.	More (+) or less (—) than Mean for the Week.	No. of Rainy Days since Jan. 1, 1893.	Total Fall since Jan. 1, 1893.	Percentage of possible Duration for the Week.	Percentage of possible Duration since Jan. 1, 1893.
		Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	10ths Inch.		Ins.		
0	4 —	34	0	+ 556	— 57	14 +	170	32 8	18	25
1	3 —	46	0	+ 353	— 22	5 +	136	18 6	22	33
2	2 —	65	0	+ 428	— 62	3 —	114	14 0	40	37
3	2 —	79	0	+ 479	— 37	5 —	111	12 8	33	44
4	2 —	69	0	+ 630	— 49	5 —	109	13·4	38	42
5	2 —	87	0	+ 549	— 43	2 —	106	13·7	27	46
6	3 —	53	0	+ 493	— 63	3 —	134	24 9	31	38
7	2 —	71	0	+ 689	— 91	3 +	123	19·2	29	37
8	2 —	75	0	+ 689	— 70	2 —	111	20·5	30	48
9	3 —	57	0	+ 560	— 101	3 +	146	23 0	36	32
10	5 —	57	0	+ 611	— 100	2 —	126	21·1	41	57
*	2 —	100	0	+ 808	— 52	9 +	117	18 0	28	57

The districts indicated by number in the first column are the following:—

0, Scotland, N. *Principal Wheat-producing Districts*—1, Scotland, E.; 2, England, N.E.; 3, England, E.; 4, Midland Counties; 5, England, including London, S. *Principal Grazing, &c., Districts*—6, Scotland, W.; 7, England, N.W.; 8, England, S.W.; 9, Ireland, N.; 10, Ireland, S.; * Channel Islands.

where such has not already been given them, for where the plants grow well they are admired and appreciated by nearly everyone.

The glass houses are not very extensive, and are devoted principally to fruit, Grapes being a good feature. Some large bunches were noticed of the renowned Raisin de Calabre used mainly for decorative purposes. Black Hamburghs were well represented, the berries being very fine. In the structures devoted to plants, Ferns were exceptionally good, as also were Palms and Crotons.

The kitchen and fruit gardens both looked well, the latter having been very heavily cropped. Apple trees were in a few cases blooming for the second time, and this after carrying exceptionally fine crops of fruit. Mr. Mackinnon is to be congratulated on the excellent state of the gardens which he has under his control.

TYNNINGHAME.

There are many things worthy of mention at this, one of the residences of the Earl of Haddington. The gardens are and have been for many years past in the charge of Mr. R. P. Brotherston, well known as an excellent gardener, and as a contributor to the *Journal of Horticulture*. The gardens are a credit to any gardener, and though the glass structures have mostly seen their best days they yet contain some fine plants and fruit. Plants are very largely grown for affording cut flowers here, and foremost amongst these come the Carnations, of which a very choice collection has been brought together. Souvenir de la Malmaison in various shades are grown in large numbers, and appear to be in the best of health, though showing, owing doubtless to the extraordinary season, a tendency to premature flowering, which may detract somewhat from the value of the plants next season. The beautiful Germania is also extensively cultivated, many hundreds of layers having been rooted this year. Sweet Peas, too, are a great feature, most of Mr. Eckford's best varieties being grown. Amongst these are some very beautiful colours, one of the best being Countess of Radnor. Affording as they do an abundance of flowers these Sweet Peas must be invaluable. The Blue Pea (Lathyrus sativus) is also grown, and a small clump of it is a very beautiful sight, and is moreover useful for decorative purposes. Mignonette thrives admirably, producing huge spikes of its deliciously scented blossoms, the variety Machet being perhaps the largest.

The flower garden is furnished with Zonal Pelargoniums, Calceolarias, Tritoma Uvaria, and other plants, and was looking very gay when I was there. The crop of Apples has been a wonderfully heavy one, as also has the Pears, many of both having been gathered and yet leaving bushels on the trees. Pears on the walls were looking grand, many of the very best varieties being planted, notably Clapp's Favourite, Souvenir du Congrès, Williams' Bon Chrêtien, and Louise Bonne of Jersey. Plums too were hanging here and there, but the majority had of course been gathered. Indoors the Vines were looking splendidly, and some very serviceable bunches were hanging. Tomatoes too were fine. The plants indoors were in excellent health, and Crotons especially were very highly coloured. Ferns are grown in large numbers, and some highly creditable specimens were noticed. On the shore of the Firth of Forth, upon which the estate is situated, the Sea Buckthorn was looking beautiful and carrying a huge crop of its brightly coloured berries. There were many other plants and fruits worthy of note, but I must leave those to be dealt with by others at some future time. A visit to Tynninghame will be conducive to thorough enjoyment, and much valuable information may be gained in walking through the gardens with Mr. Brotherston.—NOMAD.

EXPERIENCE WITH APPLES.

AT the time when the characteristics of Apples and the value of the crops can be best judged, a few notes from cultivators would be opportune and instructive. I send three which may perhaps lead to others from cultivators in different parts of the country.

WEALTHY.

IN your report of the discussion that took place at the last meeting of the R.H.S. Fruit Committee, I notice that some members expressed their strong disapproval of the growth and bearing habit of this Apple. With me the growth is moderately strong, with a slight symptom of canker showing on one or two shoots of last year's growth. There is, however, nothing to give cause for alarm in that respect, as the cold, heavy soil here is certain to develop canker if the variety is addicted to it in any way. The tree from which the fruit was gathered was a maiden in 1891, and this year bore eight Apples, all equal to those before the Committee. Many were removed by thinning when quite small to give size to those retained. One of the Apples measured 12 inches round. In the Journal of September 21st I note it is being largely grown at Denver, an Apple-growing district in America. Here Wealthy is thought highly of; so much that I hope to increase our stock very considerably in the coming planting season.

ECKLINVILLE.

No Apple that I know will grow better and give a larger return of fruit in a short time than this, but what is the use of the quantity if there is difficulty in disposing of the produce? As is well known this is a "soft" Apple, easily bruised, and fruiterers with whom I have done business refuse to buy Ecklinville at any price. If this is the case in one town, is it not likely to be the same in others? How, then, is it possible to dispose of the fruit? Much as I appreciate this Apple for its growth, cropping, and cooking qualities, I am compelled to warn others of the risk they run in planting it extensively.

DUCHESS OF OLDENBURG.

Anyone requiring a good early cooking Apple to be grown as an espalier could not do much better than plant this Russian Apple. The finest crop I have seen of it was produced by an espalier-trained tree in the garden at Hill Place, near Bishop's Waltham. The fruit was packed as close as it could be on all the branches, was of large size and magnificently coloured. I was much impressed with the variety after seeing it so successfully grown.—E. MOLYNEUX.

PEASGOOD'S NONESUCH.

THIS Apple has done well in the neighbourhood of Bristol. We recently saw fruit grown in the gardens of Cote House (Mr. Bannister, gardener), on a bush tree, one fruit weighing 1 lb. 12 ozs.; two weighing 3 lbs. 7¾ ozs.; six weighing 8 lbs. 13½ ozs.; twelve weighing 15 lbs. 13 ozs. —JAS. GARAWAY & CO.

DEATH OF MR. G. BOGUE.

MANY readers of the *Journal of Horticulture*, as well as ourselves, will hear with deep regret of the death of Mr. George Bogue, of 10, Hill Street, St. Albans, which took place just before midnight on Tuesday, September 19th. The deceased, who reached his eighty-sixth birthday only on the previous Wednesday, was familiarly known throughout the city, owing to his long connection with it. He had been in failing health for some time, yet he was out a fortnight before his death. It was then that he took a cold, and it seemed doubtful if he would recover, his constitution having been impaired by a serious illness in the spring. Mr. Bogue was a native of Lanarkshire, and came to St. Albans as head gardener to the Earl of Verulam, at Gorhambury, about forty-six years ago, and remained in his Lordship's service for twenty-eight years.

Many years ago Mr. Bogue used frequently to contribute articles to this Journal, which were of a sound practical character. Mr. Bogue also for many years supplied annually to the "Herts Advertiser" a rainfall table. As showing the interest Mr. Bogue always took in this kind of work, it might be mentioned that only a few weeks back, when showing the apparatus to a friend, he expressed his wish to have it fitted up, and thought he should begin again. The deceased, during his connection with Gorhambury, was a member of the Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and seldom failed to attend the meetings in London, and in the last few years of his life the deceased often referred with pride to this, and would speak in glowing terms of the times when he had sat at a Committee meeting with the late Prince Consort. During the last eighteen years Mr. Bogue had lived a life of retirement, and filled the office of churchwarden at Christ Church for a long period. He, however, gave up his position some five years ago owing to increasing age, and on that occasion he was presented with a valuable inkstand as a mark of the esteem in which he was held. There are only a few distant relatives of the deceased in England at the present time, most of his nearer relations having emigrated and attained to very good positions abroad. The funeral took place in the St. Michael's Churchyard, St. Albans, on Saturday afternoon, September 23rd. (St. Michael's Church is within the precincts of the ancient Roman city of Verulam, and contains a fine marble monument of the famous Lord Bacon). The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Horne, and among those who followed to pay a last tribute of respect to the deceased were Miss Henley and Miss Allard (sisters-in-law), Mr. Horsfield (steward to Earl Cowper), who is a nephew of the deceased's late wife; Mr. Garner, Mr. J. Child, Mr. W. Dunham, Mr. W. Bowes, and Mr. Whitelaw (gardener to Lord Grimthorpe at Batchwood).

The "Herts Advertiser," from which the foregoing record was mainly taken, did not reach us till after the publication of our last issue. It was while our late contributor, coadjutor, and friend, who has passed away so full of years and honour, was gardener at Gorhambury that articles from his pen appeared in the *Cottage Gardener* and *Journal of Horticulture*. These were stamped by the teachings of experience, and were proof of cultural attainments of a high order.

SOFT VERSUS HARD COLD WATER.

MY first remarks upon this subject may, I admit, be open to misconstruction, but were certainly not written with the object of implying "W. P. W." had betrayed confidence in any way, the reverse being the case. I hope in future to strictly avoid touching the very sensitive feelings which "W. P. W." appears to possess, and will now content myself by taking a careful survey of the articles written, and endeavour to explain a few facts, prove a few statements, and accept without hesitation the challenge thrown out by "J. B. R." (page 286), therefore I can only touch lightly upon the first-mentioned correspondent's article to save repetition. The "subtle shaft" which "W. P. W." has hurled with such mighty force falls harmless to the ground, and leaves me still free to concentrate time and attention to "J. B. R.'s" article, in which he distinctly implies that I wish to turn the matter into other channels. This is decidedly wrong; my conviction strengthens rather than diminishes. I have no intention to "play upon words" in this communication, my duty being to accept the challenge to quote

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1893.

BODLE George Talbot Mugridge of 8 Commercial-road Bedford furniture dealer died 19 April 1893 at 18 Midland-road Bedford Administration **Northampton** 16 May to Sarah Bodle widow Effects £220 9*s*. 9*d*.

BODLE Harry of 56 High-street Lewes beer retailer died 5 September 1893 Probate **Lewes** 25 September to Caroline Bodle widow Effects £94 16*s*. 1*d*.

BODLEY Alfred of Vauxhall-street Lambeth Surrey died 2 February 1893 Probate **London** 15 April to Mary Ann Bodley widow Effects £370 13*s*. 4*d*.

BODMAN Benjamin of Melksham Wilts gentlemen died 17 March 1893 Probate **Salisbury** 27 April to John Bodman Carrington goldsmith and Emma Bodman spinster Effects £9327 18*s*. 3*d*. resworn July 1893 £9927 18*s*. 3*d*.

BODMAN Emilie Matilda of 90 Finchley-road Hampstead London spinster died 13 June 1893 Probate **London** 6 July to George Francis Geaussent professor of music and Roland Ellis de Vesian solicitor Effects £4231 9*s*. 4*d*.

BODMAN Margaret Dennis of Romsey Hants widow died 23 June 1893 Probate **London** 27 July to Isabel Watson widow Katharine Annie Howes spinster and George Maughan Footner solicitor Effects £4540 14*s*. 7*d*.

BODMER Louis Rudolph of 2 Lansdowne-road Notting Hill Middlesex esquire died 10 October 1892 Probate **London** 13 April to Emily Bodmer widow Effects £419 16*s*. 6*d*.

BODSON Charlotte Georgina of 139 Gower-street Tottenham-Court-road London spinster died 16 May 1890 Probate **London** 4 May to Thomas Henry Cross dish paper manufacturer Effects £291 17*s*.

BODY Eliza of Prestwood Great Missenden Buckinghamshire widow died 17 October 1893 at the Infirmary Aylesbury Buckinghamshire Probate **London** 4 November to Walter Grover farmer Effects £94 16*s*. 5*d*.

BODY Julia Parker of 44 Denmark-hill Surrey spinster died 5 January 1893 Probate **London** 26 January to John Bates Goldsbrough dispenser Effects £55 10*s*.

BODY-PAYNE Mary Ann of 28 Deacon-street Walworth Surrey widow died 26 June 1893 Probate **London** 12 July to Helena Caseley (wife of Samuel Caseley) and Mary Jane Payne Body spinster Effects £438 0*s*. 2*d*.

BODY Robert of 18 South-hill Stoke Devonport pensioned shipwright from Her Majesty's Devonport Dockyard died 27 November 1892 Administration **Exeter** 4 January to Elizabeth Hicks Body widow Effects £160 8*s*. 11*d*.

BODYCOTE Mary of Thorpe Broughton Astley Leicestershire widow died 17 January 1893 Probate **Leicester** 10 November to Dann Ringrose farmer Effects £90 4*s*. 6*d*.

BODYCOTE Millicent of Leicester (wife of Henry Bodycote) died 17 June 1893 Probate **Leicester** 8 July to John Johnson and Nathaniel Preston gentlemen Effects £962 12*s*. 2*d*.

BOEME Martin Alexander Ecklemans of 32 Tweedy-road Bromley Kent gentleman died 22 October 1893 Probate **London** 27 November to Alexander Ecklemans Boeme bank cashier Alexander Eames Parsons bank manager and Thomas Mieres Percival gentleman Effects £12530 11*s*.

BOETTCHER Peter of the British ship "British Princess" died 6 April 1892 at Agnews California America Administration (Limited) **London** 23 March to George John Freund chancellor of the German consulate the attorney of Hans Heinrich Friedrich Boettcher Effects £70 11*s*. 11*d*.

BOFFEY Joseph of Lee Head Farm Bradwall Cheshire farmer died 31 October 1893 Administration **London** 14 December to Adelaide Boffey widow Effects £846 12*s*. 5*d*.

BOFFEY Samuel of Wettenhall near Winsford Cheshire farmer died 19 September 1893 Probate **London** 14 December to Sarah Boffey widow and Samuel Boffey farmer Effects £682 18*s*. 2*d*.

BOGER Mary Anne of 77 Marine-parade Brighton (wife of Coryndon Peters Boger) died 11 January 1893 Probate **London** 6 May to the said Coryndon Peters Boger captain in the Royal Navy Effects £115.

BOGGETT William of 97 Cheyne-walk Chelsea Middlesex esquire died 27 November 1892 Probate **London** 19 January to Frederick Guillaume solicitor Effects £4624 12*s*. 10*d*.

BOGGIS Charles Penneville Davey of Thetford Norfolk carpenter died 1 August 1893 Administration **Norwich** 3 October to Mary Ann Boggis widow Effects £171.

BOGGIS Mary of Haughley Suffolk widow died 14 December 1892 Administration **Bury St. Edmunds** 24 May to Mary Ellen Murton (wife of John Murton) Effects £99 11*s*. 10*d*.

BOGUE George of 10 Hill-street St. Alban's Hertfordshire died 19 September 1893 Probate **London** 19 October to William Horsfield land agent Effects £156 8*s*.

the weather is warm and dry, the Potatoes make short tops, and mature early, and the Cabbages, having plenty of light and air, grow as well as they would anywhere else; but, if much rain falls, the long tops spread over the ground, and

Mr. T. H. Bolton.

smother the plants between. This sometimes happens even with the early varieties, which, ordinarily, are more or less dwarf. It has happened this summer. My Early Ashleaf Potatoes grew as if they were bent on running a race with Up-to-date, and where the later varieties will stop I do not know. Cabbages between such plants as these have no chance of growing properly, unless the distance between the ridges is unusually great. What, under such circumstances, is one to do? Plant in alternate rows, and turn the Potato tops over on to the ground left vacant? The objection to this method is that the Potatoes are sure to suffer from the crowding of the foliage. Another plan which is sometimes adopted—shortening the tops—seems to me as foolish as the old custom, now abandoned, of almost entirely denuding Tomatoes of their leaves. It must be prejudicial to the crop. The best method is to insert sticks in each row, run string along, and so support the tops. It means some slight labour, of course; but, if it is worth while taking the trouble to plant Potatoes and Cabbages on the same plot, it is surely worth while taking the additional trouble to enable them to grow properly without injuring one another. Moreover, the tops, kept from contact with the damp earth, are not only more easily sprayed, but also less liable to be attacked by disease.

Cucumber-leaf Blotch.

August 9th.—An incident mentioned in a leaflet issued by the Board of Agriculture will show how exceedingly careful gardeners should be to prevent the infection of their plants. In connection with a fungoid disease known as Cucumber and Melon-leaf blotch, we are told, "an establishment in Hertfordshire, sending Cucumbers to Covent Garden, remained free from the disease until the commencement of the present season, when, on one occasion, some empty flats or packing boxes that had contained Cucumbers, sent from a place where the disease was known to be rampant, were by mistake returned from Covent Garden to the Herts establishment, where, from that date, the disease appeared, and is now practically beyond control. To test the possibility of this means of introducing the disease, an empty box that had contained diseased Cucumber leaves sent to Kew for determination, was placed over a young Vegetable Marrow plant that was growing under glass; within three days every leaf was destroyed by the disease."

August 10th.—Plants seldom look at their best in a nursery, because of the formal methods of planting which are almost inevitable there, but a field of Roses, like the one shown in the illustration, is different. It is a glorious sight in July. The variety depicted is White Pet, one of the Polyantha section, bearing quantities of creamy-white flowers, and when seen in the mass its beauty is wonderful—hardly less so in the dim twilight than it is in strong sunlight.

H. C. Davidson.

The Gardens of the Earl of Devon at Powderham Castle.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. T. H. BOLTON.

It was my good fortune, by the courtesy of the Earl of Devon, to visit Powderham Gardens at the end of May, when the splendid collection of flowering shrubs was at its best. Under the auspices of Mr. T. H. Bolton, who, in the spring of 1906, undertook the control and renovation of the gardens, important improvements are being carried out, which will materially augment their beauty. Even as it is, however, they form a fine setting for the historic castle, which passengers on the line between Exeter and Torquay are wont to admire. The creepers on its ancient walls are quite in keeping with its character. Ampelopsis Veitchii climbs up its clock tower, its walls are adorned with Clematis montana, Wistaria sinensis, Magnolia grandiflora, Roses (Madame Falcot), Oleanders, Lonicera, and Jasminum; one side of the chapel is covered by Ivy, and the other by Magnolias; while in front of the castle are several Myrtles.

The Terrace Bedding.

"The bedding," said Mr. Bolton, as we strolled along the terrace, and I noticed the numerous vases filled with Ivy-leaf Geraniums, and the fine specimens of Irish Yews standing at the corners of each bed, "is planned with a view to the blending of colour. A scheme of pink and white for centre beds, encircled with yellow Calceolarias, we find very attractive, and appropriate for our beds laid out in grass. For the terrace beds, with Box edgings and gravel paths, and in geometrical designs, we use Heliotropes, yellow Calceolarias, scarlet Begonias, and white Geraniums, which, seen from above, are usually admired during the summer."

"And in the spring?"

"Well, as you see, there has been a combination of blue, pink, yellow, and brown, with green edging, formed by Myosotis, Silenes, Wallflowers in variety, and Pyrethrums."

"The Silenes are very effective."

"Yes, they are a great feature, and are extremely easy to grow. From a packet of seeds I was able to bed out a couple of thousand."

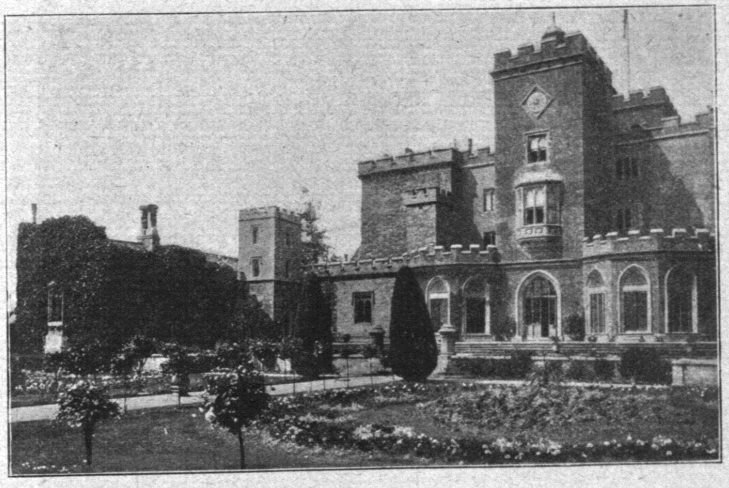
From the castle we proceeded to the Camellia house, observing on our way some fine specimens of the deciduous Cypress.

"When was the Camellia house built?" I asked, impressed not only by the pleasant approach, but by the size and loftiness of the house.

"About twenty-eight years ago. The trees are planted out in large vases, and the Camellias are in flower all through the winter. There are quite a dozen trees. The Roses all round the roof are Niphetos. At one end is a house we use for Malmaison Carnations. The varieties are Duchess of Westminster, Maggie Hodson, Thora, Mrs. Trelawney, Cecilia, Calypso, and Sault; they were all grown from cuttings put in last July."

"And the house at the other end?"

"That is practically used as a flowering house, containing just now a few Primula obconica, a number of Humea elegans (which do well here), and Sweet Peas in pots."



Powderham Castle.

"You make a feature of Sweet Peas, I believe?"

"I am very fond of them. These are all crosses from King Edward and Helen Lewis."

"They look so well that I should like to know something about your methods of cultivation?"

"One absolutely essential possession is good

deep soil, which always gives the cultivator an advantage over a man whose soil is of a shallow and light nature. Thorough preparation of the soil, by deep digging or trenching, is necessary, and at the same time there should be worked in a good dressing of well-rotted stable manure, old Mushroom beds, and a fair sprinkling of wood ashes and soot. On dry, sandy soil I advise the use of half-rotted manure, and, if some heavy loam or turf can be spared, it should be chopped and mixed in, as the preparation of the soil goes on. This ought to be done some weeks in advance of the time it is intended to plant or sow the seed."

"Do you sow your first batch in autumn?"

"No; that method, owing to the risk of losing a large percentage of the plants by birds, slugs, and other pests, is, in my opinion, not desirable. I think that better results are obtained by sowing in pots or seed-boxes in January. A greenhouse is a suitable place to raise the seed, and immediately the plants are above the soil they should be moved to a position near the glass roof. In the course of a week or two the plants should be removed to a cold frame, where they soon assume a sturdy appearance, and, by March, will be hardy, ready for planting out in rows, clumps, or any convenient position. If in rows, a shallow trench, three inches deep and one foot across, should be taken out, and the ground made fairly firm. The young plants can then be carefully lifted out of the boxes, or turned out of the pots, and planted singly four inches apart. Except in the case of novelties, or very scarce varieties, a double row may be planted in the trench, allowing nine inches in the rows. As under this treatment each plant usually throws from three to six strong growths, it is obvious that the distance given between the plants is none too much. My experience is that it generally results in a well-furnished row by flowering time, which should be June. If grown in clumps, I recommend the same distance between the plants, and the larger the clump, the finer the effect, especially if it be situated in a mixed border, where so many of us find it necessary to grow Sweet Peas."

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT POWDERHAM.

Staking and Shading.

"What about staking?"

"Directly after planting, the rows or clumps should be staked with short, twiggy branches, which afford the young plants a little support and protection. The rows should be dusted with lime or soot, to avert the ravages of slugs; in about six weeks they should be staked firmly with tall sticks; Hazel branches are preferable. The sticks should be left untrimmed, as the Sweet Pea is a great rambler. If the weather be dry, the rows on either side should be mulched with stable litter, and given thorough drenchings of water when needed, with a hose or large-rosed can, especially after a hot day. This not only benefits the plants, but helps to keep thrips at bay. In order to secure the true colour of several varieties, shading must be resorted to during the hottest part of the day, as the orange varieties in particular seem to be scorched or scalded by the hot sun. Light tiffany stretched over them is a suitable material, and well repays the trouble, as several of the varieties needing this attention are amongst the prettiest Sweet Peas."

"How long does the supply of flowers from the January sowing last?"

"From early June to August, but by that date they will be past their best, and the flower stems, which are long at the first, will have become much shorter. It is, therefore, advisable to sow a second time in March, particularly if it is intended to exhibit in August, which will produce first-quality flowers from the beginning of that month onward. The seed can either be treated as I have already mentioned, or it can be sown direct in the prepared ground, where it is intended to grow the plants, and given the same treatment throughout as those planted in January. Thin sowing should, of course, be insisted upon; but, now that a dozen seeds of new sorts cost a shilling, there is no temptation to sow thickly. To avoid the risk to losses attached to outside sowing, these more expensive varieties should be sown in pots."

Experiments in Crossing.

"The results of your own experiments prove that there is nothing to hinder a professional or an amateur gardener from crossing suitable colours, with the object of securing something new, or an improvement on existing kinds. Can you give me any hints on this point?"

"Having selected a calm, dry day, a quantity of pollen should be collected with a camel's-hair brush into a small envelope or seed packet, from such varieties as Lady Grisel Hamilton, Navy Blue, or Mrs. Kenyon, and applied carefully to the stigmas of young flowers of Countess Spencer or Helen Lewis, with a view to securing new shades of blue or pale yellow, combined with the pleasing form of the two latter varieties. The crossing should take place when the flowers of the variety intended to carry the seed are quite young, as there is then less chance of the flower being self-fertilised. A small label should be attached to the stem, with the names of the different varieties. The pods should be gathered as soon as they turn brown, as in wet weather they fly open, and the seed drops to the ground. Strict attention to such details as thin planting or sowing, mulching and copious watering during dry weather, and the sowing of a second or even a third batch, to prolong the supply of flowers, are amongst the principal items to be observed by those who wish to excel in the cultivation of the Sweet Pea."

The Vineries.

Outside this range of houses are many Roses, including a variety called Adam, and Madame Lambard, and two clumps on each side of choice Rhododendrons, close by being a quantity of bush fruit, including Raspberries (Superlative), and Black Currants (Boskoop Giant). Here, too, the Vineries demanded notice.

"There are three," observed Mr. Bolton, "the early Vinery containing Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling, and I have lately introduced a few rods of Muscat of Alexandria. In the second house there is only one Vine, Black Hamburgh, and in the late house it is the principal variety, being the favourite Grape. The few Orchids in the late Vinery are Cœlogyne cristata, Cypripedium insigne, and Dendrobium nobile. There are also some Ferns, a number of the old scarlet bedding Begonias, and Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, of which last year I grew about a hundred and fifty. But now we had better go to the American gardens, which constitute, most people think, the greatest charm of Powderham."

A Famous Eucalyptus Tree.

"They are extremely lovely," I rejoined, as we entered the gates of the large portion of the pleasure grounds which is devoted to flowering shrubs, and is enriched by numerous choice trees. One of the latter is worth travelling many miles to see. I mean the most famous old Gum tree in Great Britain.

"What is its age?" I inquired, as Mr. Bolton calculated its dimensions, while I noted its huge branches.

"Probably from seventy to seventy-five years old. It is really Eucalyptus coccifera, and not the better-known globulus. The dimensions of this tree are, at four feet from the ground, fourteen and a half feet in girth, and it has a spread of thirty-two to thirty-four yards in diameter."

"What is the essential difference between the two varieties?"

"Globulus is killed by frost, but nothing injures coccifera. It is quite hardy. The flowers are white, and the leaves are very pungent."

"Are there any other exceptionally fine specimen trees?"

"The Tulip-trees, Copper Beeches, Cedars, and Pines are noteworthy, but the Eucalyptus is quite the gem."

"I suppose you plant bulbs largely by the side of the ornamental water?"

"About thirty thousand. For instance, I had a great batch of Sir Watkin Daffodils. Phormiums, by the way, bloom well near the water, and I am thinking of planting a collection of Lilies. I am gradually planting Palms."

The Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

"To me, the supreme attraction of these glorious American gardens is the huge clumps of Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias."

"They were planted purposely in great groups, and I believe it would be difficult to surpass the number of varieties and wealth of flowers of the Azaleas. There are now in bloom, bright scarlet, orange, golden, pink and salmon, of the Ghent section. These, as well as the Rhododendrons, were chosen for colour, the latter being chiefly white, scarlet, and pale pink."

"Camellias seem to do as well in the open as Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

"Quite as well. We have thousands of blooms of both white and red varieties, and no attention whatever is given to them."

Hardy Fruit.

Then, after spending some further time admiring the magnificent display of colour, we returned to the kitchen garden. This, like the head gardener's house, is beautifully situated on the slopes of the hill.

"The soil, too," resumed Mr. Bolton, "is as good as it could be for growing hardy fruit or vegetables. It is red Devonshire loam, which helps in a dry summer. But at present we are rather in a state of transition here."

"What varieties of Peaches do you grow on the walls?"

"Royal George and Dymond are two of the best, and Violette Hative the best Nectarine. We grow similar varieties inside, and also Grosse Mignonne. Both inside and outside we are planting new trees. We are also just planting newer varieties of Apples, keeping the best varieties of the older sorts."

"Are all Apples grown as pyramids?"

"Most of them. We find that the best dessert varieties are Gladstone, Roundway's Magnum Bonum (an excellent Apple), Cox's Orange Pippin, Margil, American Mother, Court Pendu Plat, Blenheim Orange, Ribston Pippin, and Adam's Pearmain, the best of all. The pick of the kitchen varieties are Ecklinville Seedling, Lord Grosvenor, Stirling Castle, Warner's King, Lord Derby, Tower of Glamis, Keswick Codlin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Mère de Menage."

"Which Pears do best at Powderham?"

"Duchesse d'Angouleme is the best for dessert and showing purposes, and for dessert purposes I should also include Pitmaston Duchess, Fertility, Souvenir du Congres, Napoleon, and Beurré Diel. These are grown on the wall, as well as on pyramids. The best stewing varieties are Catillac, Vicar of Winkfield, and Uvedale's St. Germain. Pears and dessert Cherries are also grown on the outside wall, and Plums on the west wall, the three varieties being Kirke's, Oullin's Golden, and Early Transparent."

"Do you grow many varieties of Strawberries?"

"Only three—Royal Sovereign, Bedford, and Givon's Late Prolific, a very fine Strawberry for late purposes. Tomatoes are also grown on the wall, two useful varieties being Stirling Castle and Holmes' Supreme."

The Best Vegetables.

"When did you start digging Potatoes?"

"Last week. The earliest variety is Puritan, and the others Up-to-date and Windsor Castle. Onions are rather a feature here. One bed of Ailsa Craig contains seven hundred bulbs."

"Do you usually begin picking Peas in May?"

"Yes, we shall commence next week with Harbinger. The other varieties are Sutton's Green Gem, Early Giant, Peerless, Duke of Albany, and Gladstone. I grow these in quantities, rather than multiplying the varieties. The best Cabbage I have is Flower of Spring, which I grow largely. The Carrots in the pits are Sutton's Intermediate and Champion Horn. I am planting new beds of Asparagus, Barr's Mammoth, and Canadian Green."

"I notice that your own plan of planting Sweet Peas is in clumps?"

"Of which there are three or four dozen just beginning to bloom. The kitchen garden being four and a half acres in extent, I am turning it to account as much as possible for the cultivation of flowers. There is, for instance, a large bed of Gladiolus (The Bride), and the herbaceous border, which runs the whole length of the garden on the top slope, and is a hundred and fifty yards long, has only been recently made. I am growing from seed in this border, Delphiniums, Phlox, Michaelmas Daisies (in great varieties), Humeas, and Border Carnations (Winter Cheer, Raby Castle, and Francis Rameulson—a standard apricot colour, raised a few years ago, and sent out by Messrs. Clibran). I am also going in for a border of Chrysanthemums, choosing the varieties for colour, such as Carrie for deep yellow, Market White, and Goacher's Crimson."

"Has your experience been varied, Mr. Bolton?"

"I commenced my gardening career at Chillingham Castle, Northumberland, under Mr. Henderson, one of the best-known and most skilful gardeners in the North. After leaving Chillingham, I served as journeyman at Lowther, Harewood, and Fenton House, and as foreman at Milnerfield, Witney Court, and in the flower gardens at Clumber. I also spent twelve months in the Orchid houses of Messrs. Charlesworth, of Bradford."

"Which was your first appointment as head gardener?"

"At Coombe End, Kingston Hill, ten or eleven years ago. There I exhibited with a fair measure of success at Kingston, Surbiton, Wimbledon, and Richmond shows, Chrysanthemums, table plants, and Sweet Peas being my favourites. In 1902 I took charge of the gardens at Baron Hill, in Anglesea, where outdoor gardening was well carried out. Early in 1906 I came here. The difficulties are considerable, but, with a splendid situation, an ideal soil from a gardener's point of view, and an employer like Lord Devon, who is taking a keen interest in his estate, I hope to be able to place Powderham Gardens on a footing which will compare with others in this country."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 262.—CARNATIONS, AND PLANTS FOR AN AUTUMN BAZAAR.

Dear Kate,—Have you seen King Solomon? I don't, of course, mean the original owner of this title, as you are scarcely old enough to remember him; but the magnificent Carnation of this name. One involuntarily thinks of the rest of the text, "Even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like

A Famous Eucalyptus Tree.

one of these," for this flower is indescribably splendid in ruby-velvet, shading towards the middle into rich apricot; but this description does not in the least do it justice. It is perfect in shape, too, and a robust and hardy plant, which is most satisfactory in the garden.

A New Carnation.

Another fine new Carnation is called Basuto; it is a sport from the better-known variety Zingara, but excels it in colour and form, being heavily flaked and barred in scarlet and maroon on a buff ground. Cæsar and Pompey is the queer name of a very handsome Carnation, brightly marked with carmine on a white ground; and Grey Friar is quite a contrast to these warm tints, being in blue-grey, flushed with pink.

Amongst the finest of the self-tinted Carnations are the following:—Carabas, which gained the highest possible honours in the R.H.S. and Birmingham Carnation Shows; it is a perfect and immense flower, in a rich shade of pink. The Old Guard is not so large, but in a glorious shade of intense scarlet, and of good shape; Afterglow is a fine flower in deep pink; Taillifei is a bright salmon-red Carnation, a great beauty; Mrs. Shenton is a lovely flower, in apricot; Agnes Sorrel is deep dark maroon in colour; Lady Hermione is lovely, with a perfect form in rose colour; and Queen of Sheba is apricot-yellow; whilst Daffodil tells its own shade of yellow, and a fine colour it is.

These are all first-rate varieties, and they are doing grandly in the garden here—hundreds of buds and flowers are opening, and I think this gravel soil suits them. But the border in which they grow was deeply dug (two feet down) and richly manured in the early autumn of 1905, before they were planted (in October); last year they flowered finely, but, of course, the plants were young, and rather small. This year they cover the bed with their strong, healthy growths and masses of flowers. We are now going to take cuttings from them, and also layer some of them, as the plants will be past their best after this season, and it is better to have young plants put in every third year if you want perfect blooms.

The yellow-ground Picotees are greatly admired, too. Amphion is the name of the one I like best of all, a superb flower in clear yellow, heavily edged with carmine; Gronow is something like it, but still more deeply edged; and Sarchedon is of the same class; Dalkeith, too, being very handsomely edged with red. I prefer these deeply-edged Picotees to the rest, but if you care for the yellow Carnations, with narrow edges of pink, get Louisa and Lady Avebury, which are both perfect flowers of this class, of excellent form and substance.

For a Floral Stall.

So you want to know what you can have to sell at a bazaar in October or November, in a flower-stall? It is rather a bad time of year (especially October) for the business, but, still, there are several things you might do at once towards it. First of all, get some good bulbs of the earliest Roman Hyacinths, and start them in boxes of light soil (placing the bulbs near the top, and only half-covered, four inches apart each way), which should stand in a warm, sunny corner out of doors, covered to the depth of two inches with sand, moss, or fine coal ashes, which have been well exposed to the air for a week or two, to expel any noxious gases they may have in them.

We find it a good plan to cover the top of the

regarded as amongst the possibilities of a not remote future. One plant, a violet-shaded semi-double, has distinct Violet perfume. Possibly this perfumed strain may eventuate in giving us bluish-tinted flowers. Crossing Begonia Baumanni with the pointed-leaved tuberous section, has resulted in the production of seedlings, many of which, whilst of very compact growth, have quite rounded leaves. From crosses of this kind it is hoped may eventuate a very distinctive strain in habit, as well as securing perfume. The best Begonias are inside in great variety and beautiful leafage; and of Amaryllis of the best strains, the firm raise thousands annually, a big sowing is just germinating, whilst myriads of plants may be seen in divers stages of growth. Seedlings flower about the third year, and from the seed stage until blooming time should not be allowed to rest. Next spring, a large batch may be expected to flower. That the interest in zonal Pelargoniums is not exhausted is evident, because here not only are ordinary forms being intercrossed and seeded, but many fine seedlings are blooming; and there are a few plants of an almost miniature or dwarf strain, of various colours, from which genuine bedding varieties may develop, which would supersede the too coarse bedders of the present day. A very fine double white is, perhaps, the most promising of the strong growers; the pips are as fine as are those of Raspail.

Roses do well outdoors, especially on the seedling Briar, and there are large batches of double Carnations seeding apparently pretty well. After all, the chief specialty at this season is found in Chrysanthemums, of which the firm have some 2500 strong plants in pits; besides which there are about 500 seedlings, many of which are from own-saved seed. Mr. Reid is an enthusiastic hybridist, and carries his camel's-hair brush with him everywhere, so that no opportunity to secure a successful cross is lost.

It is too early to note what results have come from his labours appreciably, but in one of the houses a large number of plants have flowers in various stages of development, especially of what may be called the October section. "For," said Mr. Reid, "it is certain that we shall soon have, of Japanese forms, varieties as fine, as varied, and as plentiful as we have of November varieties." That result will be found useful, not only in giving a long season, but of rendering possible a series of October Chrysanthemum shows, and thus relieving November of what is at present very undue pressure.

In the production of imported seed from Spain and Portugal, we learn that insects are the chief fertilisers, but their work has neither aim nor connection. The human fertiliser, on the other hand, works for the securing of specific objects; hence the results from intelligently-fertilised flowers are so much better. Mrs. George Jones, somewhat of the Louis Bœhmer form, becoming pure white, promises to be a fine flower. So too does Souvenir de M. Menier, large flowers, colour of Jeanne Delaux. Ulrich Brunner is a very fine tasselled form, of crimson-chestnut colour. M. G. de Dubor is a handsome reflexed flower, gold ground, with bronze shading, Another, Carl Kaiser, has crimson-red petals, shaded brown, and tipped gold. Mr. R. Brabant is coming on in fine form, so too is W. H. Lincoln, in its rich yellow lustre; and the pure white Anna Hartshorn is very fine.

However, the great show of Chrysanthemums at Earl's Court next month will enable the firm to show all their new early varieties to the best advantage. Of course the stock includes all the best forms of the day; but the novelties, both from the continent and English raising, are so numerous, that selection becomes bewildering. However, the trade growers like the firm at Sydenham, have to bear the brunt of the testing, and the private grower benefits by their considerable and none too profitable labours.

Obituary.

George Bond.—It is with regret that we have this week to record the death of Mr. George Bond of Clematis Cottage, Lydbury, North, Shropshire, which occurred on Tuesday, the 6th inst., at the ripe age of eighty-six years. His interment took place at Lydbury, North, on Saturday, the 10th inst., and was attended by a number of the *employés* of the Right Hon. the Earl of Powis. It may be interesting to our readers to learn that the late Mr. Bond was in his youth in Kew Gardens, and his first visit to Walcot, the Shropshire seat of the Earl of Powis, was to paint a sketch of a very fine specimen of the Mango tree. Subsequently, he accepted the position of head gardener, which he retained for the long period of forty-seven years, during which time he served three Earls of Powis. By the last, owing to his advanced age, he was pensioned off, and has for eight years enjoyed his well-merited repose. There is at present in the "Walcot grounds," a very fine specimen of Douglas Fir, planted by Mr. Bond on March 22, 1842; on May 12, 1892, it measured as follows:—Height, 107 feet to the top of leader; girth, 12 feet 9 inches at 4 feet from the ground, and is estimated to contain 400 square feet of timber. As a master, Mr. Bond was kind and considerate, deservedly respected by his *employés*, and his retirement from the active duties of life was much regretted.

Samuel Farquhar.—There was laid to rest in Echt churchyard on Saturday, the 17th inst., the remains of Samuel Farquhar. Mr. Farquhar, who had reached the age of 86 years, was for the long period of 52 years head gardener at Dunecht House, near Aberdeen, and during that time he enjoyed the esteem of the former proprietors, Mr. Forbes and the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres. His tenure of office was no sinecure, and in particular during the time the laying-out of the lawns and policies of Dunecht House was in progress the whole of the work devolved upon Mr. Farquhar. The successful manner in which he carried out the arrangements amply justified the confidence reposed in his ability by the Earl of Crawford, and has been the source of general admiration. On account of advancing years Mr. Farquhar relinquished his post at Dunecht House in 1877, and since then has resided with his son, Mr. J. Farquhar, agricultural auctioneer, Old Echt.

The Weather.

[By the term "accumulated temperature" is meant the aggregate amount, as well as the duration, of degrees of temperature above or below 42° Fahr. for the period named; and this combined result is expressed in Day-degrees—a "Day-degree" signifying 1° continued for twenty-four hours, or any other number of degrees for an inversely proportional number of hours.]

Districts.	Temperature. Above (+) or below (—) the Mean for the week ending September 17.	Accumulated. Above 42°, for the Week.	Accumulated. Below 42°, for the Week.	Accumulated. Above 42°, difference from Mean since Jan. 3, 1892.	Accumulated. Below 42°, difference from Mean since Jan. 3, 1892.	Rainfall. More (+) or less (—) than Mean for the Week.	Rainfall. No. of Rainy Days since Jan. 3, 1892.	Rainfall. Total Fall since Jan. 3, 1892.	Bright Sun. Percentage of possible Duration for the Week.	Bright Sun. Percentage of possible Duration since Jan. 3, 1892.
		Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	Day-deg.	10ths Inch.		Ins.		
0	1 —	57	0	— 34	+ 212	15 +	178	32·2	10	28
1	1 —	67	0	— 205	+ 241	2 —	138	18·8	19	32
2	0 aver	85	0	— 124	+ 186	4 —	133	17·0	29	31
3	1 +	102	0	— 115	+ 210	6 —	122	16·2	44	38
4	0 aver	89	0	— 91	+ 249	6 —	118	15·3	36	35
5	0 aver	111	0	— 94	+ 138	6 —	104	13·6	46	42
6	1 —	71	0	— 111	+ 193	4 +	139	30·5	23	35
7	0 aver	89	0	— 72	+ 165	2 —	139	24·0	27	35
8	1 —	95	0	— 34	+ 117	8 —	125	17·9	40	42
9	1 —	76	0	— 92	+ 122	2 +	153	25·9	21	31
10	1 —	88	0	— 18	+ 132	4 —	135	26·6	32	34
*	0 aver	120	0	+ 71	+ 42	7 —	123	17·5	61	50

The districts indicated by number in the first column are the following:—

0, Scotland, N. *Principal Wheat-producing Districts*—1, Scotland, E.; 2, England, N.E.; 3, England, E.; 4, Midland Counties; 5, England, S.

Principal Grazing, &c., Districts—6, Scotland, W.; 7, England, N.W.; 8, England, S.W.; 9, Ireland, N.; 10, Ireland, S.; (* Channel Islands.)

THE PAST WEEK.

The following summary record of the weather for the week ending September 17, is furnished from the Meteorological Office:—

"The *weather* was fair and dry over the greater part of the Kingdom; but, dull, unsettled, and very rainy over the northern and western portions of Ireland and Scotland.

"The *temperature* was again below the mean in the north and west, but just equalled it in many parts of England, and slightly exceeded it in 'England, E.' The highest of the maxima were registered on rather irregular dates, and ranged from between 70° and 73° over the southern, eastern, and Midland districts, to 62° in 'Scotland, N.,' and 59° in 'Scotland, W.' The lowest of the minima were recorded at most stations during the middle part of the week, when the thermometer fell to between 33° and 40° over England, between 36° and 38° in Scotland, and to 34° in Ireland, but only to 45° in the 'Channel Islands.'

"The *rainfall* exceeded the mean in 'Scotland, N. and W.,' and also in 'Ireland, N.;' in 'Scotland, N.' the excess was very large. In all other parts of the Kingdom there was again a deficit, and in most of the English districts the fall was very slight.

"The *bright sunshine* was very little prevalent in the north and west, but a fair amount was recorded in most parts of England. The percentage of possible duration ranged from 61 in the 'Channel Islands,' to between 40 and 46 over eastern, southern, and south-western England, and to only 19 in 'Scotland, E.,' and 10 in 'Scotland, N.'"

Markets.

COVENT GARDEN, September 22.

Market quiet. *James Webber, Wholesale Apple Market.*

Fruit.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Apples, p. half-sieve	1 0– 3 6	Peaches, per doz.	2 0– 6 0
Grapes, per lb.	0 6– 1 6	Pine-apples, St. Michael	4 0– 6 0
Kent Filberts, per lb.	0 9– ...	Plums, p. half-sieve	2 0– 4 0
Lemons, per case	15 0–35 0		
Melons, each	0 6– 1 3		

Plants in Pots.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Adiantum, per doz.	4 0–12 0	Ferns, various, doz.	4 0– 9 0
Aspidistra, per doz.	15 0–30 0	— per 100	5 0– 8 0
— specimen, each	7 6–21 0	Ficus elastica, each	1 6– 7 6
Asters, per doz.	6 0 12 0	Fuchsia, per doz.	3 0– 6 0
Balsams, per doz.	3 0– 6 0	Heliotrope, per doz.	3 0– 6 0
Begonia, per doz.	6 0–12 0	Hydrangea, per doz.	9 0–18 0
Campanula, per doz.	6 0– 9 0	Lilium, various, doz.	18 0–30 0
Chrysanthemums, p. doz.	4 0–12 0	Marguerite, per doz.	6 0–12 0
— large plants, ea.	1 6– 2 6	Mignonette, doz. pots	4 0– 6 0
Coleus, per doz.	3 0– 6 0	Palms, various, each	2 0–10 0
Cyperus, per dozen	4 0–10 0	— specimens, each	10 6–84 0
Dracæna, each	1 0– 5 0	Pelargonium, p. doz.	6 0–12 0
		— scarlet, p. doz.	2 0– 4 0
		Solanums, per doz.	12 0–15 0

Cut Flowers.—Average Wholesale Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Arum, per doz. bl.	2 0– 4 0	Odontoglossum crispum, 12 blms.	2 0– 6 0
Asters, p. doz. bun.	4 0– 9 0	Mignonette, 12 bun.	2 0– 4 0
Carnations, 12 blms.	1 0– 2 0	Myosotis, or Forget-me-not, 12 bunches	2 6– 4 0
— 12 bunches	3 0– 6 0	Pansies	1 0– 2 0
Chrysanthemums, p. doz. blooms	0 6– 2 6	Pelargonium, scarlet, per 12 bun.	2 6– 4 0
— p. doz. bunches	3 0– 9 0	— 12 sprays	0 6– 1 0
Cornflower, 12 bun.	1 6– 3 0	Poppies, 12 bunches	2 0– 4 0
Eucharis, per dozen	2 0– 4 0	Primula, double	4 0– 6 0
Gardenia, per dozen	1 6– 3 0	Pyrethrum	2 0– 4 0
Gladiolus, doz. bun.	6 0–12 0	Roses, Tea, per dozen	1 0– 2 0
— p. doz. spikes	1 0– 2 0	— coloured, dozen	1 0– 1 6
Heliotrope, per doz. sprays	0 3– 0 6	— yellow (Maréchals), per doz.	2 0– 5 0
Lavender, doz. bun.	5 0– 7 0	— red, per dozen	1 0– 2 0
Lilium Harrisii, doz.	2 0– 4 0	— outdoor, 12 bun.	2 0– 6 0
— various, do.	1 0– 3 0	Stephanotis, 1 sprays	1 6– 3 0
Maiden Hair Fern, 12 bunches	4 0– 6 0	Stocks, doz. bunches	3 0– 4 0
Marguerite, per doz. bunches	3 0– 4 0	Sunflower, doz. bun.	2 0– 6 0
Orchids:—		Sweet Peas, doz. bun.	1 0– 3 0
Cattleya, 12 blms.	6 0–12 0	— Sultan, 12 bun.	1 6– 3 0
		Tuberose, 12 blms.	0 3– 0 6

Orchid-bloom in variety.

Vegetables. — Average Retail Prices.

	s. d. s. d.		s. d. s. d.
Artichokes Globe, ea.	0 4– 0 6	Mushrooms, punnet	2 0–
Beans, French, lb.	2 6– 3 0	Mustard and Cress, punnet	0 4– ...
Beet, red, per dozen	2 0– 3 0	Parsley per bunch	0 3– 0 6
Carrots, per bunch	0 4– 0 6	Shallots, per lb.	0 6– ...
Cauliflowers, each	0 3– 0 6	Spinach, per bushel	3 6– ...
Cucumbers, each	0 4– 0 8	Tomatos, per lb.	0 4– 0 9
Endive, per dozen	2 0– 3 0	Turnips, per bunch	0 4– 0 6
Herbs, per bunch	0 9– 1 0		
Lettuces, per doz.	1 6– 2 0		

Potatos.

Markets remain dull, and prices low. At our railway Potato depots, stocks have been increasing. Best samples off bright soils, 60s. to 70s.; do., dark, 45s. to 55s. *J. B. Thomas.*

Mr. George Bond, of Clematis Cottage, Lydbury, North Shropshire, died, we regret to hear, on August 16, aged 86 years. Mr. Bond was in his youth employed in Kew Gardens, and his first visit to Walcot, the Shropshire seat of the Earl of Powis, was to paint a sketch of a very fine specimen of the Mango tree. Subsequently he accepted the position of head gardener, which he retained for the long period of forty-seven years, during which time he served three Earls of Powis. By the last Earl, owing to his advanced age, he was eight years ago pensioned off. A note as to a very fine Douglas Fir which Mr. Bond planted in the gardens at Walcot appeared in THE GARDEN of September 10 (p. 224).

Bond, George.—A young gardener at Kew, who succeeded Thomas Duncanson in 1826 as Botanical Artist to Kew. In 1835 he became gardener to the Earl of Powis at Walton. His drawings of about 1700 plants are in the collection in the Herbarium.

1892.

BOND the Reverend George of Sandfield House Roby Lancashire clerk died 1 February 1892 Probate Liverpool 27 April to Margaret Bond widow Effects £81 14*s.* 3*d.*

BOND George of Bute Lodge Kew Road Richmond Surrey gentleman died 27 February 1892 Probate London 21 July to George Henry Breadmore estate agent Tom Bond Clode butcher and Charles Robinson solicitor Effects £4916 14*s.*

BOND George of Clematis Cottage Lydbury North Salop gardener died 6 September 1892 Probate London 1 October to Julia Bond spinster Effects £530 15*s.* 5*d.*

BOND George Hawkesworth of the Grange Isle of Purbeck Dorset esquire M.P. died 5 November 1891 Probate Blandford 17 June to Nathaniel Bond esquire Effects £9934 10*s.*

BOND Henrietta of 29 Hope Street West Bromwich spinster died 16 January 1892 Probate Lichfield 1 February to Sarah Bond spinster Effects £153 18*s.* 11*d.*

BOND Henry Cooper of Ipswich tanner died 20 October 1891 Probate Ipswich 22 February to George Fiske farmer and Henry Kendall Bond solicitor Effects £149132 7*s.* 8*d.* resworn January 1893 £150336 15*s.* 7*d.*

BOND Isaac of Newton Poppleford Devon army pensioner formerly sergeant of Coldstream Guards died 14 March 1892 Probate Exeter 13 April to Hermon Bolt Sellek farmer Effects £290 19*s.* 2*d.*

BOND Isabella Marie of 47 Montpelier Road Brighton widow died 30 January 1892 Probate Lewes 28 April to Caroline Frances Leathem spinster Effects £74 2*s.* 6*d.*

BOND James of 10 Jameson Street Notting Hill Gate Middlesex died 24 February 1892 Probate London 23 April to Sarah Ann Bond spinster Effects £557 17*s.* 10*d.*

BOND James of Walford Creech St. Michael Somerset labourer died 2 May 1892 Probate Taunton 17 December to Hannah Bond widow Effects £50.

BOND Jessie Ann of Brimington Hall Chesterfield (wife of George Bond) died 12 September 1892 Administration Derby 25 November to the said George Bond ironfounder Effects £141 0*s.* 9*d.*

BOND John of 25 Lord Street Morecambe Lancashire fish merchant died 21 January 1892 Probate Lancaster 17 February to Richard Bond James Bond and Robert Bond fishermen and Alice Bond spinster Effects £588 19*s.* 10*d.*

BOND John of 43 Gloucester Street Brighton beerhouse keeper died 30 May 1892 Administration Lewes 21 July to Fanny Bond widow Effects £33 3*s.* 3*d.*

BOND Mahlah of 96 Manchester Old Road Heaton Chapel Lancashire widow died 5 December 1892 Administration Manchester 29 December to Peter Adolphus Bond warehouseman Effects £162.

BOND Marian of Halifax Yorkshire spinster died 15 February 1892 Probate London 31 March to Joseph Edmondson electrician and Thomas Collinson coal merchant Effects £140 6*s.* 8*d.*

BOND Mary of 3 Pulteney Street Bath spinster died 30 March 1892 Administration Bristol 29 April to Jane Head widow Effects £8 3*s.* 6*d.*

BOND Mary of Chelmsford spinster died 8 July 1870 Administration London 12 December to Margaret Bond widow Effects £1354 3*s.* 4*d.* Former grant February 1877.

BOND Mary Anne of 15 Parsonage Road Withington Manchester spinster died 13 November 1892 Probate Manchester 28 November to Joseph John Bond civil service clerk Effects £130 2*s.* 1*d.*

BOND Reuben of High Street Tettenhall Staffordshire plumber died 14 October 1892 Administration Lichfield 22 November to Margaret Elizabeth Bond widow Effects £216 14*s.*

BOND Robert of 13 Prospect Street Kingston-upon-Hull glass and china merchant died 20 October 1891 Administration London 7 March to John Soulby managing director of Yorkshire Discount Company and Thomas Empringham accountant Effects £386.

BOND Robert of Centre Row Sabden Lancashire labourer died 1 May 1892 Probate Lancaster 7 July to Sarah Bond widow Effects £151 10*s.*

BOND Sarah of 21 Carlyle Square Chelsea Middlesex single woman died 12 April 1892 Probate London 10 August to Thomas Doddrell postmaster Effects £1021 15*s.* 6*d.*

BOND Sarah of 2 Middleton Villas Adelaide Square New Windsor widow died 18 August 1892 Probate Oxford 9 September to Elizabeth White spinster and George William Plumridge registrar of births and deaths Effects £1537 18*s.* 6*d.*

BOND the Honourable Selina Jane commonly called Lady Selina Jane of Creech Grange Wareham Dorset (wife of Nathaniel Bond esquire) died 17 December 1891 at Weymouth Dorset Administration London 11 March to the said Nathaniel Bond Effects £283 15*s.* 1*d.*

once destroy. A few penceworth of tar employed in this way will, without any further trouble, be the means of destroying numbers of these insects, whose larvæ are among the most destructive pests the gardener or farmer has to contend against.

—— It is stated in the Italian papers that the recent HAIL-STORM AT MILAN was of unusual violence. Many persons who took refuge from it in the Victor Emmanuel Gallery were in great danger from the broken glass which fell upon them, and had to seek shelter in the shops. All vegetation in and about the city suffered greatly, and many birds killed by the hail-stones were found in the streets.

—— HORTICULTURAL PROFANITY.—The *Norristown* (Pa.) *Herald* says that a man in Lower Marion wrote to the editor of a horticultural journal, and asked "What are the most advantageous additions to dried Grasses for winter ornaments?" The editor replied: "Acroclinium roseum, A. alba, Gomphrena globosa, and G. globosa carnea." When the Lower Marion man read this he fairly boiled with rage, and immediately sent a note to the editor ordering the paper to be discontinued. He said no editor who swore that way, just because he asked a simple question, should have his support.

—— I HAVE seen several queries as to how to DESTROY ANTS, and I give you my experience of fifteen years in New-Mexico, where there are a great many. We have three ways of getting rid of them. 1. If they are where they can be stirred up with a hoe, persistently stirring up the nest every day or two will eventually run them away. 2. Pouring a little coal oil on their nest every few days until they are all killed or have left 3. Make a mortar bed of their nest, stirring the ants in with the mud, and after having made their nest into mortar carry the mortar away. Either of the three ways will rid you of them if well done; but as perseverance is one of the main characteristics of the ant, those who would get rid of them must also be persistent.

—— IN some of the papers an allusion is made to the old practice of using CLOTH COVERS FOR COLD FRAMES. These are sufficient for protecting hardy plants, but will not answer for such tender kinds as Tomato, Egg Plant, and Peppers, until very late in spring. They have been tested by our market gardeners and found wanting, as the destructibility of muslin is so easy and rapid they have not been found to pay. The regular glazed hotbed sashes, now made by machinery so cheaply, are much better adapted to the purpose, and last so long that they cannot well be superseded by the cheap contrivances that quickly become, in a manner, useless.

DEATH OF MR. W. B. BOOTH.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. W. Beattie Booth, a name honourably known in the world of horticulture for half a century. Mr. Booth died at his house in New Road, Hammersmith, on the 18th inst., aged seventy, and will, no doubt, be lamented by a large circle of friends. He was born, we believe, in Perthshire, and at an early age was placed under his uncle, Mr. Beattie, then gardener to the Earl of Mansfield at Scone Palace—the school in which David Douglas, Robert Fish, and other celebrities were trained. On coming to London he entered the gardens of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick, where he acted in the capacity of garden clerk till 1830, when he left to fill the situation of gardener to Sir Charles Lemon, at Carclew, in Cornwall. While at Chiswick he published, in conjunction with Mr. Alfred Chandler, of the Vauxhall Nursery, a work called "Camellia Britannica," for which Mr. Chandler made the drawings and Mr. Booth wrote the letterpress. Only a few parts ever appeared, as it was found to be a commercial failure. During the time Mr. Booth was at Chiswick he kept the meteorological register for four years, from 1826 to 1830, when he left for Carclew. He also contributed several papers to the "Transactions" of the Horticultural Society, and subsequently to the periodicals of the day.

Though he went as gardener to Carclew, he soon received promotion, and when he left in 1853 he filled the office of land steward and general superintendent of the estate. So highly was he esteemed, that when he left Cornwall he received the presentation of a handsome silver salver, with this inscription: "Presented by the tenants and workmen of Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., residing in the parish of Mylor, Cornwall, to William Beattie Booth, Esq., on his leaving Carclew, as a small but sincere token of their regard and esteem. August, 1853."

Through being a share proprietor in the Royal British Bank, when that failed Mr. Booth sustained considerable loss of property, and he then for a time held the office of Assistant Secretary to the Horticultural Society, an office which he held with much credit; and all who came in contact with him will remember how courteously he performed its duties. When the Society became "Royal," and went to South Kensington, its objects, or rather projects, were so grand, and its aims so elevated, that a gentleman of Mr. Booth's practical turn could not see any of them, and so he retired, leaving it to others of a more adventurous and self-sufficient constitution to carry them out. How they did it everybody knows. Mr. Booth continued to be a member of the Floral Committee of the Society till the day of his death, and was also an Associate of the Linnean Society.

NATIVE MOSSES.

I HAVE looked with great interest for a few lines from some of your contributors, but have failed to find any, on those beautiful plants our native Mosses. Being a gardener in Kent, and not a great way from that famous place Keston Common, I and a friend paid a visit to it a few evenings back, and we found it completely matted together on all sides of us with beautiful Mosses, many of which deserve an important place in cultivation. The humble and apparently insignificant Moss is an active agent in some of the most important changes of Nature; by the large amount of moisture which it absorbs, its decay and subsequent renewal in succession, the hardest rock upon which not even a blade of grass could grow becomes covered in the course of years with a stratum of fertile soil, supporting luxuriant trees. At first a little dust is blown into the interstices of the rock, into which are also driven by the winds some of the seeds of the Moss from a less sterile spot; here they vegetate, and the hitherto naked rock becomes covered with pretty green tufts, which, spreading wider and wider year after year, its whole surface is at length covered with the smiling carpet of Nature. The continual growth and decay of the Mosses and other small plants gradually increases the thickness of the soil, until at last the noblest trees of the forest clothe the once hard and barren rock with the richest products and the grandest vegetation. Thus sandy heaths and deserts are converted into verdant and fruitful fields.—J. H., *Gardener to B. F. Overbery, Esq., The Trellis, Bickley.*

A SCARECROW.

IT is well known that blue and scarlet colours in juxtaposition cause a dazzling effect on the eye. These colours strung on a line and placed over Strawberry beds produce a puzzling effect on birds, and no bird will enter the garden while these colours flutter in the air. Pieces of blue and scarlet calico should be cut about 1½ foot in length, and tied to a line 1 foot apart. An old flannel petticoat will supply a large quantity of inexpensive scarlet strips. This line is to be supported by poles 6 feet in height from the Strawberry beds. To support Strawberries, keeping them clean and enabling them to ripen all round, take a piece of stout wire a yard in length, bend it at right angles 10 inches from each end, bend the space between the right angles into a curve. Stamp these two ends 6 inches in depth into the earth close to the Strawberry plants, then draw the fruit over the wire, each plant requiring two. To prevent rusting place the wires in creosote three or four days, and then dry them.—OBSERVER.

NORMANTON PARK.

THE SEAT OF LORD AVELAND.

DYER, in his poem "The Fleece," dwells on

> "The clover'd lawns
> And sunny mounts of beauteous Normanton,
> Health's cheerful haunt, and the selected walk
> Of Heathcote's leisure."

It was named after the Normanvilles, who became its possessors at the Conquest. From them it passed to the De Basings, Mackworths, and Heathcotes.

The situation of this place is well chosen; the hall is built on high ground, commanding extensive views of the most picturesque scenes in this part of the county of Rutland. In the distance are seen the woods of Exton and Burley-on-the-Hill, and in the valley there is a large stream of water which has been formed into a lake, with an island in the middle. This lake is seen from the windows and the flower garden, and adds much to the beauty of the scenery. There is a good-sized deer park, in which there are some fine avenues of trees,

are always increased by pipings. Going once into a small garden in July, the owner of which was a fancier of Pinks, we saw a handlight or two placed amid some Currant bushes. They were used for striking the pipings under. A small square bed, corresponding to the size of the handlight, was made up of some light sandy soil—white sand is almost or quite indispensable to striking cuttings of Pinks—and in this the pipings were inserted thickly, and the light placed over them. Here they took root well, and but very few were lost. A cool bottom, a shady spot, and suitable soil being provided, there is no reason why plenty of Pink pipings should not be raised in this way. Many business men residing in suburban villas are in the habit of taking a few cut flowers to town with them every day. Pinks are very enduring when cut, and with Roses, Brompton and Intermediate Stocks, some Sweet Peas, a few sprigs of early-sown Mignonette, and a few trusses of a large-flowered Pelargonium, make up a posy of sweet-scented flowers fit to set before a queen.

The recent dry, cold weather has brought with it visitations from all kinds of vermin, grouped under the general head of blight. Peach and Plum trees especially, in the fruit garden, appear to be this season affected; and if the ravages of these pests are to be stayed, constant attention is essential. The trees must be looked over, and all curled leaves affected by blight should be picked off and destroyed. Syringing (unless some preparation of a destructive character is used) appears to be of little avail; the removal of the affected leaves, and water at the roots in dry weather, are the best remedies—the one to get rid of the insect agency, the other to force the trees into growth. All late-planted fruit trees, and especially wall trees, should be constantly watered and kept mulched by placing some manure on the surface of the soil about the roots. It must not be forgotten that the present is a critical time in wall-tree cultivation, for the trees are now making the growth that will develope the fruit-buds for another season; and unless there be the production of a healthy, vigorous foliage now, the prospects of a fruit crop for another season will be indeed uncertain. Especially should the cultivator guard against the plants becoming dry at the roots.

There is one thing window gardeners are apt to overlook during summer, and that is the necessity that exists for cleansing the leaves of the plants from the deposits of dust that will be certain to lodge on them, especially in the streets of London. The most tastefully arranged boxes lose much in the matter of effect, while positive injury is done to the plants. Vegetable physiologists tell us that the leaves of a plant play an important part in the economy of Nature, and that if the delicate pores become covered with a crust of dirt a certain derangement will follow. Nothing can be handier and more easily worked as a cleansing medium than a small lady's syringe. The window can be lifted, and from the interior the fine spray emitted by the syringe can be brought into play on the leaves of the plants without injury to the flowers. It is very seldom that a steady mild rain can reach window plants on the exterior of the sill—parapet, cornices, blinds, and other contrivances, interfere with its descent. On a gusty day especially a great deal of dust is gathered up by the wind and deposited on the plants. A daily syringing should be applied in such weather.

Obituary.

William Beattie Booth died June 18, aged 70. Such is the announcement in the daily papers of the death of one of the most refined and talented of the gardeners of the present age, one of the kindest and gentlest of men, and one who was endowed with intellectual qualities of no common order. Mr. Booth appears to have been a native of Perthshire, and was initiated in the art of gardening at Scone Palace, under his uncle, Mr. Beattie. When about twenty years of age, in February, 1824, he entered the garden of the Horticultural Society at Chiswick, as a labourer in the arboretum department, and was transferred in August of the same year as an under-gardener to the Experimental Department. While employed at Chiswick he assisted Dr. Lindley in laying out the garden, and also in planting the trees forming the arboretum. In July, 1825, he was appointed garden clerk, which post he occupied for several years. During this period he commenced the meteorological observations for which Chiswick afterwards came to be renowned, and these were continued by him up to June, 1830, when they were taken up by the late Mr. Robert Thompson. In 1830 he assisted Mr. Alfred Chandler in the publication of his *Illustrations of the Camellieæ*, which was published in numbers, the drawings being made by Mr. Chandler and the descriptions by Mr. Booth. Of this work Loudon, in his *Gardeners' Magazine* for that year, remarks, "It is highly creditable to the gardening profession that there should be found two young men, the one an assistant in his father's nursery, and the other with no pretensions beyond those of a good gardener—and who, we understand, has actually accepted the situation of head gardener to a gentleman—capable of producing such a work. It is true that the one, from having been born in a nursery famous for its Camellias, and the other from having had an excellent school education in Scotland, having been bred up under one of the best kitchen gardeners in that country, Mr. Beattie, of Scone, and having long been first gardener and afterwards clerk in the Horticultural Society's Garden, have had extraordinary advantages; but how frequently are such advantages comparatively neglected! We are proud to see such young men growing up to succeed us in the world, and think we feel almost as much interest in them as if they were our own sons." In 1830, as referred to by Loudon, he went to Carclew, near Penryn, as gardener to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., and, in the *Gardeners' Magazine* for 1837 we read, "New kitchen gardens, with flower gardens and shrubberies attached, are now forming at Carclew under the direction of Mr. Beattie Booth. Mr. Rutger, who has lately returned from that part of the country, and has visited these gardens, speaks of them as among the most interesting he ever saw." During this period Mr. Booth's name frequently appears in the *Botanical Register*, attached to descriptions of new plants flowered at Carclew, and which he communicated to Dr. Lindley. Amongst other now familar plants Echeveria secunda was thus named and first described by him, the description appearing in the *Botanical Register* for 1838, misc. 112, and a figure in the volume of the same work for 1840 (t. 57).

Mr. Booth continued to superintend the gardens and estates at Carclew until 1853. In 1858, in consequence of the death of Dr. Royle, certain changes were made in the official staff of the Horticultural Society. At that time Dr. Lindley was appointed to succeed Dr. Royle, while the post of assistant secretary was handed over to Mr. Booth, who for some few years thereafter conducted the business arrangements of the Society with an ability, combined with suavity and gentlemanly bearing, which did much to make the Society popular. On the removal of the Society to South Kensington the increased business incidental to the more enlarged operations of the Society—now the Royal Horticultural—was too much for Mr. Booth's failing health, and he consequently resigned his post, and has since lived in retirement, continuing, however, his services to the Society as a member of the Floral Committee, at which, however, his attendances for some time past have, owing to infirmity, been few. In him the members of that body, and the profession at large, have lost one of their brightest ornaments and most perfect exemplars.

In 1825, then merely a young gardener, Mr. Booth was elected an Associate of the Linnean Society, an honour which he had thus enjoyed for nearly half a century. *T. M.*

Variorum.

Sale of the Meadowbank Orchids.—At the last day's sale at Steven's Rooms, on the 19th inst., the following prices were realised:—Vanda suavis Patersoni, 100*s.*; Aerides purpurascens, 294*s.* and 180*s.*; Saccolabium Dayanum rubescens, 200*s.*; S. Dayanum maculatum, 110*s.*, 105*s.* and 140*s.*; Aerides Lobbii delicata, 180*s.*; Vanda insignis, 120*s.*; Cattleya Mendelii, 100*s.*, 105*s.*, 160*s.* and 210*s.*; Cypripedium Stonei, 200*s.*; Vanda cristata grandiflora, 160*s.*; Cattleya Warscewiczii picturata, 150*s.*; C. Trianæ rubra superba, 130*s.*; C. Trianæ superba, 120*s.*; C. Trianæ picturata, 160*s.* and 100*s.*; C. Warneri pallida, 105*s.*; C. Mossiæ, 130*s.*; Cymbidium Mastersii, 100*s.*; Miltonia Clowesii superba, 160*s.*; Cypripedium barbatum superbum, 200*s.*; Odontoglossum grande giganteum, 210*s.*; Anguloa Clowesii, 420*s.*; Zygopetalum Wallisii, 170*s.*; Odontoglossum hystrix, 140*s.*; O. nævium majus, 178*s.* 6*d.*; Masdevallia, the Lindeni variety of Harryana, 130*s.*; M. Harryana violacea, 100*s.*; M. Veitchiana, 110*s.*; M. coccinea, 190*s.*; Epidendrum vitellinum, 110*s.*; Odontoglossum citrosmum, 220*s.*; Lælia autumnalis grandiflora, 190*s.* and 168*s.*; Miltonia Regnelii superba, 110*s.*; Odontoglossum nebulosum giganteum, 170*s.*; Cymbidium Mastersii, 120*s.*; Zygopetalum rostratum, 100*s.*; Cattleya maxima grandis, 130*s.*; Dendrochilum filiforme, 160*s.*; Disa grandiflora kermesina, 90*s.*; Dendrobium chrysanthum, 252*s.*; D. moniliforme, 130*s.*; D. Farmerii, 105*s.*; D. tortile roseum, 160*s.*; D. heterocarpum, 120*s.*; Lælia elegans superba, 170*s.*; Cattleya Eldorado splendens, 231*s.*; Cypripedium, like caudatum, 178*s.* 6*d.*; Lælia Perrinni major, 130*s.*; Cattleya Regnelii, 180*s.*; Lælia anceps Dawsoni, 252*s.*; Oncidium zebrinum, 220*s.*; O. varicosum, 120*s.* Amount sold on the third day, over £1000. Total amount of three days, over £3000.

The Weather.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
For the Week ending Wednesday, June 24, 1874.

Month and Day.	Barometer: Mean Reading Reduced to 32 Fahr.	Barometer: Departure from Average of 18 Years.	Temperature of the Air: Highest.	Temperature of the Air: Lowest.	Temperature of the Air: Range.	Temperature of the Air: Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air: Departure of Mean from Average of 50 Years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition: Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition: Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind: Average Direction	Rainfall.
June	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
18	30.11	+0.32	59.8	51.3	8.5	54.0	− 5.1	50.9	89	NNE: N.E.	0.00
19	30.07	+0.28	66.7	49.6	17.1	54.0	− 5.2	48.6	82	N.E.: S.E.	0.00
20	30 01	+0.22	59.7	48.3	11.4	52.1	− 7.4	49.7	92	SE: E	0.00
21	29.84	+0.04	68.6	42.5	26.1	54.6	− 5.3	44.4	69	E.	0.00
22	29 81	0.00	75.3	40.1	35.2	58.2	− 2.1	48.5	71	S.W.	0 00
23	29.81	0.00	73.3	49.8	23.5	59.8	− 0.9	51.4	74	S.W.	0.00
24	29.68	−0.14	68.4	53.0	15.4	57.4	− 3.8	51.8	81	S.W.	0.47

June 18.—Overcast.
— 19.—Overcast during the morning; fine and partially overcast in the evening; again overcast at night.
— 20.—Overcast; a little thin rain fell between noon and 1 P.M.
— 21.—A very fine day. Small amounts of light cloud were at times present.
— 22.—Light clouds were generally prevaleot till evening; cloudless after 8 P.M. Lowest reading of thermometer on grass, 32°.
— 23.—Generally cloudy, but fine.
— 24.—The weather was variable, and requent heavy thundershowers fell.

—— In the neighbourhood of the metropolis the reading of the barometer at the level of the sea increased from 30.39 inches at the commencement of the week to 30.54 inches by the morning of the 15th, decreased to 30.11 inches by 9 A.M. on the 17th, increased to 30.31 inches by the evening of the 18th, and was 30.17 inches at the end of the week. The mean reading for the period was 30.29 inches, being 0.05 inch higher than that of the preceding week, and the departure in excess of the average of the corresponding week, as deduced from observations extending over eighteen years, was 0.32 inches. It is also worthy of remark that the readings of the barometer have been above the average on every day since the commencement of the present month, to the mean amount of 0.27 inch.

The mean of the highest temperatures by day was 65°, the extremes being 70¾° on the 15th, and 59¾° on the 20th. The lowest temperatures at night ranged from 51¼° on the 18th, to 41¼° on the 14th, with a mean value of 47½°. The mean daily range of temperature was 17½°, the greatest being 27¼° on the 15th, and the least 8½° on the 18th. The mean daily temperatures of the air were as follows:—14th, 51°.3; 15th, 55°.1; 16th, 53°.8; 17th, 55°.3; 18th 54°; 19th, 54°; 20th, 52°.1; and the departures in defect of their respective averages were 7°.7, 3°.9, 5°.2, 3°.7, 5°.1, 5°.2, 7°.4; therefore the mean temperature for the week was 53°.7, or 5°.5 below the average of the same week as deduced from fifty years' observations. On the 15th a thermometer with blackened bulb in vacuo, placed on grass in the full rays of the sun, read as high as 163°, and on the 16th and 19th the highest readings of this instrument were 144° and 146° respectively. The lowest readings at night of a thermometer on grass with its bulb fully exposed to the sky were 32° on the 14th, and 35° on the 15th. The sky was overcast throughout on the 18th and 20th, and generally so on the 16th; and on the other days, though the weather was fine, large amounts of cloud were frequently prevalent.

The general direction of the wind was N.N.E., and its strength was gentle, except on the 16th, when a brisk breeze was experienced; the horizontal movement of the air between midnight on the 15th and midnight on the 16th being 460 miles. Rain fell on two days, viz., the 16th and 17th, and the amount collected was 0.56 inch.

In England the extreme high day temperatures ranged from 76° at Wolverhampton to 63° at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the general average over the country being 69¾°. The extreme low night temperatures varied from 45° at Sunderland to 37° at Hull, with a general average of 41½°. The mean range of temperature in the week from all stations was 28¼°, being as high as 34¾° at Wolverhampton, and as low as 19¾° at Norwich. The mean high temperatures observed by day ranged between 65° at Blackheath and Liverpool and 56¼° at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the general average being 62°. The mean low temperatures observed by night varied from 48° at Liverpool to 44° at Newcastle-on-Tyne, with an average value of 46½°. The mean daily range of temperature in the week was 15½°. The mean temperature for the week was 52½°, the highest being at Sheffield and Liverpool, 54¾°

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. W. Beattie Booth, which took place on the 18th inst. at his residence, in the New Road, Hammersmith. In old times, he was garden clerk at Chiswick, from which he went to Carclew, a Cornish estate, where he was general manager for very many years. He afterwards held the office of assistant-secretary to the Royal Horticultural Society until its removal to South Kensington. During his long and honourable career he made many friends, to whom his death must be a sad loss.

5. "Monograph of the Lepidopterous Genus *Castnia* and some allied Groups." By J. O. Westwood, Esq., F.L.S.

6. "On the Subfamilies Antichlorinæ and Charideinæ." By A. G. Butler, Esq., F.L.S.

7. "On *Valencinia Armandi*, a new Nemertean.' By W. C. M'Intosh, M.D., F.L.S.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

Nathaniel Laurence Austen was elected a Fellow on the 20th of January, 1870. He died on the 9th of August, 1874, from the effects of a fall from his horse, in the 28th year of his age.

William Beattie Booth was a native of Perthshire, and was educated in the art of gardening at Scone Palace, under his uncle, Mr. Beattie. When about twenty years of age, in February 1824, he entered the garden of the Horticultural Society, at Chiswick, as a labourer in the arboretum department, and was transferred in August of the same year, as an under-gardener, to the experimental department. While employed at Chiswick he assisted Dr. Lindley in laying out the garden, and also in planting the trees forming the arboretum. In July 1825 he was appointed garden clerk, which post he occupied for several years. During this period he commenced the meteorological observations for which Chiswick afterwards became renowned; and these were continued by him up to June 1830, when they were taken up by the late Mr. Robert Thompson. In 1830 he assisted Mr. Alfred Chandler in the publication of his 'Illustrations of the Camellieæ,' which was published in numbers, the drawings being made by Mr.

Chandler and the descriptions by Mr. Booth. In 1830 Mr. Booth went to Carclew, as gardener to Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., and new kitchengardens, with flower-gardens and shrubberies attached, were formed under his direction. During this period Mr. Booth's name frequently appears in the 'Botanical Register' attached to descriptions of new plants flowered at Carclew, and which he communicated to Dr. Lindley. Amongst other now familiar plants *Echeveria secunda* was thus named and first described by him, the description appearing in the 'Botanical Register' for 1838, and a figure in the volume of the same work for 1840 (t. 57).

Mr. Booth continued to superintend the gardens and estates at Carclew until 1853. In 1858, in consequence of the death of Dr. Royle, certain changes were made in the official staff of the Horticultural Society. At that time Dr. Lindley was appointed to succeed Dr. Royle, while the post of Assistant-Secretary was handed over to Mr. Booth, who for some few years thereafter conducted the business arrangements of the Society with an ability and courtesy which did much to make the Society popular. On the removal of the Society to South Kensington the increased business incidental to the more enlarged operations of the Society —now the Royal Horticultural—was too much for Mr. Booth's failing health, and he consequently resigned his post. He afterwards lived in retirement, but continued his services to the Society as a member of the Floral Committee, at which, however, his attendances, owing to infirmity, were few.

Mr. Booth was elected an Associate in 1825, and died on the 18th of June, 1874, at the age of 70.

Mr. Thomas Corder was elected an Associate on the 15th of January, 1833, and died on the 15th of October, 1874.

Dr. Bhau Dajee was born in 1823, in the village of Manjeren, near Sawunt Warree. His parents were in poor circumstances, and when he was about seven years of age they came to Bombay, bringing him with them. He was first placed in the native Education Society's Schools in Bombay, and afterwards went to the Elphinstone College. There he took a foremost place amongst the scholars, and was noted for his ability and unremitting application to his studies. The highest scholarships were taken by him, and he was specially rewarded with a gold medal. When his studies were concluded he was appointed Assistant Professor of Chemistry

BOOTH William Beattie.

Effects under £3,000.

18 July. The Will of William Beattie Booth late of Spring Villa Gold-Hawk-road in the Parish of Hammersmith in the County of **Middlesex** Gentleman who died 18 June 1874 at Spring Villa was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Frederick Besch of 11 Hanover-street Hanover-square in the said County and Henry Joseph Dowden of 281 Vauxhall-Bridge-road in the said County Gentlemen the Executors.

BOOTHBY { The Reverend Evelyn.

Effects under £3,000.

10 July. Administration of the effects of the Reverend Evelyn Boothby late of Whitwell in the County of **Derby** Clerk who died 24 May 1874 at Coombe Bury near Kingston-on-Thames in the County of Surrey was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Margaretta Jane Boothby of Whitwell Widow the Relict.

BOOTHROYD John.

Effects under £1,000.

20 April. The Will with a Codicil of John Boothroyd late of Cliff Cottage Holmfirth in the County of **York** Gentleman who died 27 February 1874 at Cliff Cottage was proved at **Wakefield** by George Tinker of Hepworth in the said County Gentleman and Charles Tinker of Corner's Well Farm Penarth Cardiff in the County of Glamorgan Farmer the Executors.

BOOTHROYD Joseph.

Effects under £2,000.

2 July. The Will of Joseph Boothroyd formerly of Broomhill but late of 115 Crookes-road both in Sheffield in the County of **York** Cabinet Case Maker who died 9 June 1874 at 115 Crookes-road was proved at **Wakefield** by Ann Thorpe of 115 Crookes-road Spinster the sole Executrix.

BOOTHROYD Joshua.

Effects under £800.

19 November. Administration of the effects of Joshua Boothroyd late of Mill-lane Bowling in the Parish of Bradford in the County of **York** Iron Merchant who died 26 October 1874 at Mill-lane was granted at **Wakefield** to Elizabeth Boothroyd of 137 Mill-lane Widow the Relict.

BOOTHROYD Sarah.

Effects under £100.

18 April. Administration of the effects of Sarah Boothroyd late of Upperbridge Holmfirth in the County of **York** Widow who died 28 February 1874 at Upperbridge was granted at **Wakefield** to Helen Hallas (Wife of Elliott Hallas, Gutta Percha Dealer) of Upperbridge the Daughter and only Next of Kin.

BOOTHROYD William.

Effects under £200.

23 July. The Will of William Boothroyd late of Stockport in the County of **Chester** Power Loom Overlooker who died 9 July 1874 at 10 Club-row Daw Bank Stockport was proved at **Chester** by Betsey Boothroyd of 10 Club-row Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

BOOTLE John.

Effects under £300.

15 May. Administration of the effects of John Bootle late of the Parish of Ashton in Mackerfield in the County of **Lancaster** Beerseller a Widower who died 13 March 1860 at Ashton in Mackerfield was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Robert Bootle of Ince in Mackerfield in the said County Collier the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Bowie, James (*c.*1789–1869), *gardener and botanist*
by Richard Drayton
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Bowie, James (*c.*1789–1869), gardener and botanist, was born in London, son of an Oxford Street seedsman. From 1810 he was employed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. In 1814 he was chosen by Sir Joseph Banks, with Allan Cunningham, to collect plants for Kew, and set sail for Brazil with the promise that he would enjoy 'the afternoon of life ... in ease, comfort, and respectability' (Banks to Bowie, 18 Sept 1815, RBG Kew, 'Kew collectors'). He was ordered two years later to South Africa, where he arrived from Rio de Janeiro in November 1816. He explored the Cape, travelling by 1821 as far east as the Great Fish River. In 1823, however, he was recalled home and dismissed. In part this was due to 'liberal tory' fiscal retrenchment, which in 1822 halved the sum which parliament had annually voted since 1814 for Kew's botanical collectors, but Bowie was also thought to have been dilatory in crown service. He certainly gave false locations for plants, perhaps to ensure that, when his poorly paid and dangerous post finished, his services would remain valuable. He returned permanently to the Cape in 1827, writing that it offered a quality of life 'which did not often fall to the lot of the working classes in Europe' ('Relative merits of the Cape, America and Australia for emigration', *Gardener's Magazine*, 7, 1831, 490–96).

Bowie wrote the earliest guide to the Cape flora printed in South Africa (1829), and his botanical knowledge was famous: he was thought able to identify any plant presented to him, giving its local and Latin names, history, and uses. He advised on gardens, notably Baron Ludwig's botanical collection, and hunted plants with such success that W. H. Harvey considered him to have enriched Europe's gardens with more succulents than any other individual. His feats were honoured in the genera *Bowiea*, named by Harvey, and *Bowiesia*, named by R. K. Greville, but he enjoyed few more tangible rewards, growing old in poverty, an alcoholic dependent on charity. He died at Claremont, outside Cape Town, Cape Colony, on 2 July 1869.

RICHARD DRAYTON

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Robert Bowie

We give to-day the portrait of a gardener whose name has been for a very long period familiar in the gardening world—Mr. Robert Bowie, the highly respected gardener at Chillingham. His horticultural training and subsequent fields of operation are well set forth in the accompanying autobiographical notes: —

I was born August 29, 1817, at Hepburn Bell, one of the home farms of the Earl of Tankerville, of which for several years my father was manager, previous to coming to Chillingham as bailiff. He died there, much regretted, before I was ten years of age, but a good and kind mother was spared to me for thirty years after.

At the age of twelve years I was by his lordship ordered employment in the gardens during the summer, and in winter I was to continue at school until I was sufficiently educated. This I did the first year, but when the next summer was past my master (Mr. Guilfoyle) objected to my going to school in the winter. What education I afterwards got was at the night-school, to which I went regularly every winter until I was twenty-one. At first my work was anything but easy in the kitchen garden. When I got more strength I was sent with the men to assist at whatever was going on either in the gardens or outside grounds. At that time many alterations were being made both in the park and out of it. One thing very much in vogue then was removing large trees from one part of the place and replanting them in another, for the purpose of producing an immediate effect; also the making of roads, drives, and walks, in various directions. A new flower garden was laid out, and the grounds around the Castle very much enlarged.

Mr. Marshall, who for a long term of years previous to Mr. Guilfoyle coming, had been gardener, and also had the management of all the woods, made a new kitchen garden further from the Castle than the old one had been; some of the houses and all the inside walls for fruit trees were built and the trees planted in Mr. Guilfoyle's time. With him I served more than five years, until he left.

Mr. Brown succeeded him as gardener, and under him I had charge of the houses, pits, and frames, and likewise of the trees against the walls, &c., and assisted occasionally at any other work that was on hand. After being with him three years, I was engaged by a brother of Mr. Moffatt's to go to Clumber, but his lordship by some means got to know that I had done so, and objected to my leaving here; and from the kindness my mother had received at his hand from the time of my father's death 1 felt obliged out of gratitude to comply with his request.

After continuing on here for some time, I at last became tired of my situation, as I was making little or no progress in learning the business of a gardener, which long ere that I had determined to follow. I wrote to his lordship, thanking him for all the kindness I had received from him, and also informing him that I now intended looking out for a situation in which I might have an opportunity of further improvement. In a few days he wrote for me to come to Walton-on-Thames, which, on the death of the Dowager Lady Tankerville (his mother), had come into his possession. I need not say how willingly I responded to his request. Here I was put by Mr. Richardson to assist in the houses. On first looking through them I was almost ashamed to acknowledge my ignorance of nearly all the plants that they contained, having previously had little or no opportunity of learning the names of anything but hardy herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs. However, by the time I had been there twelve months I not only knew the names of most of them, but had also acquired some knowledge of the treatment they required. Mr. Richardson had in his day been an excellent plantsman, but at that time his memory was very much impaired; still for his years it was the best I ever knew. I had not been many days there when I was told by one of the men that he would not tell me the name of any plant twice, and as the most of them were without labels, I was under the necessity of asking him the names of those which the foreman could not tell me. On one occasion I had forgotten a name he had told me, and after several weeks I again asked him what it

was, when he very quietly said, 'I have told you that already,' and then walked away. I never more asked him the name of any plant a second time, but as soon as possible after he had told me, wrote it down, either on paper, or if I happened not to have any in my pocket, on the inside of the 'peak' of my cap. '

I had not been long there before I got the wall trees to look after; many of them were very old, but they produced large crops of good fruit, particularly of Peaches, Apricots, Pears and Grapes. Neither before nor since have I seen such good Muscadines as these were, and in such large quantities. As soon as the berries were fairly formed the bunches were thinned, and then put into bell-glasses that had been made for that purpose. One side of the glass was quite flat, with a small hole near the top, at which the bunch was introduced to the inside; it was then fastened by a string round the knob of the glass to a nail in the wall, and then a piece of fine canvas was tied over the mouth, and there the bunch remained secure against either weather or insects, until it was thoroughly ripe. Before frost set in what had not previously been cut for use were taken out and hung on wires inside cupboards in a small house with a glass front, in which was a flue for the purpose of excluding frost. Before they were all used some were a good deal shrivelled, they were, however, well flavoured, and of a golden hue.

By far the best plants in the houses were the Palms in the large stove. They had, however, got very much too large for the space allotted them, and not wishing to enlarge the house his lordship made a present of them to the Duke of Devonshire to help furnish the large conservatory at Chatsworth, In the summer of 1840 I assisted at the taking up and packing of them, which at that time was considered rather a hazardous undertaking, Many gardeners came from a considerable distance to see the operations when we were busy with them. Mr. Paxton was most particular in having every root saved, in order that their removal might be successful. We were a long lime over the job; they were, however, well worth taking every pains with, for they were really splendid plants, and afterwards did well. Some time after they had been got safely to their destination, Mr. Paxton returned to Walton to settle accounts. After giving us young men (there were three of us) very handsome presents in money, he also presented each of us with a copy of his Botanical Dictionary, which at that time I valued highly, and often afterwards consulted when uncertain as to the correct spelling of names.

Mr. Richardson was a good practical gardener and strict disciplinarian, but if a young man attended to his duty he was a kind master. When the alterations were going on at Chillingham, he was in the habit of coming down for a month or two every year, when his lordship was here, for the purpose of giving his advice when anything particular was in contemplation, and to him the credit is due for many of the improvements made at that time,

Things went on very pleasantly with me during the time I was with him, and when he thought that he had not a chance of teaching me much more, he very kindly recommended me to Mr. Toward, manager to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, at Bagshot Park, and to him I went in the spring of 1841, and was employed in the kitchen garden. I had not been long there when the foreman left, and I got that situation, Bagshot was then an excellent place for a youngman, gardening in every department being pretty well carried out . The demand for fruit and vegetables for the supply of Her Royal Highness' establishment, not only when at Bagshot, but also when in London, was something considerable; and the garden not being of great extent, we were under the necessity of keeping that part devoted to the production of vegetables nearly always under crop. No sooner was one variety cleared off than the ground was prepared for another. Of fruit we generally had a fair supply of all the hardy sorts, and, for the number of houses, rather more than an average quantity of forced fruits. Pines (mostly Queens, during the time I was there) were well grown; and Mr. Toward informed me the year after I left, that my succession plants had produced heavier fruit than any he had

ever had. The chances which young men there had of learning were highly favourable; not only was Mr. Toward well up in his profession, but he was also most willing to communicate what he knew to those under him. There were also the nurseries of Mr. John Waterer and Mr. Standish at Bagshot, at each of which the young men from the Park always got a kind reception. Many a "wrinkle" we picked up in them during our evening rambles. For the greater part of the time that I was there Mr. Standish's was my "home house," where, when at liberty, I generally spent the evening.

I had only been with Mr. Toward about two years when, in the autumn of 1842, I was requested by the Earl of Tankerville to come to Chillingham, to take charge of the gardens, &c., and accordingly I took farewell of Bagshot and the kind friends I had there, and returned here—and here I have since remained. I have but little more to tell. This, however, I can say: that I have always endeavoured to do my duty not only to my employers, but also to those under me. No doubt I have made some alterations and additions in the grounds and gardens, and I wonder who would not have done so during the time that I have "had the management of them. I have perhaps done more by way of ornamenting "the home of the wild cattle," the park, than in any other department. The hardier varieties of Conifers have been planted rather largely, and are now many of them fine specimens. I have also added some plantations of useful forest trees to those formerly on the estate.

After the death of the late Earl of Tankerville I was continued in my situation by his son, the present Earl, and have invariably been treated with great kindness by my employers and all the members of their family."

Obituary.

ROBERT BOWIE.—We regret to announce the death of Robert Bowie, which occurred at Wooler on Sunday, Sept. 1, whilst saying grace at dinner. The deceased was born August 29, 1817, at Hepburn Hall, one of the home farms of the Earl of Tankerville, of which for several years his father was the manager, previous to going to Chillingham as bailiff.

He commenced his career as a gardener at Chillingham during the life of the present Earl's grandfather, and at the request of the then Earl Tankerville he removed to Walton-on-Thames, occupying the position of foreman, where he took every opportunity of improving himself in the profession he had taken up. On the death of the head gardener at Chillingham, Mr. Bowie was appointed in his place, fulfilling his duties with satisfaction to his employer and credit to himself for over 45 years. During this long term of service, many improvements were carried out by Mr. Bowie, in conjunction with the late Earl, not only in the gardens, but also in Chillingham Park and Hepburn Wood, which were planted by them—forestry being a hobby with both Mr. Bowie and the late Earl. Subsequently Mr. Bowie acted as bailiff, his son Thomas succeeding him as head gardener. Finally he retired in 1885, and removed to Wooler, where he continued to take an interest in gardening matters. When at Chillingham he was a successful exhibitor at Alnwick and other shows, and his services were greatly in demand at many of the horticultural and floral exhibitions in the north. The interment took place at Chillingham.

Mr. Bowie had been a subscriber to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* all his life, doubtless therefore since the founding of the *Gard. Chron.* in 1841, to which he occasionally contributed. He was much interested in the crossing and hybridising of plants, and among others he raised Lobelia Little Gem, which was awarded a First-class Certificate by the R.H.S. The collection of Conifers formed at Chillingham Park during Bowie's career there was an extensive one, and many of the specimens, thanks to his fostering care, have grown to large dimensions. Those who may wish to have fuller particulars of Mr. Bowie's life, as here given, should turn to our issue for March 4, 1876, p. 300, where also a portrait is given.

THE GARDENS OF SIR ROBERT HARVEY, BART.

Interview with Mr. H. Bowyer, at Langley Park, Slough.

EARLY in the season, by courteous permission of Sir Robert Harvey, I had the opportunity of visiting Langley Park Gardens. Though only a few miles from Slough, Sir Robert's historic seat is in the very heart of the country, the park itself, with its three entrances, being very extensive, as well as very finely timbered.

"We have not much glass," said Mr. H. Bowyer, the head gardener, who showed me round, "the principal features being outside."

But the winter garden, which, of course, is not outside, must be included amongst the features. Here, at the outset, we spent some time, and in expressing admiration of the splendid Tree Ferns, and the picturesque general appearance, I asked when the building was erected.

"Fifteen years' ago," replied Mr. Bowyer, "by Messrs. Pulham. Most of the Ferns are natives of New Zealand. The rockery is planted with Ferns in variety, and Rex Begonias."

"Bamboos seem to do extremely well."

"Yes, they are varieties from foreign countries, which would not, however, flourish outside. The Bananas (Cavendishii) are grown solely for decorative effect. Clivias are put in pots in the beds, and give blooms for quite a month. The Fuchsias on the wall thrive. Both Charming and Mrs. Marshall are planted out. So far as flowers are concerned, we vary the contents of the corridor constantly. Cinerarias (stellata), Schizanthus, and Pelargoniums are favourites for embellishment, and, as you see, we make free use of baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri and Nephrolepis Ferns. The Fern wall was only finished a fortnight ago, but the plants are breaking beautifully."

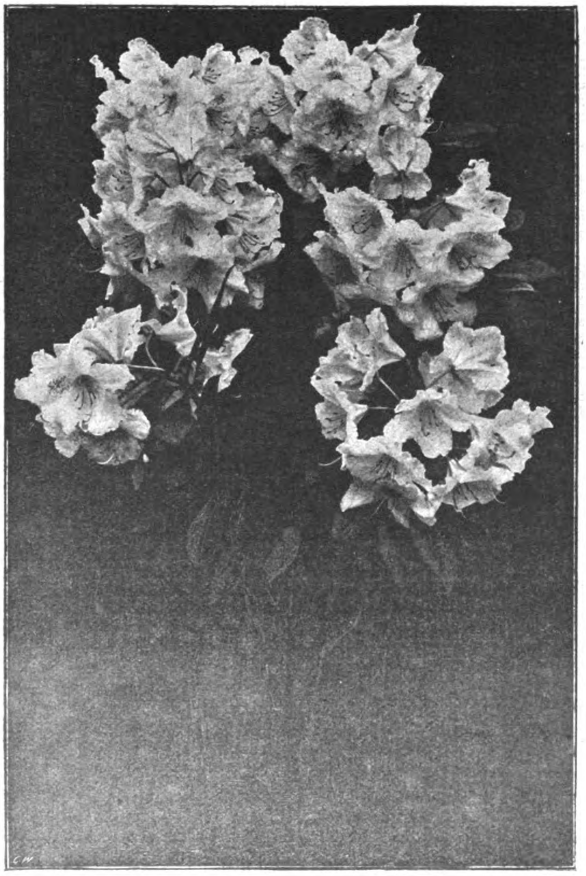
Terrace Bedding.

"Do you plant bulbs in the terrace beds of which the Italian well forms the centre?"

"No, Myosotis in mass, Wallflowers (Blood-red) at the corners, and Wallflowers (Golden Queen) inside. For summer bedding, there is a different arrangement every year. This year the combination consists of Geranium Paul Crampel, Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall, and a groundwork of yellow Pansies, with an edging of blue Lobelia. We use Paul Crampel also under the Palms; it cannot be beaten for colour. The beds beyond are filled like the terrace beds in spring, but in summer they differ, some having Abutilon Thompsonii as dot plants, with a carpet of Salvia Star of Zurich; others, Abutilons with a groundwork of Begonia semperflorens; and one Grevillea robusta, with a groundwork of Begonia Count Zepling."

"There are many fine trees on the lawns, but they are overshadowed by the magnificent Cedar."

"That Cedar is probably the biggest in England, and a number of trees have grown from the parent. Tons of cement have been used to stop the sap, and it is propped up all round by chains. Beyond this, nothing has been done to it. Near the Cedar is a bed of Pink Pearl Rhododendrons, which was made in the spring of 1908."



PINK PEARL RHODODENDRONS.

"They have made amazing growth. How did you manage it?"

"We took out all the original soil to the extent of three feet, and put in loam, peat, leaf-soil, and plenty of sand. The plants will have enormous balls when they are lifted."

"What is the nature of the natural soil?"

"Good loam on gravel. Our chief enemy is the north-west wind, to which we are badly exposed. There are Ericas mediterranea alba in the Pink Pearl bed. Two years ago I treated Azalea mollis and Ghent in the same way as the Rhododendrons, with equally satisfactory results."

Noting the grand Chestnuts, the avenue of Oaks, a lake nearly a quarter of a mile long; a Dutch garden with a scroll in Box, the fourteen beds being filled with Polyanthus in self-colours, and Myosotis in spring, and chiefly Asters and Stocks in summer, we made our way to the extension which at the time of my visit was being carried out.

"Here," said Mr. Bowyer, "is the first bit of rockery, sheltered from the north-west wind by hybrid Rhododendrons. The shrubs include Rhododendron Little Gem, Japanese varieties of Azaleas, which give masses of white flowers, Daphnes, and Cotoneasters. Now we come to the aviary garden."

A Great Collection of Hardy Ferns.

"The aspect of this also is north?"

"Yes, it faces north, and the absence of sun renders it an ideal spot for hardy Ferns. There is a representative collection of birds in the aviary."

"And I imagine of Ferns in the Fernery?"

"The best varieties of British Ferns are certainly growing here, and in the Fernery there are between five and six hundred plants. Among the principal families are the Blechnum, the Asplenium, the Lastrea, the Woodwardia, the Polypodium, and, of course, the Royal Fern. There are, roughly speaking, ten to a dozen of each variety. The wall covered with Ivy forms a suitable background, and the paved walk, with grass at the side, combines the convenient with the ornamental."

"Then, there is the bedding in the groups."

"Both in beds and on the wall, choice shrubs are the leading features. For instance, here is a bed of standard Maples, Acer dissectum, trained; next to it is a bed of Acers not named; and the third is occupied with Cedars atropurpureum dissectum. On the wall we have Camellia reticulata, which has the largest flower; it is the size of an ordinary saucer, crimson with a yellow centre. An entire border is devoted to Camellias in variety. This border was remade on the same principle as the border with Rhododendrons and Azaleas."

Shrubs for Wall Decoration.

"You might mention the names of some of the varieties?"

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"C. Madame La Bois, Augusta superbum, and latifolia. The last we have been trying on the wall for twelve months. The other shrubs include Cornus in variety, Embothrium coccineum, Muehlenbeckia complexa, Exochorda, Albertii, Cæsalpinia japonica, Berberis of sorts, notably B. Wilsonii, passiflora, Vitis in variety, Pittosporum in variety, Ceanothus, Xanthoceras sorbifolia, Viburnums in variety, Fabiana imbricata, Nandina domestica (a Japanese plant), Crinodendron Hookeri, Actinidia chinensis (most useful as a pillar plant, very fine in the leaf), and Aralia mandschurica fol. argenteo-variegata."

The Museum Garden.

"You appear to have another special garden adjoining. Have you a name for it"

"We call it the 'Museum Garden,' because it adjoins the museum. Here are many named Himalayan Rhododendrons, such as Thompsoni, campylocarpum (sulphur-yellow), Aucklandii, and Shilsonii (deep crimson), a very choice variety, which did not flower for several years. Several Himalayan varieties do not flower for years after they have been planted. Then, there are R. Hodgsonii, Gill's Triumph, Falconeri, kewensis, Goliath, Mrs. H. Shilson, barbatum, campanulatum superbum, and Fortunei. Opposite to these are Camellias Noblissimum and Sieboldii Tricolor. Later on, both Rhododendrons and Azaleas are interspersed with Gladiolus Brenchleyensis, which make a good show in August. Box edging is a feature of the gardens."

"With regard to Bamboos," continued Mr. Bowyer, "the hardy varieties flourish in the Japanese garden, which we are now entering, especially Arundinaria Simoni, A. Simoni striata, A. Hindsii, and A. nitida, Phyllostachys aurea, and several clumps of Metake."

"Is the Lily pond filled with named Nymphæas?"

"Yes, with the best, such as Gladstoniana, atropurpurea, and chromatella. It may interest you to know that from October to April we cover over the fine specimen of Gunnera manicata; the leaves are nearly nine feet across. We grow the Japanese plant, Petasites, for the sake of the foliage, which is very effective. A bed worthy of mention is devoted to Colletias; the varieties are C. cruciata, and spinosa (karida). The two new varieties of Kniphofia, Tysonii and Northii, do well here; also several varieties of Magnolia, Cytisus, Stuartia, Escallonia, and Ceanothus. The Bamboo garden proper adjoins the Japanese garden."

"With splendid clumps of Metakes."

"I attribute their success to good feeding and regular watering; these are vital conditions in the cultivation of Bamboos. Phyllostachys mitis is very fine; in Japan it reaches fifty feet in height. Andromedas in variety are a feature of this garden; and two of the finest of the semi-deciduous shrubs are Ligustrum ovalifolium and sinense."

The Making of a Herbaceous Border.

"Judging by the Yew hedge walk, Yews are very much at home."

"We have lately started different figures, which are making good progress. Here, too, is a new herbaceous border, with quite a thousand clumps of flowers. The border itself is ninety-seven yards long, and eighteen feet wide."

"You are invading the kitchen garden to add to the pleasure grounds?"

"Practically that is so. With regard to the border, which you notice is raised, and on a slope, we put two hundred and fifty loads of soil upon it, loam, leaves, sand, and manure. The clumps are arranged so as to harmonise in height and colour. On the poles at the back are Vitis in variety, but there will also be at the back, running right along the whole length of the beds, a rockery containing the best Alpines; and on the outer row of wires, Clematis and Garrya elliptica. There will also be a large bed of Japanese Pæonies. The Box edging in this part of the grounds is eighteen inches, and even two feet high. I suppose that altogether there is a mile of Box in the gardens."

"You also seem to have a herbaceous garden."

"This is separated by a Yew hedge from the kitchen garden. It was only made last year. There are two wide borders, and a figure in the centre, while on the other side, is a narrow border, protected by a high wall."

"Even with encroachments on the kitchen garden, it has not been denuded of flowers."

"No, but before we look over the kitchen garden, we had better have a stroll through the Pinetum."

"The Pinetum is on a very large scale, and its borders are apparently not less interesting than its specimen trees."

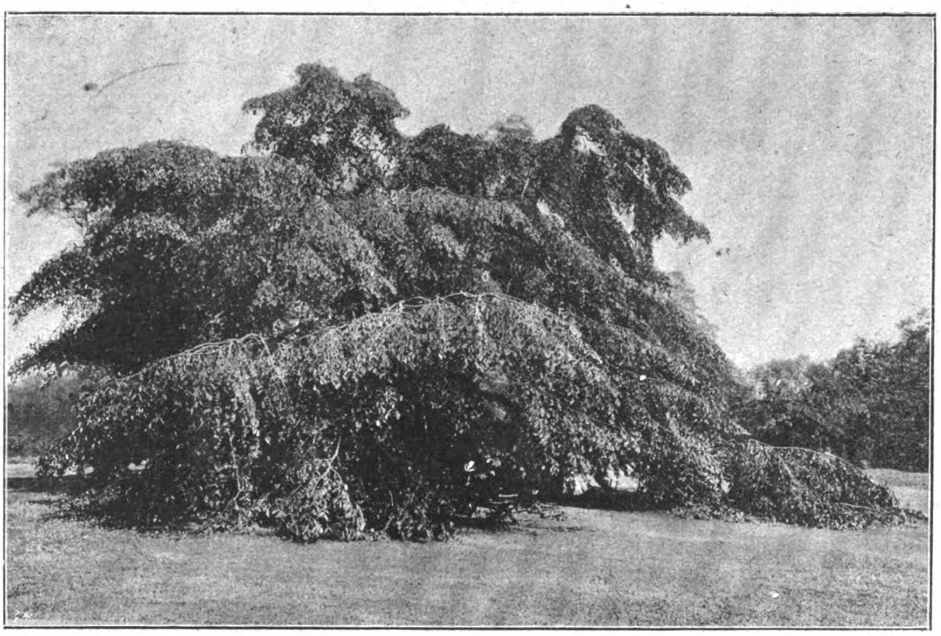
"It is upwards of twelve acres. Lately, the borders have all been renewed. We took out eighty loads, and put back one hundred and ten of fresh material. The soil was too heavy for the plants. One of the most successful of the borders consists of hybrid Rhododendrons, with Liliums interspersed, the latter embracing all the finest varieties. The Lily pond facing this border, with Gunnera on the bank, contains some choice Lilies, including N. Elliottiana, N. Frœbellii, N. sulphurea, N. rosea, and N. carnea."

"I observe that you have another great border edged with Ericas."

"Yes; there is almost every variety of Heath, and the border itself is one hundred and twenty yards long. With a background of Laurels, the flowering and other shrubs comprise Berberis in variety, including Thunbergi, Knightii, and stenophylla, Photinia serrulata, Cydonia japonica. Escallonia Phillippiana, Clerodendron trichotomum, Buddleia variabilis, Andromedas in variety, Potentillas, Olearia Haastii, Magnolia Thompsonii, and Veronica Le Sedinsante."

"There are beds as well as borders?"

"Yes, a number, including a bed of Heaths and another of Azalea Evergreen, with standard



ULMUS MONTANA PENDULA—THE WEEPING MOUNTAIN ASH.

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trees of weeping Peaches. Further flowering and foliage shrubs are Desfontainia spinosa, Stuartia pseudo-camellia, Staphylea, Carpenteria californica, Weigela Eva Rathke, Choisya ternata, Solanum crispum, Philadelphus coronarius, and Grevillea sulphurea. Near the handsome Grape gate is a large bed of Maples; and another bed of Maples has a groundwork of Camellias and Berberis japonica, with Lilies, edged with Ericas. Facing this is another Lily pond, and a bank of Bamboos, with Bambusa palmata at the back."

Sweet Peas on Wooden Espaliers.

Returning to the kitchen garden, I was surprised with the Sweet Peas trained on wooden espaliers, and asked how long the system has been in operation.

"For several years. There are three long rows, which were planted out from pots a foot apart, on the 30th of March. We use little sticks, and tie them up. The ground is trenched every year, and a quantity of manure used. Narcissi in variety are planted in between for spring flowering."

"Then there are the Roses?"

"Of which there are about a hundred varieties, standards, half-standards, and dwarfs. We put the standards seven feet apart, with a dwarf between, and two rows of dwarfs in front. The Rose border is one hundred and twenty yards long, and the trellis from end to end is decorated with Lady Gay. Among the best Roses is Princess Ina. Behind the Rose border are Apples on espaliers."

"Have you any specialities in hardy fruit?"

"Enormous crops are obtained from the south row of Raspberries (Superlative), ninety yards long. In one Strawberry border, we grow Givon's Late Prolific, Waterloo, and Laxton's Fillbasket; and in another, Royal Sovereign, and Bedfordshire Champion. Strawberries are planted a foot apart the first year, and though in the second year every other plant is taken out, a good bed still remains."

"You have a number of Peach trees on the walls."

"Some of these we are doing away with, and putting in standard Plums to take their place. No forcing of vegetables is done, but we get good crops of Peas and Broad Beans; also of Asparagus, from six beds; Brussels Sprouts, to be followed by Celery; Onions, and Cabbages of all kinds."

The Treatment of Mangoes.

"There remain the fruit ranges and plant houses."

"As I said at the outset, they are not on at all a large scale. The Vinery we are now entering was only planted a year ago, but the Muscats and Princess of Wales are breaking well. Orchids are chiefly Cattleyas, but a Vinery has lately been converted into a house for Tree Carnations."

"What are the varieties?"

"Britannia, Mrs. Burnett, President Roosevelt, Oriflamme, White Perfection, Enchantress, Lady Bancroft, and others. The Malmaisons include Mrs. Trelawney, Mrs. Martin Smith, Maggie Hodson, Mrs. Stratford, Princess of Wales, Duchess of Westminster, and Lady Carnations."

"But I have not seen your famous Mangoes, for which Sir Robert Harvey was awarded a Banksian medal by the Royal Horticultural Society."

"They are in the next house. The tree has forty fruits on it. Mangoes ripen in July, and they are picked in August. Stove heat is required, and plenty of nourishment after the flower is set. The tree also needs to be thoroughly and often syringed. The fruit is good both in colour and in flavour, yellow flesh and very rich. It should be cut out like a Melon, and the stone is nearly as large as the fruit." ALFRED WILCOX.

THE gardens of an Amateur Border Carnation Exhibitor at Grange Dene, Woodside Park, will be described next week.

The Amateur's Frame.

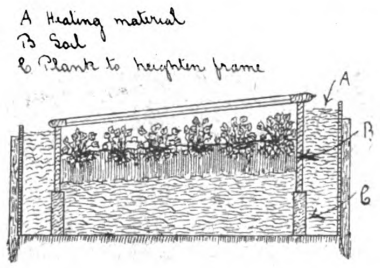
XIII.—VIOLETS IN A FRAME.

THE amateur who lives in the precincts of a large manufacturing town is not advised to undertake the culture of Violets in a frame, for they seldom do well; but where the air is clearer, and more light can be obtained, these fragrant flowers well merit good cultivation.

It is very opportune now to treat of Violets, for the present is the time when they should be removed from the garden plot and planted in a frame. This may be done at any time in August or September, but the middle of the latter month will in most cases be found convenient, for many winter-flowering plants which have been grown in frames during the summer will now need warmer quarters, so that the frame will be set free in that respect.

Preparing Violets for Frames.

It is the usual plan, where Violet culture in frames is made a feature, to split up the old plants in April or May, and to plant them in good soil in a semi-shady part of the garden, such as behind a north wall or between rows



Violets in a frame

of Scarlet Runners. The north border is without doubt the best position, though the same ground should certainly not be repeatedly used for the purpose. The value of a north wall has certainly been appreciated this year, with the scorching sun and continued dryness. Certainly, those who have endeavoured to grow Violets without partial shade during the summer must have had prodigious labour in keeping them syringed and free from red spider, or they have proved a failure; and I fear this has generally been the case.

The care during the summer—not only during an abnormally dry period, but also at other times—consists of frequent hoeing between the plants, syringing each afternoon in such a way as to get well beneath the leaves, and an occasional dressing of fertiliser or guano. If treated in this way and never allowed to suffer from dryness, there is every prospect of having good plants ready for setting in the frames in August or September.

Preparing the Frame for Violets.

Violets, we know, are hardy, but they cannot be had in flower during the winter unless they are kept free from frost and from excessive wet. Hence a brick frame or pit is best, but if only a wooden one is available it would be well to set linings around it in the manner explained in a previous article (page 360), and to fill the space with ashes, but preferably with heating material such as leaves, stable litter, or a combination of the two.

No great heat is required for the forcing of Violets, and anything in the way of a hotbed is to be deprecated. Thus the material should have but a small proportion of horse droppings, and should be trodden down so as to furnish a depth of about fifteen inches. Over this should be put about eight inches of good, rich soil, composed, if possible, of turfy loam, leaf-soil, Mushroom manure, cow manure, and mortar rubble. The loam, leaf-soil, and manure should stand in the proportion of three, two, one, but the amount of cow manure and the mortar rubble must depend on the character of the loam. A close loam will need less cow manure and more mortar rubble than an open loam. Where plenty of leaf-soil is at hand, a layer of this might advantageously be spread over the heating material before the soil is put on. The frame should be so set, and the soil and material so managed, that when the Violets are planted, their leaves will just miss touching the glass by three inches.

Planting the Violets.

The Violets will not, of course, make a deal of growth while they are in the frame, so fairly close planting is recommended. About eight or nine inches from centre to centre of the clumps should be ample, but a better guide is to set them so that the leaves just miss touching. When lifting from the ground care should be taken not unduly to disturb the roots. This can best be accomplished by keeping as much soil as possible on the clump.

After planting, a good watering should be given, and the lights might be kept on for a few days; but afterwards plenty of air should be allowed on all possible occasions, and the lights might be drawn right off on warm, sunny days.

To keep the plants in good health throughout the winter, plenty of ventilation is essential, also freedom from frost, which will necessitate the lights being covered on frosty nights with mats or litter. The removal of all decayed and decaying leaves, and the frequent stirring of the soil between the plants, are details essential to success; and to these may be added the counsel never to allow the plants to suffer from dryness, but to water only when needed, and as far as possible on warm mornings.

WILLIAM F. ROWLES.

Two Uncommon Tulips.

THE pretty Tulip, often called the Chitral Tulip, is a gem for growing in a position where it can be left undisturbed for a time. It is also known as the underground running Tulip, as the stolons run in various directions under the soil, and thus spread in a short time to a considerable extent. Anyone who has noticed how Lily of the Valley spreads will understand clearly what I mean by saying that this is an underground running Tulip.

A point in its favour is its easy culture. It gives the cultivator no trouble, and certainly rewards him with a beautiful display of chaste blossoms. In clusters on rockeries, especially low rockeries, these Tulips look charming.

Tulipa Clusiana, commonly known as the Lady Tulip, is another fit subject for the rockery. The colours are purple-crimson and white, with a black centre when the blooms are fully expanded. The white borders the edges of the petals, and when viewed from a short distance the flowers look like so many Union Jack flags. The points of the petals turn outwards gracefully, thus taking away all appearance of stiffness. When planting, be careful not to use any fresh manure. Old potting soil is useful. G. G.

THE best time to kill weeds is just as the seeds are germinating, or while they are yet very small. When this is done, but little moisture is lost through them, and they render but little plant food insoluble. In the thorough and early preparation of the seed-bed many weeds are destroyed by killing them just as they are coming up.

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THOMAS BOYD.—The many friends of Mr. Thomas Boyd, the well-known and much-respected gardener to W. Forbes, Esq., of Callender Park, Stirlingshire, will be grieved to learn of his sudden decease at the age of fifty-five years, on Monday, March 19. Our friend and neighbour had not been quite well of late, but there was nothing to indicate that his end was near. As exhibitor or judge, Mr. Boyd was most courteous, and his unassuming manner rendered him very popular. He was a native of Hopetoun, near Edinburgh, and from early life had excellent opportunities of gaining a good experience in gardening. He soon became a successful exhibitor of fruits, and his large collections and finely-finished Grapes were very prominent at exhibitions. He attended all the international shows in England and Scotland, and returned with many of the best prizes in his possession. He won the Veitch Memorial Medal by showing excellent Muscat Hamburgh, and captured cups and plate in competitions for fruit. For some years, while gardener to Sir W. Wallace, at Lochryan, Wigton, Mr. Boyd gave a capital account of himself as an exhibitor, from there he came to Callender Park, where he has successfully laboured for twenty years, exhibiting much zeal and deep interest in the management of Mr. Forbes' fine gardens. Mr. Boyd has left a widow and large family to mourn his loss. *M. Temple, Carron, Falkirk, N.B.*

to the young caterpillars when hatched, but also gives them a choice of various routes out, so that a larger feeding-ground lies open to them. The nests should be searched for and destroyed while they can be easily seen, a hard brush and a small can containing paraffin

MR. BRADBROOK, AMONG HIS SWEET PEAS.

emulsion being the best means to employ. Any nests on fruit trees should be treated in the same way. If some of them escape notice, the eggs will hatch about the end of April, and the caterpillars, after living for a time under the web—a habit which has gained for them the name of tent caterpillars—will eventually disperse over the trees, and, if unchecked, strip off every leaf. Before they disperse, it is easy to destroy them in the same manner as is recommended for the destruction of the eggs; but after they disperse it is almost impossible to get them all. If the tree is shaken they sling themselves down, but unless the ground is covered with a sheet, most of them escape detection, and presently sling themselves up again. In some cases it might be worth while to cover the soil with fresh lime before shaking the tree.

Solomon's Seal.

December 27th.—I see that Gerard, in his "Herbal," offers some suggestions as to the origin of that curious name, Solomon's Seal. "The roots of ye seale, as Galen saith, have (saith he) a certain kind of astriction or binding and biting withall; and likewise a certain loathsome bitterness, as the same author affirmeth, which is not to be found in those that grow, in our climate. Dioscorides writeth that the roots are excellent good for to seale or close up grievous wounds, being stamped and laid thereon. Whereupon it was called Sigillum Solomonis, of the singular virtue that it hath in sealing or healing up wounds, broken bones, and such like. Some have thought it took the name Sigillum of the marks upon the roots, but the first reason seems to be more probable. The root of Solomon's Seale, stamped while it is fresh and green, and applied, taketh away in one night or two at the most, any bruise, black or blue spots gotten by falls, or women's wilfullnesse, in stumbling on their hasty husband's fist, or such like." The "such like," I suppose, is a comprehensive way of referring to hobnailed boots and other obstacles of the same sort. Truly, a most useful root.

The Home of a Poet.

December 28th.—Ward's Hurst (shown in the illustration), where the late Gerald Massey lived, on the Chiltern Hills, for many years, scarcely suggests the home of a poet. But, like most poets, he made very little out of his writings, and it was generously provided for him by the late Lady Marion Alford. There is a fine Cratægus pyracantha on the front, one of the best evergreen shrubs for walls, wonderfully handsome in winter, when it is covered with crimson berries. This year, the show of berries of all kinds is extraordinary.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Sir Maurice Boileau, Bart., at Ketteringham Hall, Wymondham.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JOHN W. BRADBROOK.

THE county of Norfolk has no special reputation for lovely gardens, but there are some of great beauty, picturesque in appearance, laid out with artistic taste, and maintained at a standard of remarkable excellence. This is true of the gardens of Sir Maurice Boileau, of Ketteringham Hall, which, by permission of the owner, I visited on a bright morning towards the end of October. The drive from the town of Wymondham, dominated by its grand church, is delightful, and the approach to Ketteringham through a long avenue of trees, is pretty. The charms of the gardens are apparent directly, and Mr. Bradbrook, the head gardener, lost no time in introducing me to the Long Walk, which is one of the features of the extensive pleasure grounds, and forms an attractive approach to the hall. On one side are a score of Crimson Ramblers as festoons of the walk, and a sunk Rosery, with paths running through the centre.

"How many beds are there in the Rosery?" I asked.

SOUTH FRONT, KETTERINGHAM HALL.

"Sixteen, the average number of Roses in a bed being about twenty. The beds are edged with Violas and Asters. The Roses are all Hybrid Perpetuals."

"Which varieties do you find suit the soil best?"

"Baroness Rothschild, Belle Siebrecht, Ben Cant, Magna Charta, Alfred Colomb, A. K. Williams, Duke of Edinburgh, Fisher Holmes, La France, Mrs. J. Laing, Captain Christy, Marie Baumann, Charles Lefebvre, Frau Karl Druschki, General Jacqueminot, Prince Camille de Rohan, Xavier Olibo, Madame Lacharme, Paul Néron, Reine Blanche (Moss), and Souvenir de la Malmaison, which is in flower late into the autumn."

"You have a striking fence of Yews planted behind?"

"It was planted by me forty years ago, and helps, I think, with the two figures representing Britannia, to give variety to the walk. At the end of the grass are beds containing Tree Pæonies, Yuccas, and Irish Yews. The Tree Pæonies give an immense quantity of flowers, some of great size."

"Here you have, too, a very nice specimen of Phyllostachys aurea. There are also the beds on the other side?"

"Of the latter there are half a score, and they are now planted with Tulips, Hyacinths, Ranunculus, and Pansies, some of them being edged with Pansies, and others with double Myosotis and Pyrethrums. Of the oblong beds beyond the Rosery, on the same side of the walk, one has been filled in the summer with scarlet Lobelias in the centre, Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock) at the side, edged with Nemesia strumosa; another with Salvia patens in the centre, Petunias at the side, edged with fibrous-rooted Begonias; and the third with double and single bulbous Begonias in the centre, Carter's Little Star Ageratums at the side, edged with Sutton's Coral Begonias."

A Wall of Fruit and Climbers.

"The wall facing the Rosery is clothed with fruit as well as climbers. I should like the

names of some of these. Are not the Carnations still in flower, in the beds underneath the wall, Sutton's Marguerite?"

"Yes. As to the climbers and fruit, I can give you them pretty well in their order. There are Clematis Jackmanii, Golden Drop Plum,

THE GARDENER'S HOUSE, KETTERINGHAM HALL.

Clematis Tunbridgensis, Thompson Pears, Clematis Wrightii, Marie Louise Pear, Beurré Rance Pear, Coronilla, Rose (unknown). On the ornamental gate out of kitchen garden, Rose (Celine Forestier), Doyenné du Comice Pears, Clematis montana, Pond's Seedling Plums, Clematis, Doyenné du Comice Pears, Conference Pears, Clematis Venus Victrix, Polygonum Baldschranicum, Josephine de Malines Pear, Clematis ascotensis, Transparent Gage, Maréchal Niel Rose, Clematis Rea Jackmanii, Maréchal Niel Rose (white), Red Gloire Rose, Rosemary (trained to wall), Clematis Beauty of Worcester, Ampelopsis Veitchii, and Magnolia grandiflora, which is twenty feet high."

"Now we come to the garden front of the hall with its wealth of flowers, and its ornamental marble vase in the centre."

"There are here two beds which have been filled with Cannas, and two with Fuchsias, edged with variegated Euonymus; these are now planted with Tulips and Hyacinths. Four of the beds have been made up with golden Calceolarias, dotted with Salpiglossis; two with Pentstemons, still in flower; and these we shall leave as they are, edging the whole with Cerastium tomentosa. Then there are two beds with scarlet and yellow Wallflowers, and two more with Pentstemons (all Sutton's strains). Here, too, are some of the best Tea Roses, several being still in flower."

"You might mention the names of the other plants in flower on the 26th of October."

"Carnations, Gladioli, Pyrethrums, Antirrhinums, Lilium auratum, Lavender, Stocks, (Ten-week, and very good this year), and Oxalis Bowiei."

Proceeding to the terrace, where I saw Lady Boileau, and had a gracious reception from her, we noticed The Alcove, filled with Hydangeas and Agapanthus. Entering next the conservatory, I observed:

"You have Camellias still in flower."

"Last year we had so many blooms that we had to thin the buds out. The varieties include Donckelaari, fimbriata, and the Double White. We have given up the Chrysanthemums with big blooms, growing varieties which we find most useful to cut from. The varieties represented in the conservatory are Baron Hurst, Lord Brook, Sunstone, Beauty of Exmouth, Mr. J. Shrimpton, Miss May Church, Madame Carnot, Good Gracious, Mr. de Thirese Ray, Madame E. Roger, and Niveus. The singles are Mary Anderson, Pink Beauty, Mr. Will Gordon, Miss Beatrice Roden, Belle of Weybridge, Ladysmith, Victoria, Ryecroft Belle, and Sir G. Bullough."

"What is your scheme of spring bedding for the terrace?"

The Terrace Bedding.

"Wallflowers (Harbinger, Old Gold, and Ruby Gem) in three rows, and one row of mixed Pansies (Bath's Empress), edged with Cerastiums, and dotted with Narcissi. The groundwork of the corner beds on the terrace consists of Echeverias, with pyramids of Euonymus on either side; these will be dotted with Hyacinths. Along the terrace wall are seven pillars of Ampelopsis Veitchii, with Ivy round."

"I notice that you are beginning to clothe the south side of the hall itself."

"Quite recently I planted Roses—Waltham Seedling, Reine Marie Henriette, Reve d'Or, Cheshunt Hybrid, and Gloire de Dijon; also Bignonia radicans and Pyracantha Lælandi."

From the terrace we strolled towards the lakes, which cover about six acres. In these are numerous tubs filled with Arum Lilies and Bulrushes, and close by is a walk with Irish Yews on either side. On the east of the mansion is the armoury, whose walls are planted with Pyracantha and Ampelopsis, and in this direction I noted several fine specimens of Cedars, Pines, Catalpas, and Thujas.

"Thujas," remarked Mr. Bradbrook, "do better than any other trees, and especially T. Lobbii, but the soil, which has blue clay underneath, does not suit Cedars so well."

"Still, you have some good specimens of C. atlantica," I rejoined, as we returned from the Abbey Walk over the lower lake, to the lawn, "and also of Abies Douglassi."

"As we go along, you will notice many other flourishing examples, and shrubs in great variety. Bamboos and Rhododendrons are among the latter. I have just edged a bed of Arundinaria Simoni with Cineraria maritima, and a bed of Rhododendrons with Sedums. Here is a bed of Aucubas, edged with Funkia Sieboldi."

"Where does the avenue of Limes lead us?"

"To a bridge over the upper lake. In the shrubbery which we are now approaching, variegated Yews are a conspicuous feature. They are cut into various quaint shapes, including corkscrews and cups. The shrubbery is also planted with Hollies, Portugal Laurels, Juniperus, and Clematis Jackmanii on walls. The island which you see from the bridge is planted with Yews, and 'Pokers,' as the Tritomas are called in Norfolk."

Temples and Statuary.

"What is the length of the walk on the other side of the bridge?"

"It is about an eighth of a mile, and has a temple at each end. One was erected in 1849 in memory of Guizet, and the other in 1849, in memory of Hallam, the historian, who were both friends of Sir John P. Boileau, grandfather of the present baronet."

"I must make a note of the pretty recess."

"The statuary represents the four seasons of the year, with a shepherdess in the centre. Just beyond this recess are two noble Oaks, and below them is King Arthur's table, also the monuments of dogs, fourteen in number, who were buried between 1877 and 1907. At the back of a Cedrus deodara is a stone cross with a seat, planted round with variegated and green Ilex."

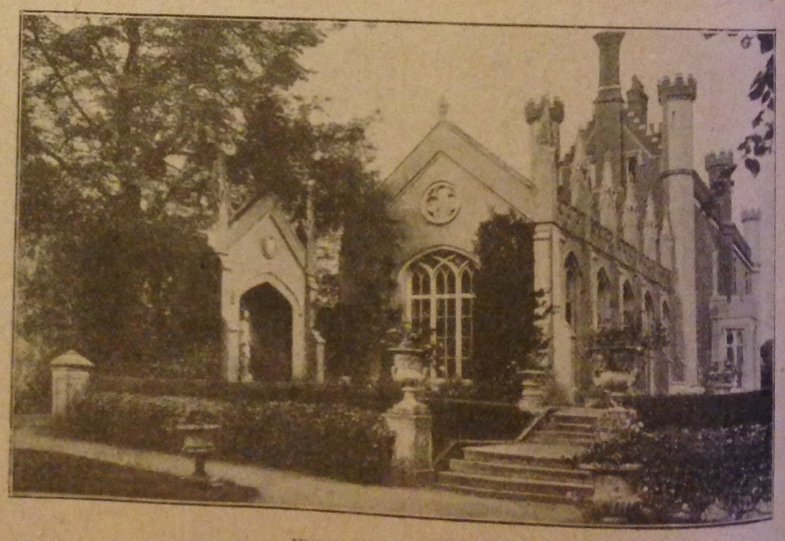
Then, having explored the Poets' Walk, planted with Yews and Beeches; the bowling green, surrounded by specimens of Cupressus Lawsoniana, and other shrubs; noted a pergola of Hornbeam, with Oak posts and iron top, nearly seventy yards long; some fine Tulip-trees and Wellingtonia gigantea, all planted by Mr. Bradbrook thirty-eight years ago; the Nut Walk" and the "Lion Arch," we came to two rockeries on each side of the lion.

"They are planted with hardy Ferns," I said.

"And also contain such plants as Christmas Roses, Aubrietias, Primula japonica, Saxifrages in variety, Asperula odorata, the Ferns, including the Royal Fern, Osmunda regalis, Osmunda Claytoniana, Scolopendrium of sorts, Angulare Wollastonii, Allasorus Crespus and others. The right-hand side is backed with Rheum giganteum, Ferula communis, Polygonum Sachaliensis, and Arundo donax. On the left hand are Laurels and Hollies."

Herbaceous Borders.

"I conclude that the herbaceous borders are one of the most important features of your outer garden, which we are now entering?"



KETTERINGHAM HALL.

"Yes, they are a hundred and sixty yards long and six yards wide, but before we speak of the herbaceous plants, I may mention that at the back Sweet Peas are grown in clumps.

The best varieties are Queen Alexandra, Henry Eckford, Frank Dolby, Horace Wright, Nora Lewis, E. J. Castle, Enchantress, Phenomenal, Agnes, Eckford, and Earl Cromer. Specimen Irish Yews are planted at intervals of twenty feet, with climbing Roses between them, the latter being trained to Larch poles. The Roses are Carmine Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Crimson Rambler, and Gardenia, the last a useful Rose for buttonholes. As to the herbaceous plants, I can only give you the names of a few of the more conspicuous. These borders are a great attraction during the summer and early autumn. The names are:—Delphiniums of sorts, Phlox of sorts, Inula glandulosa, Echinacea purpurea, Aquilegias of sorts, Chelone oblique and alba, Dielytra spectabilis, Romneya Coulteri, Heucheras Rosa Mundi and macrantha rosea, Scabiosa caucasica, Achillea The Pearl, Arnebia echioides, Monarda didyma, Dictamnus fraxinellus and alba, Coreopsis lanceolata, Helianthus maximus, Helenium pumilum, Gaillardias of sorts, Erigeron speciosum superbum, Galega officinalis alba, Iris of sorts, Pentstemon barbata, Gillemia trifoliata, Hyacinthus canadensis, Thalictrum adiantifolium, Montbretia George Davison, Michaelmas Daisies of sorts, Eucomus punctata, Incarvillea Delavayi, and Gypsopnila paniculata flore pleno."

Passing a Peach wall with several varieties, including Noblesse, Dymond, and Sea Eagle, we made our way to the Vinery.

"Here," I said, "you have a fine collection of Cactus Dahlias. What are the varieties?"

"They include H. J. Jones, Mabel Keith, Matchless, Fusilier, Emperor, Columbia, Earl of Pembroke, Primrose, Crayfish, The Pilot, Night, Lord Roberts, Country Girl, C. J. Stredwick, Uncle Tom, Cornucopia, Aunt Chloe, and Firebrand. The border at the bottom of the Vinery is, as you see, planted with Carnations, Mignonette, Asters, Zinnias, Pentstemons, and Xeranthemums. The Carnations include Raby Castle, Venus, Queen of Yellows, Coronation, Heckington, Cecilia, Alberta, The Dauphin, Reynolds Hole, and the Old Clove. For spring flowering we have Narcissus Madame de Graaf, Emperor, Empress, Mary Anderson, Major, and Sir Watkin."

"In the Vinery itself," continued Mr. Bradbrook, "are Black Hamburgh, Pearson's Queen, and Muscat of Alexandria. We have a fair crop, as a rule, but, as you know, plants and Vines do not do well together, and this being the only glass, except the pits, we are obliged to use the house for double purposes."

"You grow a great number of Zonal Pelargoniums here, for instance?"

"Between thirty and forty varieties. It takes sixty plants to fill a verandah in the courtyard by the hall. The singles are Ian Maclaren, John Milton, Mrs. Clifton, Andrew Laing, Rudyard Kipling (one of the best), Countess of Derby, Lord Rosebery, Southern, Evening Star, Lilie, and Achievement. The doubles include King of Denmark, E. V. Raspail, Raspail Improved, Picotee, Peach Blossom, Miss Floss, Azure, Lord Tennyson, and Grand Chan Faideherbe.

A Remarkable Plant.

"I notice you manage to grow a few Orchids."

"Yes, and we get some good blooms of Cœlogyne cristata, Dendrobiums nobile, and Cypripedium insignis. For the rest, the house contains a number of Solanums (well berried), Cyclamen, Asparagus Sprengeri, a few Palms, and Begonias Rex and Gloire de Lorraine."

"What is the name of that curious-looking plant at the end of the Vinery?"

"Phytolacca Decandra, or the Virginian Poke. It was introduced in 1640, and this specimen was planted, I should say, a quarter of a century ago. The birds carry the seeds, so that they spring up in all sorts of places. When once it is established, this plant is no further trouble."

THE LONG WALK, KETTERINGHAM HALL.

In the kitchen garden, which is very ornamental, as well as useful, Roses on poles are a feature. The varieties include Euphrosyne, Jersey Beauty, Field Marshal, and Lady Gay. A well in the centre has Roses planted round on wire trellis, and these, again, are surrounded by fine clumps of Arundo donax. Here, too, I observed a large number of autumn-flowering Chrysanthemums, while in the borders were a number of Violets. The varieties outside are Princess of Wales, Admiral Avellan, and Kaiser Wilhelm. In the four frames, Marie Louise, which is flowering splendidly, is the only variety grown. They have not been removed this year, but simply had the frames placed over them. Of course, fruit is a great feature in the kitchen garden, and first of all I asked the names of the Gooseberries on cordons.

Gooseberries and Currants.

"Lord Derby, Lady Leicester, Telegraph, Speedwell, Ringer, Phillip I., and Criterion. These are for dessert purposes, and can be more easily protected from the birds if grown as cordons. Other Gooseberries are Golden Drop, Regent, Champagne, Langley Beauty, Langley Green, Golden Lion, Keepsake and Warrington. Currants are trained as double cordons, and the varieties which do well are Fay's Prolific, Comet, Large Cherry, White Dutch, and Transparent White. The Black Currant mite has been a trouble to us; the only way to get rid of it, I think, is to dig the bushes and burn them. Picking the buds off is no use, but a good plan to prevent the disease from spreading is to put slaked lime round the bushes. We grow Lee's Prolific and Boskoop Giant, which is said to be mite-proof. There is only one variety of Raspberries in the fine breadth—Superlative, which is one of the best grown."

"How many varieties of Strawberries do you grow?"

"Royal Sovereign, Latest of All, Leader, Fillbasket, Givon's Late, Waterloo, and Laxton's Latest. Royal Sovereign is subject to mildew with us; Leader is a very heavy cropper; Waterloo is a good cropper, and holds out a good time; and Latest is a large, handsome fruit, bright scarlet in colour, with a good flavour. In order to grow Strawberries well, it is requisite to double-dig and use plenty of manure, not allowing the beds to remain for more than three years. We top-dress heavily with peat-moss litter from the stables."

"What about Apples?"

"We have two orchards containing Apples which have been planted about twenty years. There are two hundred and thirty trees, and fifty-three varieties. The soil is very stiff clay. When there is a crop, the colour is splendid, but, unfortunately, we had none this year. The trees suffered a great deal from late frosts, also from weevils and winter moth. The trees were completely riddled, as with shot. Our best kitchen varieties are Bramley's Seedling, Alfriston, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lord Derby, Lord Suffield, Wellington, Saltmarsh's Queen, Queen Caroline, and Dr. Harvey, which is a great favourite in Norwich Market. The best dessert varieties are Lady Sudeley, Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, Worcester Pearmain, Allington Pippin, Gladstone or Jackson, and Ribston Pippin."

Pyramid Pears.

"Most of your Pears, I see, are grown on pyramids, with the leaders trained to iron arches, facing the Fig wall. Have you had a good crop?"

"Very; and we are still gathering some. Here are the names of the best varieties:—Beurré Clairgeau, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Catillac, Marguerite Marillat, Gansel's Bergamotte, Clapp's Favourite, Beurré de Capiaumont, Bergamotte Esperance, Shobden Court, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Esperance, Prince of Wales, British Queen, Bergamotte March, and Zephiron Gregoire."

"Have you also had a good crop of Plums?"

"Equally good on the walls. The varieties include Angelina Burdett, Monarch, Rivers' Early Prolific, Greengage, Transparent Gage, Cox's Emperor, Prince of Wales, Orleans, and Coe's Golden Drop. The Cherries on the east wall are Bedford Prolific and Bigarreau, while on the north wall we grow Morella, The Noble, Black Heart and Florence, the last a very late variety. The south wall is planted with Apricots, Blenheim and Moor Park. We have to protect them in early spring, with small twigs of Yews."

"And as to vegetables?"

"For the first crop of Potatoes we use Duke of York, a very heavy cropper. The best late varieties are, I consider, Up-to-Date, Sutton's Reliance, and Factor, which last is a first-class Potato, resisting disease fairly well. Duchess of Norfolk has turned out well, and is a good cropper. Peas have done well with us this year; our earliest is Sutton's May Queen, and at the same time of sowing, which is, as a rule, in February, I also sow Sutton's Giant, which comes in only a few days later. I follow on with Gradus, Telephone, Duke of Albany, Alderman, Sharpe's Late Queen, and Gladstone. The last two sowings are of selected Ne Plus Ultra. The final sowing was on the 22nd of June, and we finished gathering on October 27th. The kitchen garden soil is mixed on gravel."

BRACK Heinrich of 1 Ewald-road Fulham **Middlesex** died 19 February 1912 Probate **London** 9 March to Charlotte Christina Brack widow and Jacob Daum retired tradesman. Effects £1227.

BRACK Mary of 1 Edith-cottages Whickham county **Durham** spinster died 17 February 1912 Probate **Durham** 27 February to James Hope deputy overman. Effects £315 2s. 3d.

BRACKEN Bryan Thomas of King's Arms Yard Sedburgh **Yorkshire** died 5 July 1912 Probate **London** 19 August to Matthew Bracken hotel proprietor. Effects £245 5s. 9d.

BRACKENBURY John William of the County Hotel Westborough **Scarborough** died 9 February 1912 at Scarborough Probate **York** 19 March to Mary Alice Brackenbury widow. Effects £12166 10s. 6d.

BRACKENBURY Joseph of Kingsley Acland-road Winton **Bournemouth** died 20 February 1912 Probate **London** 2 March to William Henry Green draper's manager. Effects £233 8s. 4d.

BRACKENBURY Julia Charlotte Hare of Hundleby **Lincolnshire** widow died 7 April 1912 Probate **London** 26 August to George Beaumont Walker solicitor. Effects £1247 16s. 5d.

BRACKLEY Elizabeth of 49 Albert road South Norwood **Surrey** widow died 10 October 1912 Probate **London** 22 November to John Anthony Trythall auctioneer and Mabel Emma Jane Sale spinster. Effects £115 16s.

BRACKSTONE William Henry of Buckingham-road Rossmore Village Upper Parkstone **Dorsetshire** died 15 November 1911 Administration **London** 27 February to Laura Elizabeth Brackstone widow. Effects £237 4s. 4d.

BRADBEAR Alfred of 2 Grove-terrace **Weston-super-Mare** died 13 March 1912 Probate **London** 11 April to Ralph Sankey Jutsum bank cashier and John Rogers Lloyd solicitor. Effects £6114 14s. 3d.

BRADBROOK James of Sedgletch Fence Houses county **Durham** died 15 July 1912 Probate **Durham** 19 September to Catherine Robson (wife of Thomas Robson). Effects £202.

BRADBROOK John William of Ketteringham **Norfolk** died 24 October 1912 Probate **Norwich** 4 November to Elizabeth Bradbrook widow. Effects £180.

BRADBURN Hannah Maria of 21 Newsome-crescent Newsome **Huddersfield** widow died 18 November 1911 Probate **Wakefield** 9 January to Mary Bradburn spinster and William Edward Locking Wattam solicitors clerk. Effects £651 16s. 9d.

BRADBURN Margaret of 561 Garswood-road North Ashton near **Wigan** spinster died 24 February 1912 Probate **Liverpool** 21 March to Hannah Bradburn Adamson (wife of John Thomas Adamson) and Jacob Gorner restaurant proprietor. Effects £2194 10s.

BRADBURN Rose of 7 Stanley-street Hulme **Manchester** widow died 20 October 1912 Probate **London** 25 November to Edwin Bradburn warehouseman and Emily Bradburn spinster. Effects £220 5s.

BRADBURN Walter Stannard of 2 St. Georges-street Eccles **Lancashire** died 3 September 1912 at the Salford Royal Hospital Chapel-street Salford Administration **London** 21 September to Edward Victor Bradburn cloth merchant. Effects £376 1s. 11d.

BRADBURNE Mary Joanna of Swan Farm Norton Lanes near Cannock **Staffordshire** (wife of Arthur Bradburne) died 8 August 1912 Probate **London** 8 October to the said Arthur Bradburne farmer. Effects £2080 7s. 7d.

BRADBURY Abel of 4 Rock street Higher Broughton **Manchester** died 9 February 1912 Probate **London** 23 February to Harry Herbert Bradbury librarian and Arthur Vernon Roberts architect. Effects £232 1s. 1d.

BRADBURY Ann of 1 Warbrick-drive North Shore **Blackpool** (wife of Charles Bradbury) died 25 October 1911 Probate **London** 14 December to the said Charles Bradbury engineer. Effects £725 15s.

BRADBURY Anna Maria Doncaster of 1 Great George-street **Salford** spinster died 9 November 1911 Administration **Manchester** 16 January to Charles Henry Bradbury physician and surgeon. Effects £654 6s. 5d.

BRADBURY Anne of 31 William-street **Rochdale** widow died 19 November 1911 Probate **Manchester** 12 January to Harry Wycherley grocer. Effects £102 5s. 10d.

BRADBURY Annie of Kents Bank-road **Buxton** (wife of William Bradbury) died 8 April 1911 Probate **London** 28 May to the said William Bradbury cheese factor. Effects £917 1s. 1d. Resworn £967 1s. 1d.

BRADBURY Annie Minerva of Tamewater House Dobcross in Saddleworth **Yorkshire** spinster died 18 January 1912 Probate **London** 4 May to Edith Mary Bradbury spinster. Effects £756 11s. 8d.

BRADBURY Arthur George of The Bingham Public Library Cirencester **Gloucestershire** died 25 June 1909 Administration **London** 10 May to Mary Bradbury widow. Effects £257 10s.

BRADBURY Charles of 21 Lillah street **Salford** iron fitter died 15 October 1910 at Winwick Lancashire Administration **Manchester** 25 May to Thomas James Bradbury insurance agent. Effects £328 7s. 6d.

BRADBURY Elizabeth of High-street Tunstall **Staffordshire** widow died 17 May 1912 Probate **Lichfield** 19 July to James Bradbury and Albert Bradbury butchers. Effects £1190 15s. 10d.

BRADBURY Ellen of 68 Ripponden-road **Oldham** widow died 28 May 1912 Probate **Manchester** 20 July to Frank Bradbury cotton spinning master. Effects £1194 0s. 3d.

BRADBURY George of Tweedside Milton-road **Lowestoft** fish merchant died 11 January 1912 Probate **Ipswich** 29 July to Ann Elizabeth Bradbury widow George Hartley Bradbury fish merchant and Thomas Mason Allerton notary public. Effects £9007 13s. 3d.

BRADBURY John of 2 Winton-square Stoke-upon-Trent **Staffordshire** died 18 January 1912 Administration **London** 1 March to John Bradbury bank accountant. Effects £1974 16s. 9d.

BRADBURY John of 15 High-street Roughtown Mossley **Yorkshire** died 16 February 1912 Probate **London** 22 March to Mary Jane Wilde widow. Effects £77 7s. 1d.

BRADBURY John of Barrow-Sitch Heathylee **Staffordshire** died 20 May 1912 Probate **London** 19 July to Martha Bradbury widow. Effects £343 1s. 2d.

BRADBURY John of Red Lion Inn Stoke Old -road Hartshill **Staffordshire** died 11 September 1912 Administration **Lichfield** 9 October to Clara Bradbury widow. Effects £970 13s. 5d.

BRADBURY John Taylor of 10 Princes-avenue **Liverpool** gentleman died 25 February 1912 Probate **Liverpool** 19 April to Frederic Bernardo Bradbury and Henry Gordon Bradbury merchants. Effects £21348 2s. 10d.

BRADBURY Margaret of Mobberley-road Knutsford **Cheshire** spinster died 17 January 1910 Administration **Chester** 20 July to Lucy Bradbury spinster. Effects £198 12s. 5d.

to the roof there is perpetual motion, for the warm air, impinging on the cold glass, as well as the cold air entering by the laps, must cause ceaseless currents, which promote evaporation from the leaves, and so, as I suggest, cause short, woody growth. This conclusion is supported by facts. If a sheet of glass is placed over a box of seedlings, they soon become drawn, though they are quite close to it. If the glass is removed, or even only tilted, they begin to thicken. Apparently, then, it is merely a question of more or less air. This fact—if fact it be—may have some bearing on the evolution of climbing plants. For whether they originated in the fierce struggle for existence of crowds of seedlings, or in the depths of forests, as some suppose, one thing is certain—in neither situation would they have as much air as they would with more space for each and on open ground. Every traveller who has described a tropical forest has spoken of its "death-like stillness," and it is in the tropical forest that climbers are most abundant. On the other hand, it is on exposed hills and wind-swept commons that we usually find short, sturdy growth, as in the Heaths; for long, spindly growths we must go to the valleys.

March 27th.—The "Revue Horticole" advocates a method of preserving Apples and Pears which is new to me. It consists in dipping the fruit in a solution containing five hundred grammes of gum arabic to each litre of water. It is claimed that fruit treated in this way will keep sound and unshrivelled—in fact, perfectly fresh—for twelve months. When wanted for use, it has merely to be placed for a few hours in water in order to dissolve the gum, and then wiped and dried. This sounds simple, and, if really effectual, as I fancy it might be, it should prove valuable.

March 28th.—The sterilisation of the soil is much more largely practised in the United States than it is in this country. It is recommended as a preventive against the fungoid diseases which attack Carnations, Cucumbers, and various other plants, and also for the destruction of red-spider, aphis, and the seeds of weeds. Some American growers sterilise all the soil in their houses. The process is rather an expensive one, requiring special appliances. If, therefore, it is out of the reach of most amateurs, they would certainly find it beneficial to sterilise the soil in which they sow their more valuable flowers and Ferns. This can easily be managed by pouring boiling water into the pots of soil in which the seeds are to be sown, and continuing to do so until it runs out at the bottom almost as hot as it goes in. This will effectually kill all germs.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 79.—Mr. R. BRADFORD, at HIGHWOOD GARDENS, ROEHAMPTON.

THE gardens at Highwood—Mr. E. H. Brown's charming house on the Roehampton side of Putney Heath—are not large, but they are kept in a manner which shows that the owner is fond of horticulture, and that the head gardener is a man who thoroughly understands his work. Mr. Bradford, who fills the latter position, is well-known as a successful exhibitor at the Wimbledon, Putney, and Kingston shows; and after I had spent a pleasant and profitable time in the inspection of the houses and beds outside, I asked him to preface the story of the gardens with a few details about his own experiences.

With characteristic modesty, Mr. Bradford rejoined that there was not much to tell, but he admitted that he had been showing for more than a quarter of a century, and had won a number of prizes.

"The prizes," he said, "include the cup for the Chrysanthemum group given by the Mayor at the Wandsworth and the tradesmen at the Wimbledon shows. I have also won five first prizes out of six for big miscellaneous groups, five firsts for Cyclamens, a first for six Gloxinias (given by Messrs. Sutton), and at the same show a first for six Gloxinias of distinct bloom."

"You do particularly well with Gloxinias and Cyclamens?"

"So far as showing either of them is concerned, I have not been beaten. Other first and second prizes—chiefly first—I have taken have been for Fuchsias, Japanese and Incurved Chrysanthemums, Primulas, table plants, Pears, Grapes, sprays, and a collection of vegetables several times. All these were awarded at Wimbledon, Wandsworth, or Kingston."

"Did you start your career as a gardener in Wimbledon?"

"No, my first experience was gained at Wentworth House, Mill Hill, Hendon, where I stayed for nine years. It was all-round experience, and I have found it very valuable. I came to Wimbledon as head gardener twenty-five years ago, and remained in that capacity at Dorrington House for five years. Then for twenty years I was in a similar position at Addington, Wimbledon Park, under three employers. Two years and a-half since I came to Highwood."

"Have you done any judging?"

"Only a little."

"The gardens at Highwood, I infer, are under ten acres?"

"They are about eight acres. The feature outside in the flower garden is undoubtedly the Roses."

"How many do you grow?"

"The number varies from eight to ten thousand, but they are always, in the summer, a splendid sight from the windows of the house."

"Which are the favourite varieties?"

"One bed, fifty to sixty feet long, ten inches wide, is devoted to Ulrich Brunner, which we tie down in order to arch. Another bed consists exclusively of Duke of Edinburgh. The long bed, which runs the full length of the house, is mixed. Highwood has always been noted for Roses, and we try to keep up and improve upon its reputation."

"Do you know how many kinds there are in the long bed?"

"Scarcely, but the principal are William Allen Richardson, Duke of Edinburgh, Paul Neron, Captain Christy, and Gloire de Dijon. We are always on the look-out for the new varieties. For instance, we planted Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cant last season. There are a dozen other beds, all mixed, and of different shapes. On the arch we grow Crimson Rambler, and we have most of the Tea Roses."

Mr. Bradford in Highwood Gardens, Roehampton.

"What is the nature of the soil?"

"We are right on a bed of gravel, so that we have to make the ground if we want to plant more Roses. I put a good deal of loam on the beds. One year they have loam, and another manure. This helps to make them more firm. Although we are exposed, being on the side of the Common, this is not a drawback."

"How about water?"

"There is no lack of water, because the supply is well maintained. The first summer I came here was dry, and £60 was spent in water on the gardens alone. We keep lawns as green in the middle of summer as in the early spring."

"Now, as to the bedding?"

"The terrace is carpet-bedding. Last year, being the Coronation year, we had the Crown and the letters E.R. in one bed. On another we had Queen Alexandra and the heart in the centre; on a third the Prince of Wales's feathers, and the letters G. and M. Sometimes I make the bedding in the shape of a butterfly, with body and wings."

"It is rather an elaborate business, then?"

"Somewhat, and, of course, it requires a good deal of time. Filling in the scrolls and corners entails a lot of work. But I am quite sure that unless carpet bedding is properly done, it is better to leave it alone."

"What are the flowers upon which you mainly depend?"

"There are thousands of Alternantheras of all sorts, particularly the dwarf-growing kinds. Sedums in many varieties are also used. Likewise Echeveria, Centaurea, Coleus, and Pyrethrum Golden Ball, which is new, and very pretty."

"As to the spring-bedding coming on," continued Mr. Bradford, "we fill in all the beds on the terrace with Hyacinths to colour. For very

dark blue we use King of the Hyacinths, and for white, Monarch. We carpet the terrace beds with Pansies also to colour, edging them with white and red Daisies. Nearly all the beds are filled with bulbs, and there is a groundwork of Forget-me-nots, or Pansies, or Daisies. For example, if we have a bed of scarlet Tulips, we use white Daisies for groundwork. At each end of the terrace is an Italian bed, which we fill with Wallflowers."

"Of different varieties?"

"Yes, the Tom Thumb (yellow), Belvoir Castle (deep orange), and Blood Red. Arabis albida is also used for groundwork. Another most admirable thing for this purpose is Alyssum saxatile compactum, whose masses of yellow flowers are as bright as Calceolarias. We have all the varieties of Polyanthus from Sutton's seeds, the blue and yellow Primroses, and we are edging some of the beds with Dactylis, a very pretty silvery Grass."

"Do you go in for late Tulips?"

"Extensively; and also the Spanish Iris. We have quite thirty varieties of Daffodils, and put out about a couple of thousand plants."

"You might tell me next about the summer bedding?"

"Cannas are largely used, and we cover the ground under them with Mesembryanthemum. There are about twelve varieties of Sweet Peas. Large beds are filled with Ivy-leaved Geraniums. We peg them down, and dot them with Nicotiana affinis. For the pink we use Madame Crousse, and for red Souvenir de Charles Turner and Marquis."

"What do you use for dotting the beds?"

"Plumbago for blue, and for varieties of foliage the silver and golden Abutilon. Among other things we use for summer bedding are Verbenas, Petunias, tuberous Begonias (of which we have a couple of large beds), ordinary Geraniums, including Henry Jacoby, Mrs. Parker, West Brighton Gem, Queen of the Whites, and John Hayes. Both the dwarf and intermediate varieties of Antirrhinum are grown, and, owing to the poorness and dryness of the soil, we find the dwarf kinds of Tom Thumb Nasturtium do remarkably well. We put out twelve varieties, embracing deep red, yellow, and all shades."

"There is no difficulty in cultivating them?"

"None at all. We sow them straight in the beds, and they can be transplanted easily, and do well. If the seed pods are kept pinched off, the plants remain in flower until the frost kills them."

"The annuals in the long border are, of course, grown for cutting?"

"Entirely, and no pains are spared to keep up the number. Among the many varieties are Sunflowers, Chrysanthemums (annuals), Stocks, Asters, Coreopsis grandiflora, Salpiglossis, and many others."

"You produce an excellent effect in the flower garden by an arrangement of Acer negundo variegata, and Prunus Pissardi, now in bloom?"

"Yes, and I wonder that Prunus Pissardi is not more grown in small gardens. The silver flower harmonises with the bronze foliage. We have a few nice specimens of Cedar deodara on the lawn."

"Now, I think, the kitchen garden claims attention?"

"It is an acre and a-half, and the herbaceous border at the top, facing the meadow and the tennis court, is from sixty to seventy feet long, and ten feet wide. The walks of the kitchen garden are edged with Mrs. Sinkins Pink, which, in flower, presents a very pretty appearance."

"You go in considerably for Peas?"

"There are sixteen long rows of Peas, and four large beds of Asparagus. We force both Asparagus and Rhubarb; also 1,500 crowns of Seakale. The only two varieties of Strawberries are Sovereign and La Sucrée; and of Raspberries we grow Superlative. There is nothing, in my opinion, to touch that variety. Onions we make a speciality. They are sown early in the year in pans under glass, and planted out in April."

"What varieties do you prefer?"

"Ailsa Craig, Ai, and Cranston's Excelsior. We grow Leeks, Lettuce, French Beans, Melons, Tomatoes, and Cucumbers under glass; also Strawberries in pots."

"And Peaches?"

"We grow Peaches outside on the wall facing south, the varieties being Early Rivers, Noblesse, Dr. Hogg, Waterloo, Early Louise, Royal George, Barrington, and Alexandra. The Nectarines on the walls are Elruge and Lord Napier; and on the back wall are Morello Cherries."

"You have some fine Palms in the largest house?"

"Several are twelve feet high. The principal kinds grown are Chamærops excelsa, Phœnix rupicola, Latania borbonica, and Kentia Belmoreana and Kentia Fosteriana. I may mention that we do particularly well with Dracæna Lindenii. This house also contains Ferns, Aspidistras, and all kinds of foliage plants suitable for the decoration of the dwelling-house, for which we have a large demand."

"You have one very old-fashioned plant in flower in the Palm house, which resembles a bunch of Grapes?"

A Beautiful Fern—Gymno gramma.

"The Medinilla magnifica. There is also a house devoted to Crotons; our collection consists of about fifty of the most useful varieties."

"What do you grow in the pits?"

"Melons, Cucumbers, early Tomatoes, three hundred Carnations (including several varieties of Malmaisons), Callas, Azaleas, Eucharis, and, amongst other things, two thousand Geraniums. I suppose that there are about six thousand plants for bedding. There is a pit full of tuberous Begonias. All the pits are heated. One is fifty feet long, like a house, and in this we grow Salvias, Bouvardias, Fuchsias, and Cyclamens. Another pit contains Gloxinias, and in yet another there are Begonias of the Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall varieties."

"Your Azaleas look remarkably well?"

"They are now in the Tomato house. The principal varieties are Deutsche Perle and Roi d'Hollande. Of Liliums there are a hundred plants, chiefly Lancifolium, Longiflorum, and Melpomene. We force Tulips and Lilies of the Valley largely; also about a thousand Roman Hyacinths. In the vinery, Black Alicante, Black Hamburgh, and Buckland Sweetwater are the only Grapes grown."

"Have you paid special attention to any particular plants, Mr. Bradford?"

"I have read a paper before the Wimbledon Gardeners' Society on the cultivation of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine and its sports."

"What is your own method?"

"The plants which have been flowering through the winter I remove in the beginning of February to a house with a temperature of forty-five degrees. After they have rested about three weeks, I cut them back, leaving them in the same house for another three weeks. I then remove them to a temperature of sixty-five to seventy degrees. When the new growths are from two to three inches long, I have them taken off and inserted in small thumb pots, in light, sandy soil. They are kept close and moist until they are rooted, and afterwards they are placed on a shelf near the glass."

"When does the final shift take place?"

"Usually the first week in July, into 5-in. or 6-in. pots. They are then shaded and aired carefully, kept in a temperature of sixty-five to seventy degrees, and, when well-established, are fed with concentrated manure. I keep all flowers picked off until the end of September or the beginning of October, and then place the plants in a temperature of fifty to fifty-five degrees, and allow them to come into flower. Some specimens I exhibited were awarded a first-class cultural exhibit."

"Have you read papers on any other subjects?"

"On the culture of Cyclamens, herbaceous Calceolarias, and Primulas. I think that such papers are appreciated, and that if a man devotes special attention to any particular plants he may be able to give other people useful hints."

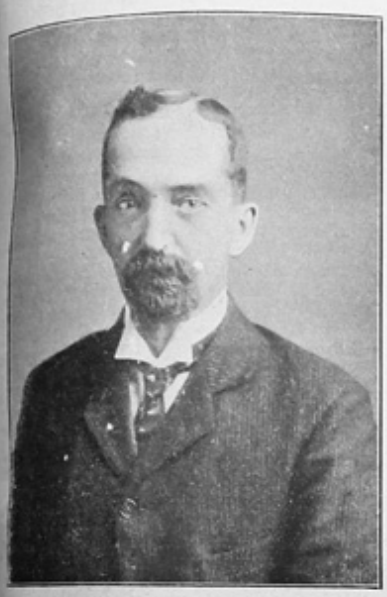
Alfred Wilcox.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

35.—HOT-WATER PIPES IN A GREENHOUSE.

Dear Kate,—So, after all, you have decided to have hot-water pipes in your new greenhouse, with one part of it shut off from the rest, with a glass partition and extra pipes, for a small hothouse. This will, of course, enable you to grow a great many more tender plants than those in the list I gave you last week, besides enabling you to force Lilies of the Valley, tropical seedlings (such as Cannas), and to grow many of the rarer Ferns, including several of the gold and silver varieties, such as Gymnogrammas, Nothoclænas, and other lovely Ferns. Nothoclæna chrysophylla flavens is the full title of the Golden Maidenhair, as it is sometimes called (although it is not an Adiantum at all), and very beautiful it is. Cheilanthes elegans (the Lace Fern) has the most exquisitely finely-cut fronds; Gymnogramma chrysophylla grandiceps is a lovely, crested gold Fern, covered with deep yellow dust; and G. schizophylla superba has lace-like, long fronds, powdered with silver, in the centre of the plant. Gold and silver Ferns, however, need special care, for they must neither be touched by anything, nor syringed, as the gold dust is easily washed or knocked off, and then the fronds die. They do best with us when placed on a board covered with fine ashes. Place on the stage, over the hot-water pipes, for they must have light and air, as well as a moist atmosphere. The watering of these little beauties should always be in careful hands, for they will not bear to be over-watered, and yet must not become too dry. But if you wish to have the most lovely of table decorations, you should grow Gold Ferns, ready to slip them into small bowls of silver or antique china on occasions. They stand the dry air of the house (without gas) very well for a few hours, but should be put back again before the morning, both to avoid risks of being

January 27th.—The growing tendency to devote a special part of the garden to Roses has a serious disadvantage. Like a whirlpool, it sucks all of them into its one comparatively small circle, and leaves none anywhere else. Personally, I like to see Roses all over the garden—in the borders, in the shrubberies, and especially on the lawn. Standards, I am told, have gone or are going out of fashion. That



Mr. Frederick Bright.

may be so; but what fashion, which I thought concerned itself with such matters as crinolines, has to do with gardening, I am at a loss to imagine. There cannot, in my opinion, be a more beautiful plant for the lawn than a good standard Rose, and in that position I shall always grow them. But Rose-beds on a lawn, charming as they are when properly treated, are often less satisfactory, the chief reason being that the soil beneath them is usually left bare. It ought to be carpeted with low-growing plants. Even such an experienced grower as Mr. F. Cant, who might be supposed to think only of the Roses, advocates this method; but the fact is that it does not hurt them in the least. On the contrary, by interposing a screen between the soil and the sunlight, it rather benefits them. Then, again, the want of something smaller than ordinary Roses is often noticeable at the outside of the bed. It is just possible that this want may be supplied by a new Rose, Madame Levavasseur by name, raised by Mr. Turner, and considered worthy of the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Merit. It is described as "a dwarf and exceedingly floriferous form of the well-known Crimson Rambler, adapted for bedding or as edging for Rose-beds." It is in the latter capacity that it would be the more useful.

January 28th.—We are going, it is said, to have a law for the control or exclusion of undesirable immigrants. Well, I could put a Parliamentary Committee on to two or three which might be worth their attention. One of them goes by the name of Plusia Moneta. "A few years ago," says Mr. Holmes, "it first appeared in this country, feeding both on the Aconite and the Delphinium, when high prices (from five shillings upwards) were paid for British specimens. Now it is so common around London that I found nearly a dozen in the Chelsea Physic Garden"—which suggests that perhaps, after all, our climate may not agree with the creature—" and an acquaintance collected during a cycle ride in the neighbourhood of London last week as many as five hundred larvæ, so that it is spreading rapidly." He says also: "The grub appears about the middle of April, and its presence is recognised by the young leaves above the bud being fastened together, and later on by the black tips of the young leaves where they have been eaten." Now, I ask, isn't this a class of immigrant which ought to be kept out of the country? Is not it far more worthy the attention of Parliament than a dozen Polish Jews?

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 122.—Mr. Frederick Bright, at the Gardens, White Knights Park, Reading.

Although Mr. Bright warned me that, so far as appearances are concerned, the gardens at White Knights Park look their worst in January, I found on the occasion of my visit much to interest—more, in fact, than sufficient for the purpose. This, indeed, is generally the case, and I am glad that many gardeners, though not all, are good enough to realise that their courtesy in seeing me in winter is at least as much appreciated as it is in the season when there is a great show of flowers or fruit. The associations of White Knights Park are historical. Now the residence of Mr. Friedlander, it was seventy years ago one of the seats of the Duke of Marlborough. Since then the property has been cut up into seven estates, the mansion at White Knights Park being built on the site of the original house. The grand old trees, supposed to be the finest of any collection of the same size in the United Kingdom, are still a great feature of the place. But it was not the trees, nor any portion of the gardens, which first claimed my attention on my arrival at White Knights. Mr. Bright is, of course, a first-class, all-round gardener, and he also bears on his shoulders the weight of managing the farm. He has, however, a special reputation for successful cultivation of the Fuchsia. And, at the outset, after I had seen a number of the plants in their winter quarters, I asked him to tell me about his experiences and his methods of treatment.

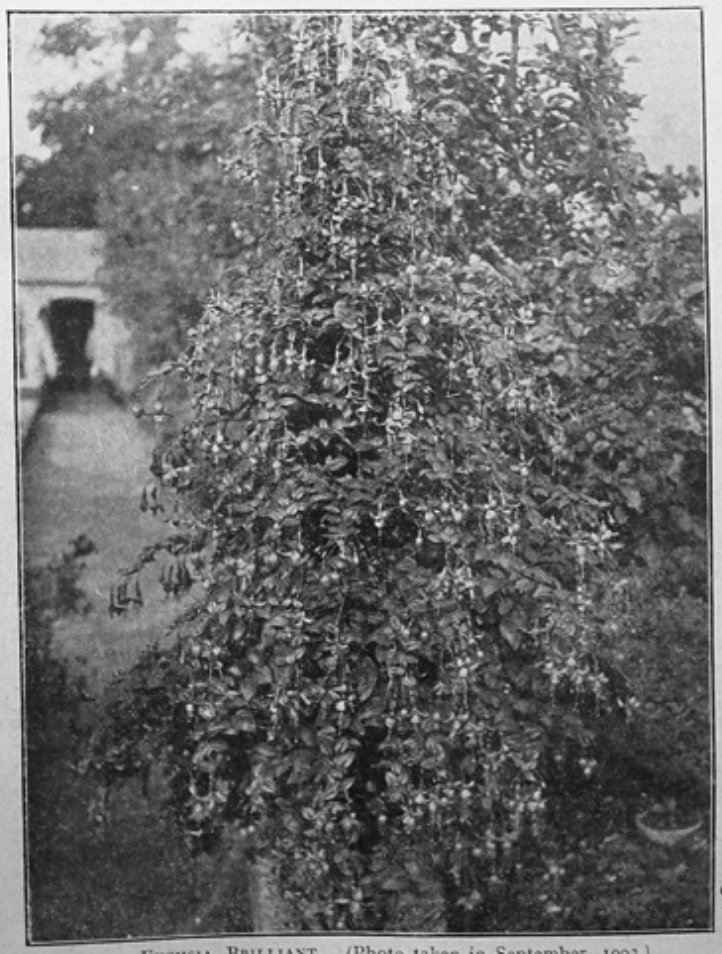
"I have been growing Fuchsias for nearly twenty-one years," he said, "ever since I came to White Knights."

"Then this is the year you attain your majority?"

"Yes, in September. The reason I began was that Mr. Lees, of The Wilderness, my next-door neighbour, was growing them. I also commenced showing almost immediately at the Reading Show, and have shown ever since."

"In all classes?"

"I used to show in all classes, but when I had taken a number of prizes the committee barred me out of all but one class in the Fuchsia classes."



Fuchsia, Brilliant. (Photo taken in September, 1903.)

"Have you exhibited elsewhere than at Reading?"

"No, I have no time, and the expense is another objection."

"Do I understand that all through you have carried off the first prizes?"

"Practically. I have not been beaten. My exhibits have been collections of six and of four, and a specimen. For some time I showed a Fuchsia as a specimen against stove plants. On the last occasion, the Rose Show in the Jubilee year, 1897, I exhibited a specimen of Elegans against any plant in the show, and was awarded the first prize in the specimen class. Then the committee cut out the Fuchsia altogether, because they came to the conclusion that, as they said, 'Nothing could stand against those great monsters.'"

"How big was the last 'monster'?"

"It was ten feet high, and nearly five feet through. The pot in which it stood was eighteen inches across."

"I should like the names of the varieties which have achieved such a unique success."

"The dark colours are Charming, Elegans, Brilliant, Masterpiece, Clipper, and Wiltshire Giant; the light colours Western Beauty, Miss Balfour, White Queen, Jubilee Queen, Mrs. Bright, and Grand Duchess."

"Now, perhaps, you will tell me what you think proper as to your mode of culture."

"Of course, I start with a good cutting. February is the best month. After the cutting is properly rooted in an intermediate house, I transfer it to an ordinary greenhouse with plenty of light and air. Then I shift on according to growth and root action."

"What compost do you recommend?"

"I pot in two parts of good, turfy loam, one part of good leaf-mould, flaked but not rotten, one part of lime rubble, and one part of burnt wood ashes. Where the soil is heavy, I should recommend that sand should be included in the compost. It is unnecessary here because the soil is light. I go on shifting until the plants get to the specimen sizes wanted."

"Will you give me an illustration?"

"If my object were to grow a specimen plant ten feet high, I should put it in a 16-in. pot. Larger pots are only ugly and cumbersome, and, moreover, the plants do not thrive so well in them. The plants should be put out of doors the latter part of May, and kept there, in a sheltered position until they are thoroughly hardened off, when, providing they are properly staked and protected, they may be moved wherever there is light."

"How high should the stake be?"

"The last shift decides the length of the plant, and the stake should be just a little higher than the plant to allow for a hard line to steady in case of wind. In showing, the extra piece of stake, which is only for support, should be cut off."

"What about tying?"

"Great care should be taken to prevent a tie from being seen, and to avoid crippling the plant. All tying should be done six weeks before flowering, if possible, in order that the plant may have a natural appearance. The last stopping, or pinching, should also be done six weeks before flowering."

"At what stage of growth should the top-dressing be done?"

"As soon as the roots begin to appear on the top, some time after the final shift, they should have a top-dressing of a good mixture similar to, but rather richer than, the mixture used for potting. When the pots are full of roots, I give diluted farmyard manure water. But it must be used with discretion."

"As to flowering," continued Mr. Bright, "this can be regulated by the stopping. Fuchsias begin to flower six weeks after the last pinching. If they are wanted to flower during June, they should be stopped in April, and then they flower again in August. That is my principle, and I find it answers very satisfactorily. I have exhibited at two shows in the same season flowers of the same plant. My plants usually go on flowering until the end of October or the beginning of November."

"Is there any difficulty about wintering?"

"None whatever. Both before and during wintering they should be kept slightly on the dry side. When they are brought in, either in October or November, they should be pruned hard while they are in full growth. They will stand in any corner in a Vinery or other house, so long as they are out of the reach of frost. The pots can be put quite close together."

"As I saw them in your Vinery?"

"Yes. In fact, there is no place where large Fuchsias cannot be kept. We keep fifteen pots in our thirty-feet Vinery. There they rest until February, when we shake out all the soil, and put them back in as small a pot as possible."

"I gather that you are very careful about the foliage?"

"Unless the foliage of the plant is good, the flowers will not be good. If I find a plant with sickly foliage, it is very soon thrown away. There is no doubt that Fuchsias do need constant attention, even seven days in the week. They want water twice a day on Sundays, in hot weather just as much as other days. On the other hand, in wet, muggy weather no water at all may be required. The great point is to give water when the plants need it; to give it when they do not want it is like giving them poison."

Callistemon speciosus.

"What are their worst enemies?"

"Green-fly and caterpillar. I administer one good fumigation of XL. All just before moving the plants out of doors, and rarely have any trouble with green-fly. As to caterpillars, the only thing is to have them off the moment the leaves are pierced."

"Do you grow only the twelve varieties you named?"

"Only those and one other, Star of Wilts. There are probably a hundred, but we select simply those that will grow into fine specimens, give a wealth of colour, and make excellent plants. All the varieties we grow, which I think are the best obtainable, were raised by Mr. James Lye, my father-in-law, who at one time was the champion of Fuchsia-growers in England. He had ten special houses for them."

"I suppose that in the summer the plants are a feature in the garden?"

"They are dotted about, and look very gay. Last summer I had about thirty, some nine feet high, others more, and others again not so high. The flowers on the plants are too numerous to be counted."

"Now, I think, we might add some details about White Knights generally and yourself. Was this your first position as head gardener?"

"No, I was head gardener previously for five years at Clifton. I began gardening when I was thirteen at Bitten, Bristol, where Mr. Barnes was head gardener. Then I went for a time to Cyfartha Castle, and next to Westbury-on-Trym under Mr. Worthington, and lastly, before taking up the duties of head gardener at Clifton, to the gardens at Redland Court, Bristol."

"How large are the gardens here?"

"About five acres. There is a staff of six, and in Mr. Friedlander's absence I have charge of everything."

"What should you describe as the outside features?"

"There are the trees, including the splendid avenue of Elms as you approach the house. The Cedars are also very stately, and there is a fine specimen of an evergreen Oak which has to be cut back to make room for other trees. Hollies thrive here remarkably well, and the Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and Magnolias are very beautiful."

"Have you many named Rhododendrons?"

"About a hundred varieties. There is one very fine standard Rhododendron, The Queen. The others include the Pink Pearl, which I do not think can be equalled. Rhododendrons seem to flourish in the natural soil. We planted a quantity of ponticum by the lake, and they grew as well as in the gardens."

"How large is the lake?"

"It is about twelve acres in extent. The water in some places is fifteen feet deep, but the shallows are covered with the common white and the little yellow Lilies. Bamboos, Rosa rugosa, and several Hybrid Tea varieties of Roses grow on the banks of the lake."

"I see that the Hall is partly covered with Magnolias?"

"At present by Magnolias, Virginian Creepers, and Ivy. But we want to dispense with all except the Ivy, which not only makes the house look older, but covers it all the year. The conservatory, which is decorated in summer, is used as a Palm house in winter."

"What is your spring bedding in the right beds in front of the Hall?"

"Wallflowers—Sutton's Scarlet Beauty and Cloth of Gold—Polyanthus, Violas, Scillas, and Tulips, edged with Saxifraga."

"Then there are the Roses in the Italian Garden, with the old wall forming the boundary hidden by masses of Rhododendrons and Laurels."

"I suppose we have a couple of hundred of named varieties of Roses. There are ten beds mixed, but of one shade of colour, which we think more effective. Roses grow pretty well all the year round."

"When were the beds made?"

"Six years ago. I remodelled the gardens after I came, and the Italian garden was improved under my care. It includes a herbaceous border about 140 yards long, and a large herbaceous bed. There are some fine specimens of Pampas Grass, and the Yew arbour, with a pump, dates 104 years back."

"You have fruit on the walls of the Italian garden?"

"Yes, Pears on cordon, Apricots, and Figs. Apricots do well with us, both the Moor Park and Grosse Peche. The Moor Park tree is twenty years old, and has borne good crops continuously ever since. They bear so well that I am always able to thin them out."

"What is the secret of your success with Apricots?"

"I can only attribute it to stopping and pinching the early growths. If the trees are permitted to make strong growth in one place, the

weaker branches give out, and canker appears. Also, I take care that the roots are on the surface so that they can be top-dressed and mulched in the summer."

"You grow all the leading varieties of Pears as cordons?"

"Most of them. The chief varieties of the trained trees are Louise Bonne of Jersey, Williams' Bon Chretien, and Royal Queen. In the kitchen garden we have the usual varieties of Apples, Pears, Plums, Gooseberries—which are also grown under wire netting with great success—and a fine Fig tree, Black Ischia, which is a splendid cropper."

"And vegetables?"

"All the ordinary kinds. In a separate piece of ground we go in considerably for Potatoes, including the Up-to-Date variety."

"Finally, there are the houses. I should be glad to have the names of the varieties in your new Peach house."

"There are sixteen trees in sixteen boxes, each of which is a different variety. We commenced the system about five years ago, and I find it very convenient. If a tree comes on too fast, it is shifted into a colder house; and if it is too thick, it can be thinned out and moved. They are all started in the house. The varieties are:—Peaches: Hale's Early, Alexander Early, Crimson Galande, Violette Hative, Dymond, Barrington, Bellegarde, Marquis of Downshire, Late Devonian, Stirling Castle. The Nectarines are Early Rivers, Cardinal, Spencer, Elruge, Victoria, and Pitmaston Orange."

"How many Vineries are there?"

"Three. The early house contains Black Hamburgh and Madresfield Court; the second Muscats, with a large Nectarine tree, Lord Napier, six years old; and the third Alicantes and Gros Colmar. I do not care for a number of varieties, and I think that it is one of the greatest mistakes a gardener can make to have many."

"You have shown fruit, I think?"

"A good deal in the past, and I still show a little. I have taken first for Grapes and other fruit. By the way, Melons are grown in the pits, and in a small forcing house twenty-four feet by twenty."

"What do you grow in the nice little Fernery?"

"Gloxinias, Begonias, Caladiums, and a few Orchids, including Cœlogynes and Calanthes. We also grow Lachenalia Nelsoni, a lovely yellow flower."

"How many?"

"From four to five hundred. They must not be forced much, or they will spoil. In "48's" we get about twenty-five spikes on one plant. Lachenalias are not grown half as much as they ought to be, perhaps because people do not know how to treat them. They should be potted up the first week in August, stood out of doors, sheltered from rain, brought in just before the frost comes on, and then kept in a cool greenhouse, fully exposed to light and air. Careful watering is also necessary."

"Are they expensive?"

"I have grown from one bulb, for which I paid a shilling, many thousands of flowers."

"Do you grow many Freesias?"

"Just about the same. We have only two varieties, major and refracta alba. Several varieties of Camellias, which are now in flower, are grown. I may add that we have always done wonderfully well with Maréchal Neil Roses. Last Easter I had more than a thousand flowers from the young plant, four years old, in the greenhouse. We had a tree which filled two houses. A visitor calculated that on it at one time there were 3,000 blooms."

Alfred Wilcox.

When planting Tomatoes, whether indoors or outside, be sure to make the soil as firm as possible. In a loose or over-rich soil the plants run too much to growth, and do not fruit freely, but if the bed or border is made almost as hard as the garden path the plants will fruit freely.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 79.—FORCED STRAWBERRIES, SHRUBS, AND ONIONS.

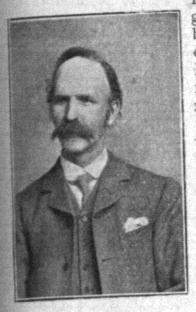
Dear Kate,—With February a great many gardening affairs begin, and we have a busy time of it. Strawberries, for instance, which we layered into thumb pots last June, and potted on into 5-in. pots at the end of July, have been standing outside until now (sheltered from frost, however), and now we take them in, for we like to have Strawberries for afternoon tea early in April, after which it is easy to keep up a succession until the outside crop is ripe. So we have each pot brushed or scrubbed outside, then we cut off with a pair of scissors all the dead or half-dead foliage, and top-dress the soil with a little cow-manure and soot, taking care to leave room for plenty of water, however. The pots are then ranged on a shelf, which is hung from the roof of the Vineries on iron hooks; this keeps them close under the glass, and the aspect is south, so they get plenty of sunshine. We give them plenty of water, but one has to hit the *juste milieu* in supplying them, for if they get too dry they will immediately have an attack of green-fly or red spider (or perhaps both), with direful consequences, and yet they must not be soaked when they are wet, until the flowers are set; after which they have warm water in the morning, and liquid manure in the afternoon, if the weather be dry and hot, with a daily syringing (with the Vines) at three o'clock, before the Vinery is shut up. But directly the fruit begins to look white, we stop syringing the Strawberries (because they are apt to mildew if they are shut up whilst wet), and leave a little air on at night. The flowers that open first are touched with a camel's-hair paintbrush, to distribute the pollen, but very soon this becomes unnecessary; and directly the first berry on each plant is set, we pinch off all the small side blossoms (reducing the berries to about six on each plant), and have some manure placed on the shelf on which they then stand. You can't give them too much nourishment at this time, but the soil in their pots must not be clogged, and thin soot-water, with an occasional change to Clay's fertiliser, suits them very well. We find Royal Sovereign bring much the best crop, both indoors and out; but the new Laxton Strawberry is said to be still better, and I hope to be able to tell you more about this later on, as we have a fine bed of this variety coming on. After fruiting, we put the Strawberries into the border, and they produce a second crop in the autumn, with a large crop the following year; it is a great pity to throw them away, as many gardeners do, for they then bear many more Strawberries than the runners which are put in at the same time.

I think everyone should grow Strawberries, for there is no fruit which more quickly loses its flavour, and those who cannot go out and pick their own Strawberries, warm with the sunshine, scarcely know how good they are. If I lived in a city, I should grow them in barrels, so as to have them safe from the cats; I believe one can buy revolving barrels, which can be turned round to the sun, so as to ripen the fruit evenly, and that directions for growing the plants are given in, but I have never tried them, because we have plenty of room.

In the conservatory it is spring, and oh, how delicious is the scent of the flowers! Lilacs are the sweetest of all, but the Philadelphus coronarius (commonly called Syringa, though that is the real name of the Lilac) is almost too richly scented for some people. But its lovely flowers, mock-orange, in purest white, are so useful at this time of year, and they look so well with the rich tints of the Japanese Azalea (mollis) that it is quite worth while to pot up a little bush of it in the autumn for early flowering. All it wants is moderate and gradual warmth, with an increasing supply of water as its foliage and buds appear. Never place a plant which is to be forced into strong heat at once, for this only weakens and puzzles the poor things. You see, we have to humbug them into thinking that winter is over, and spring has arrived; and we must keep this in mind, and not suddenly place them in summer warmth when they are not prepared for it. No, you must give a week or so to March, and then to April, before pretending that May, or even June, has arrived; and then the plants will develop gradually and rightly. Warm showers (from the syringe), a temperature of about fifty-five degrees to begin with, rising to sixty degrees after the first ten days, and then to seventy degrees (or more with sunshine) at the end of four or five weeks, will be quite rapid enough for most plants; but of course it is not easy to regulate the heat exactly unless one has two or three greenhouses with different temperatures. We have a warm Vinery inside the cooler one, so that it is easy to move the plants

Philadelphus Coronarius—The Mock Orange.

bring all the great resources at their command to the imitation of Nature in her freest moods and her subtlest beauty, gardening will rank among the highest of the arts." If an explanation be wanted of "her freest moods," it will be found in another paragraph. "An isolated Furze bush, a single Buttercup, or a root of Poppies may be pretty enough in itself, but it is a whole common of Furze in full bloom that draws tears from the eyes of a Linnæus; billows of Buttercups, rolling over acres of greensward in the spring breeze; a whole copse carpeted with blue Hyacinths; a whole forest draped in the russet tints of autumn—these are the things that call forth the most rapturous delight in the lovers of Nature. But Nature never chops up her beds of Poppies into triangles and Maltese crosses, or intersects her valleys full of Bluebells with ribbons of red and yellow, pinked out as straight and stiff as line and rule can make them." He is inclined to think that carpet bedding is not without its value in teaching the effect of massing, and that may be true. The expression "mixed border" is often taken far too literally, the mixture being more conspicuous than the plants of which it is composed. The aim should be to obtain broad effects—not to sprinkle the plants about the border, but to mass them in large groups. That is Nature's method, and that is, and should be, the artist's method. It can be seen in any good picture, just as it can in any country walk.



MR. ERNEST BRISTOW.

Flower Borders.

May 31st.—I like to see the flower borders completely covered in summer, so that no earth is visible. Even in a small garden this requires a huge number of plants, but, if they are grown from seeds sown in a reserve bed, the cost is slight. Pansies make an excellent groundwork for Roses, and, though they cannot be considered permanent, they seed so profusely that there is no difficulty in keeping up a stock. Aubrietias and Saxifrages of various kinds are invaluable for covering the ground around taller plants, and Iceland Poppies are most useful for filling up gaps. Even when they are not in flower, the grey-green foliage is very beautiful. There are scores of other plants which may be used for the same purpose, annuals as well as perennials, and if it should appear later that they are too crowded, some can easily be removed. As a ground covering for hot, dry beds of sandy soil, the Portulacas are unrivalled.

June 1st.—Anyone with a warm greenhouse who wants handsome plants rather out of the common should try the Agapetes. They are evergreen shrubs requiring rather a high temperature, but otherwise not difficult to grow, the most suitable soil being largely composed of sandy peat and leaf-mould. One of the finest is A. macrantha. As the illustration shows, the beautifully-marked bell-shaped flowers hang down from the sprays in much the same way as they do in Solomon's Seal.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

ROMNEYA COULTERI, the great white Californian Poppy, is one of the most elegant of all herbaceous plants. It produces large, crinkled blossoms of the purest snow-white, and it enjoys a deep, loamy soil, and a warm and sunny position.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 262.—MR. ERNEST BRISTOW, AT THE GARDENS, LEYSWOOD, GROOMBRIDGE.

FOR natural beauty it would be extremely difficult, even in the fair county of Kent, to surpass the gardens at Leyswood, Mrs. Temple's delightful residence, a short distance from Groombridge. The rocks, caves, and lovely slopes combine to heighten enormously the attractions of plants, shrubs, and Conifers, while the stately mansion itself, standing high above portions of the pleasure grounds, adds dignity to its charming surroundings. Visiting the gardens early in May, by the courtesy of the owner, I was fortunate in respect to weather; but at the end of a long afternoon I had to admit to Mr. Bristow, the head gardener, that the place required a full day in order to do it justice. Proceeding, however, to make the most of the time available, we started at the main entrance to the mansion, which bears the date 1869 on the wall, while on the house itself the creepers include Magnolia grandiflora and Exoniensis, Ampelopsis Veitchii, Clematis and Ivy.

The Fernery.

Connected with the morning-room in the mansion, some of whose foundations are natural rock, is a lofty and well-proportioned Fernery, with Ficus repens on the roof, Ferns planted in beds at the side, and a waterfall at the end. There is nothing artificial about the Fernery, and, lighted up at night, it must look very pretty.

"The Ferns," said Mr. Bristow, include Woodwardias, Nephrolepis, Phlebodiums, many of the Trees, such as Dicksonia, Cyatheas, and Cibotiums, numerous Pteris varieties and Aspleniums, with Todeas and other varieties on the rocks standing out of the water, while one of the finest of the many Palms is the Latania, quite at home on the top of the Fernery. By way of contrast, the Rex Begonias are a pleasing feature."

Specimens of Conifers.

"You have a nice combination for your spring bedding just outside?"

"On the south front. It consists of Wallflowers, Myosotis, and Tulips, the border being Tulips only, scarlet, pink, and white. Another round bed is composed almost entirely of dark Polyantha and Chrysolora Tulips; but there is very little bedding here—you will see more presently."

"I can see already that you have some specimens of Conifers?"

"Notably, Thujas (Lobbi), Araucarias, and Cedrus deodara. One of the finest Thujas is a Sieboldii, very rare here, and difficult to cultivate. On the Pinetum, which we are now approaching, is a fine specimen of Larix Griffithii, and some good examples of Abies Albertiana and canadensis, Retinospora plumosa, and Picea glauca."

A Collection of Chamærops.

"Your Bamboos do well in the dell below."

"It is just the spot for them, and here also you will notice that we have a collection of Chamærops Fortunei."

"With at least one magnificent specimen."

"That is the original one which, as a dormant crown, was imported by the late Mr. Temple from the Continent about sixteen years ago. We have now two dozen, and when they get too thick in the beds, we plant them in the turf. Chamærops require to be in a dell where the wind and sun are not likely to injure them. They only flower occasionally, but the blooms last for three or four weeks, and the great yellow trusses show up at a distance."

Rhododendrons Without Peat.

"The grounds must be very extensive," I said, as we made our way to the long walk, with Rhododendrons and Azaleas at the end.

"The woodland walks and pleasure grounds cover thirty-five acres, and include an avenue of Cupressus Lawsoniana. Rhododendrons are quite a feature, and there is no peat in the soil. In fact, I prefer to plant them in loam. I suppose that on the rocks there are thousands of seedlings. In some places they grow so rampantly that we have to make a clean sweep of them. There are several named varieties planted in beds, such as The Queen, Madame Wegner, Princess Mary of Cambridge, Antony Waterer, and John Waterer."

"The branches of those on the rocks by the

LEYSWOOD, GROOMBRIDGE, FROM THE PARK.

terrace near the large stone, resting on three others, and looking as if it could fall, must hang down many feet?"

"Quite fifteen. We allow things to grow naturally on the rocks. Ampelopsis and Lonicera are among the creepers, and on the banks are several specimens of the variegated Acers, Liquidambars, Cratægus, Pyrus, Prunus, etc."

The Flower Garden.

Then, after a glance along the main drive, where Laburnums, Thorns, flowering Crabs, and Spiræa flourish, and a peep at the delightful tea gardens close to one of the rock gullies, we hastened to the flower garden, which was literally cut out of the wood, and is still backed by it. But, in the approaches, and round the borders which extend two hundred yards, are many choice flowering shrubs.

"The collection," said Mr. Bristow, "embraces Cryptomeria elegans, Retinospora plumosa aurea, Taxus boccata aurea, Cupressus erecta variegata, Thujopsis dolabrata, Acers, Althæas, Azara microphylla, Choisya ternata, Olearia Haastii, Skimmia fragrans, Berberis, Cotoneasters, Syringas, and Veronicas in variety. They are edged all round with Dactylis elegantissima."

"And the beds?"

"The centre bed is planted with Cannas. Most of the others contain Pelargoniums in varieties, Verbenas, Ageratum, Lantanas, Begonias, Coleus, and variegated Maize, with Grevilleas, Acacias, and Heliotropes as dot plants; there are two with Pentstemons, Godetias, Antirrhinums, and Verbenas; and four corner beds are filled with Gladioli. There are forty beds altogether, and I may say that, for bedding purposes, we grow quite twelve thousand plants."

Roses Pegged Down.

"How many beds are there in the Rose garden, with a collection of Rhododendrons at the back?"

"Two long beds a hundred and forty feet long, and two round beds. The number of plants is about seven hundred, and there are two hundred and fifty of the best varieties. I get a few new ones each year. The beds are mixed. I think the effect lasts longer than with clumps of single varieties. All the Roses are pegged down, and we get ten to twelve inches of stem, which is so useful for cutting. At the back is a nice specimen of the Umbrella Pine, Sciadopitys verticillata."

"Are the Roses chiefly Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals?"

"Yes, and those that do best are Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. John Laing, Marquise Litta, Caroline Testout, Jeannie Dickson, Margaret Dickson, Ben Cant, Bessie Brown, Corallina, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Mrs. W. J. Grant, La France, Tom Wood, and Mater."

A Splendid Collection of Camellias.

Having now completed, as far as possible, the tour of the pleasure grounds, we turned our attention to the houses, appropriately beginning with the Camellia house, which is one of the finest in the country. As I expressed my admiration of the house and its contents, Mr. Bristow replied:

"You would have seen it at its best in March and April, but the collection is, I believe, remarkably good. There are about sixty varieties, and many of them were imported from the Continent."

"Do you use much heat?"

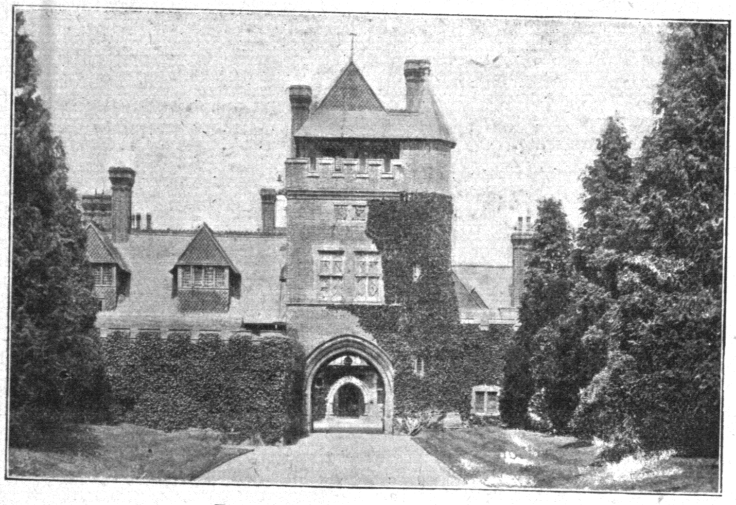
"Merely enough to keep the frost out. I prune them back annually, but they do not require much attention, although they have to be kept in bounds. Several of the flowers are as finely marked as Picotees. I am not surprised that Camellias are coming into fashion again, because of the wealth of bloom they yield at a time when it is wanted."

"I should like the names of a few of the varieties you think the best."

"Franzina is a very fine crimson; Incarnata, a very soft pink; Madame de Strekaloff, a distinct pink and cream; and Albina Bottii is the best pink. Other very good varieties are suberba, Donkelaarii alba plena, fimbriata, Discus italiana, centifolia carnea, Solfatara, Angela Cocchii, Etrusca, Maria Levesa, Isabella, Regina Margherita, imbricata tricolor, Caterina Loing, Bonomiana, and Bertha Ravene. On the roof of the house are Roses, Clematis, Lapageria, and Plumbago capensis."

"Including this, how many houses are there in the gardens?"

"Twenty-eight, many of them large; the inside staff is seven. In the house we are just entering are some Anthuriums, Caladiums, and a few stove plants; and here we grow early Melons, Sutton's Scarlet, Superlative (which is the very best, taken from all points of view), and Ringleader. The Cucumber is Veitch's Unique. We do not grow a great number of varieties, but, when we get a thing that suits us, we stick to it."



THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO LEYSWOOD.

"You go in largely for Orchids?"

"That is certainly one of our features inside. This is the Odontoglossum house. Nothing is easier in Orchids to grow than Odontoglossums if you can start them well. It is a great mistake to have slate beds; an open woodwork stage is an absolute necessity. Another necessity is plenty of fresh air through the house, although it is important to avoid draughts and air from the top. The varieties now in flower include some nice specimens of O. Crispum and O. Andersonianum, O. triumphans, O. Edouardi, O. Ruckerianum, O. Halli leucoglosus, O. luteo-purpureum, and O. Coradenei. At the end of this house are some very fine specimens of Masdevallias, including Harryana, Veitchiana grandiflora, Pourpaxii, trochilus, and Shuttleworthii. There are quite five hundred spikes in this house, and one thousand five hundred plants."

CHAMÆROPS FORTUNEI IN FLOWER, AT LEYSWOOD.

"You have more Odontoglossums in a second house?"

"Yes, but these are newly imported, and also include many varieties similar to those in the other house. Here are some Cyclamen, which are always welcome at the dull time of the year, and we grow Ferns under the stages; the latter both adorn the house and are useful for cutting."

Dendrobiums in Flower.

"How many varieties are there in your Carnation house?"

"About two dozen, all Malmaisons, and the best of the varieties are Calypso, Prime Minister, Pink Malmaison, Churchwarden, and Iolanthe. Now we come to two more Orchid houses, principally Cypripediums, but there are also Dendrobiums, and Calanthes. There are also a few Nepenthes, the varieties being Hookerii intermedia and Mastersiana."

"You might tell me the names of the Dendrobiums in flower."

"Chiefly, Hildebrandtii, Dalhouseianum, cretaceum, crystallinum, albo-sanguineum, thyrsiflorum, agregatum majus, also Phalænopsis Rimestadium. The Cypripediums in flower are chiefly Elliottianum, Chamberlainianum, Haynaldianum, Mastersianum, Zeus, and Euryandrum. A plant of C. selligerum majus has seventeen flowers."

"And the next house?"

"It is devoted to Palms, with Ferns

all along the stage. The Palms are chiefly Cycas revoluta, and Kentias Fosteriana and Belmoreana. Then, there is a remarkable plant called Ravenola madagascariana. It has been here eighteen years, and is much the same now as it was when I came. Its height is quite fourteen feet, and the leaves are very handsome, like large shields. On a back stage are Bananas, which do very well; we have hands with one hundred and fifty fingers on; there are eight trees, three or four of which fruit each year. The Monstera deliciosa, with leaves like a skeleton, bears acid fruit, and you might add that there is a fine specimen of Pandanus utilus."

Temple's Variety of Cattleya Skinneri.

"You have yet another fine Orchid house?" I said, as we entered quite a large building with a number of magnificent flowers.

"This is the Cattleya house, and it is seventy feet long by twenty-two feet. It contains quite sixteen thousand plants, and the blooms, which as you say dominate the house, are Temple's variety of C. Skinneri. Mr. Temple originated it here, and it has been certificated. The colour is superb, a rich magenta with cream throat. One spike has nine flowers on it. Other Cattleyas in flower are Skinneri alba, Mossiæ, Lælia, Latonia, Mendelli superbissima, and a plant of C. Mossiæ which has been here twenty-four years, and has flowered annually. There are six spikes of bloom on it now. The collection here includes a number of Lælia-Cattleya and Brasso-Cattleya hybrids."

The Flowering House.

"Then," continued Mr. Bristow, "there is the intermediate Orchid house, which contains Cymbidiums, Lycastes, and Oncidiums. One of the varieties of the latter is O. Marshallianum, and there is a curious specimen of Lycastes gigantea, the brown portion of which is like a horse's head. All the Lycastes do well, also Angulosas and allied genera."

"What are the present features of your range of flowering houses?"

"Cinerarias stellata, Azaleas, Zonal Pelargoniums, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Stephanotis, Streptosolen Jamesonii, and Rhodochyton voluble on the roof. In the next range, President Carnot Begonias are planted out, and become very fine later in the summer. We also, of course, grow Begonias Gloire de Sceaux, Gloire de Lorraine, and Perle de Lorraine. Roses are grown in pots in another house, and Franciscea calycina major, which flowers in the spring, is a useful stove plant, requiring only ordinary treatment."

"I see you go in for Schizanthus?"

"Yes, we find it very useful; it is generally known as the 'Poor Man's Orchid.' The plants close by are Dasylirion longifolium, which is also very useful. Of the Tree Carnations, we grow Madame Franco, Sir Hector Macdonald, Enchantress, and America; and of Chrysanthemums about five hundred of the leading varieties."

Grapes and Peaches.

"What about Violets?"

"We grow four varieties, Marie Louise, Mrs. Astor, Princess of Wales, and Kaiser Wilhelm. Now we had better take the fruit houses, beginning with the Vineries. In the earliest house we have Black Hamburgh and Buckland's Sweetwater; in the medium house, Black Alicante, Gros Maroc, Lady Hutt (a very useful white), and Alnwick Castle. In another house is Muscat of Alexandria and Mrs. Pearson. Here we have Figs plunged in pots, principally Brown Turkey. The advantage of growing Figs in pots is that they can be shifted when and where you like. In the late Vinery, Lady Downe's Seedling and Black Alicante are grown. The only Strawberry forced is Royal Sovereign, of which a large number are grown on the shelves in the various houses."

"What are your earliest varieties of Peaches?"

"One of the best in the Peach house is Dymond, which, if not so good in colour, is a very fine flavour. The Nectarines here are Rivers' Early and Lord Napier."

"But you grow a great many of your Peaches and Nectarines in the great case where you seem to have a fine crop of fruit."

"Yes, the case contains an almost complete collection. It is one hundred and fifty feet long, and has the advantage of facing south-west. The Peaches are Bellegarde, Dr. Hogg, Alexandra, Noblesse, Grosse Mignonne, Barrington, Sea Eagle, Walburton Admirable, Waterloo, Stirling Castle, etc.; the Nectarines, Cardinal, Dryden, Precoce de Croncels, etc. Lettuces are put in boxes, and planted out in this case. The variety is Sutton's Forcing. Finishing with indoor fruit, you might mention that the Tomatoes we grow are Sutton's Satisfaction, Winter Beauty, Holmes' Supreme, and Ham Green Favourite."

"I much admire the border in front of your own house, and extending considerably beyond."

"It is two hundred and ten feet long, and consists of Wallflowers at the back, with Tulips intermixed, and Polyanthus in front. There has been a great quantity of flower, but, naturally, it is now beginning to flag."

The Best Apples.

"What are the features of your extensive kitchen gardens?"

"In the lower garden there is a fine collection of Apples, espalier and pyramid. Among others doing well are the Queen, Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Bismarck. We grow about fifty varieties, including the standards, and in addition to those named, I think, for crop and quality, the most reliable are Worcester Pearmain, Tower of Glamis, Borovitsky, Newton Wonder, Duke of Devonshire, King of Pippins, Brabant Bellefleur, Court of Wick, Lord Derby, and Gascoyne's Scarlet. The borders in front of the espaliers are used for beds of Auriculas, Carnations, Anemones, English and Spanish Iris, Sweet Williams, and other flowers for cutting. The north side, as you know, contains the range of fruit houses, and the south side a broad walk with herbaceous borders, embracing a representative collection. Of Plums, the best we grow are Victoria, Coe's Golden Drop, and The Czar."

Specially-trained Pears.

"Pears appear to be the feature of your top kitchen garden."

"They were planted thirty years ago, and trained, as you observe, horizontally first, and then vertically; they furnish the wall more completely and more rapidly than when they are merely trained horizontally. Although they do so well on walls, Pears will not thrive well here in the open, either as pyramids or espaliers, the subsoil being very wet and heavy. Among the best varieties are Louise Bonne of Jersey, Beurré Diel, Doyenné du Comice, Doyenné d'Hiver, Doyenné d'Alencon, Duchesse d'Angouleme, Glou Morceau, Bergamotte Crassane, Bergamotte d'Esperen, Josephine de Malines, and Emile d'Heyst. Many of the Currants are grown on walls instead of on bushes, and most of the bush fruit is netted."

"What about vegetables?"

"I prefer to grow two or three varieties of each kind known to do well in this soil, rather than a large number of varieties. We have all the usual kinds, but there are no special features in vegetable cultivation."

"How long have you been at Leyswood, Mr. Bristow?"

"I came here as Orchid-grower in 1889, and in 1901 I was entrusted with the entire charge of the gardens. The first eight years of my gardening life were spent at Zeals House, Wiltshire; I was next for some time foreman at Langford Park, Essex, and subsequently, prior to my appointment at Leyswood, I was Orchid foreman at Downside, Leatherhead. Mrs. Temple takes a keen interest in her gardens and their welfare, which is always encouraging to the staff."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT LEYSWOOD.

STRAWBERRIES weighing no less than two ounces each—eight to the pound!—were shown recently at the Royal Horticultural Hall. The variety was Royal Sovereign.

AMONGST the awards of merit granted at the Temple Show was one for Saxifraga aizoon rosea, shown amongst the excellent display of Alpines made by the Craven Nursery Co., Clapham, Lancaster. This is one of the excellent varieties in the firm's unique collection of Saxifrages, and its attractive features were much admired by the visitors.

form of liquid manure, which they can readily assimilate. The crowns contain a large number of dormant buds. When the stems are cut down early enough in summer, some of these buds are forced to grow, but there are always enough left for growth in the following year.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

THE CORREAS.

The Correas are hard-wooded evergreen greenhouse plants, and although they were introduced from Australia into this country over a century ago, they have not met with the popularity they deserve. Many gardening books omit to mention them, while those which give reference to the genus are content with quite a small paragraph. Amateurs who are looking for a really useful flowering shrub for pot culture in the greenhouse might with advantage give these a trial. They will thrive in the unheated greenhouse, provided the temperature can be kept a few degrees above freezing point in the winter.

The best time to pot the plants is in July, and they should be put in a compost of two-thirds peat and one-third of good fibrous loam, with a fair sprinkling of sand. The potting should be firm. The various kinds flower in spring and early summer, and when the flowers are over the plants should be cut back and kept in healthy growth by syringing during the evenings when hot weather prevails.

Cuttings may be taken in the spring, and these should be provided with a "heel" of the ripe wood, and inserted firmly round the edge of a pot in a mixture of peat and sand. The cuttings must be kept moist and close. The plants are not particularly subject to insect pests, but scale will sometimes affect them, and this is usually combated by the use of Gishurst Compound.

The flowers are tube-shaped, and their partial resemblance to Fuchsias has earned for them their popular name of Australian Fuchsias, although they are not related in any way to Fuchsias. C. cardinalis is a handsome March-flowering species with bright scarlet flowers; and C. Brilliant is a very free-flowering hybrid, with flowers of a similar shade. C. alba and C. speciosa produce respectively white and scarlet flowers in June. The plants vary in height from three to five feet.

H. GREAVES.

Specimen copies of GARDEN LIFE will gladly be sent to any reader who will be kind enough to distribute them.

Famous British Gardens.

GOODWOOD PARK CHICHESTER.

Interview with Mr. F. Brock.

GOODWOOD this week receives a large share of public notice, for the race meeting taking place there is regarded as one of the most important of the year, while to the fashionable world it marks the close of the London season. The racecourse is on top of the Downs, amidst surroundings so beautiful that it has come to be known as "Glorious Goodwood." And glorious it truly is, with charms peculiar to the South Downs. Here are breezy uplands and magnificent woodlands; delightful valleys clothed with springy turf; wonderful views across the country, with a glimpse of the blue Channel to the south; and an air at once soft and bracing, a tonic for jaded nerves, and a healer for ill-health.

The park is sixteen hundred acres in extent, and is open to the public at all times, with the exception of one day in the year. Nor are there any restrictions; one can wander at will through any part, and the house itself, with its priceless art treasures, is open to inspection two or three times a week. The owner, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, takes pleasure in visitors enjoying the beauties of the park, and facilities for pic-nic parties are afforded.

It wanted a fortnight to "race week" when I paid my visit to the gardens, and was conducted round by Mr. F. Brock, who has been in charge for the past sixteen years. They are surrounded by a belt of high trees, which effectually screens them from the main road running through the park. But the house and its surroundings first claimed attention, and the chief objects of interest were pointed out by Mr. Brock.

"The Cork Oak, Quercus Suber, is a feature here," he said, as we entered the railed-off grounds near the house; "and these three are considered remarkably fine specimens. They are more than the average height, and the cork is many inches thick. We have others in different parts of the park, and have raised a number from acorns."

Three tall hedges of the evergreen Oak, Quercus Ilex, act as windbreaks, and also serve to divide up the lawns. The small lawn here, on what is called the Library front, contains the only piece of "bedding out" to be found, the fourteen beds being filled with Geranium Paul Crampel.

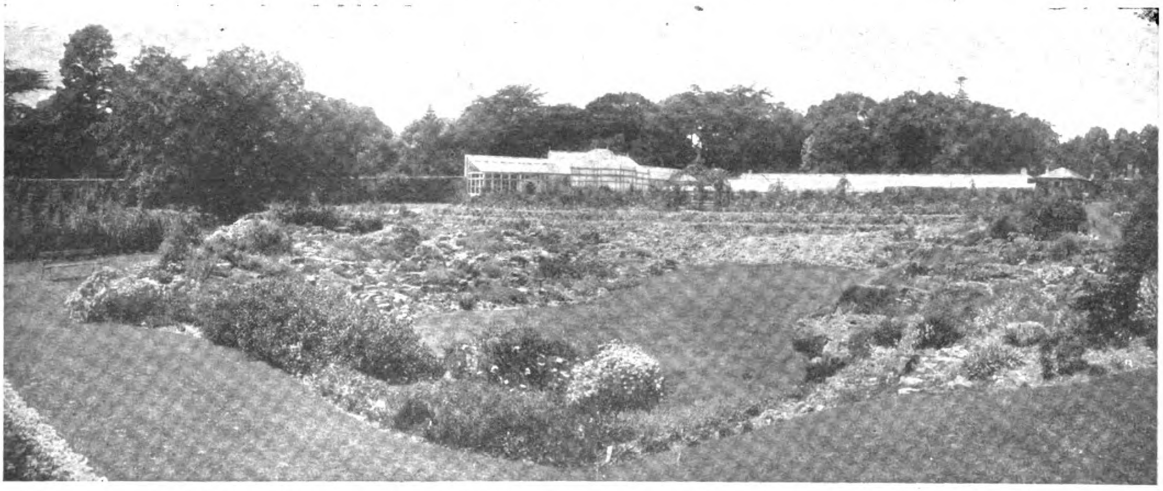
The space in front of the mansion is kept clear, the park coming up to the main doors. From here splendid vistas are obtained in various directions, the trees in the distance having been planted with a masterly eye for effect. Everything is in keeping with the style of the house, and the simple grandeur of its surroundings, and is necessarily on a large scale. On the walls, which are of Sussex flints, Ampelopsis Veitchii was already colouring nicely—"It is always early with us," said Mr. Brock—and Magnolia grandiflora was in full bloom.

"How long have these been planted?" I asked.

"In 1906," was the reply. "You can see the situation suits them, as they are already from twenty-five to thirty feet high. But Goodwood was one of the first houses to have the Magnolia in England, as it was planted here in 1734, soon after it was introduced."

BROAD MASSES OF COLOUR.

Broad patches of colour are seen as we pass the lawn facing the ballroom, and covering the site formerly occupied by the conservatory. The centre bed is of considerable size, with pink, blue, and yellow predominating. Pale blue is supplied by Erigeron speciosum superbum; and a deeper tone is struck by Salvia virgata nemorosa. This is a deep blue, and as the clump is fully ten feet across, the effect of the mass can be easily pictured. Anthemis tinctoria gives a rich yellow, which is toned down by the delicate pink of Antirrhinums. The level is broken by tall pillars of Wichuraiana Roses, Minnehaha, White Dorothy, and Sweetheart being conspicuous. For the outside beds Antirrhinums such as Fire King and Orange King again figure largely, relieved by herbaceous plants. Here, again, Anthemis tinctoria is most successful, and another tone of yellow is imparted by Helenium pumilum grandicephalum. These are only a few of the perennials employed.



THE ROCK GARDEN AT GOODWOOD.

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Walking round to the north-east, where Lonicera fragrantissima, the winter-flowering Jasmine, clothes the wall, we reach the "old wing"—as its name implies, the oldest part of Goodwood House. Here are the apartments which the late King Edward occupied, and which His Majesty King George likewise uses. Fronting this is a lawn of several acres, which at one time was a paddock. Now it is one of the most attractive parts of the pleasure grounds, and is known as the "New Garden." It is bounded by a stone wall, and behind that the Evergreen Oaks (Quercus Ilex) tower to a height of a hundred feet or so. Clumps of Bamboos, of which Phyllostachys fastuosa is especially noticeable, and many fine trees, are hereabouts.

A SPLENDID SALVIA.

Through the trees one catches a glimpse of a huge bed of Erigeron glabellus, a mass of pale mauve; and higher up we come to an even finer one of Salvia virgata nemerosa, which I have already mentioned as being so effective on the "ballroom" front. This bed is circular in shape, and measures thirty-five feet across. In response to my question, Mr. Brock said:

THE TAPESTRY LAWN, LOOKING FROM THE "TAPESTRY ROOM" AT GOODWOOD.

"The plants were put in in 1910, and beyond an annual thinning-out, and a mulching in early spring, nothing is done to them. It is one of the finest plants I know where a strong blue is required, and when the petals fall the purple calyxes are equally beautiful. It is a plant, too, that seems especially attractive to bees, and you can see how they hover around it. But to be effective it must be massed—one or two plants would be comparatively insignificant."

"Then you have a very striking bed of Marguerites."

"That bed is thirty yards long, and the pillar Roses which are dotted in it are Hiawatha."

"Do you protect the Pentstemons in this bed in winter?" I asked, as we moved onwards.

"No; it was planted ten years ago, and has received no harm. It is the fairly hardy variety, Newbery Gem; but in the bed higher up we have one of the florist's type, Lady Yester, a pretty shade of pale pink, which has stood unharmed for three years."

A FINE PERGOLA.

Running the full length of this lawn—which, I was told, had had to go for five years, and was only got in order this spring—is a wooden pergola, eight hundred feet long, covered with Roses, Clematis, and other suitable subjects. It was built, and the new garden laid out, especially for King Edward, and its construction involved many alterations. The evergreen Oaks which bound the garden, and which were planted one hundred and thirty years ago, overhung the path to the extent of thirty feet or more. They were cut back to allow of the erection of the wall, and a ha-ha, or sunken fence, was done away with.

In a position so favourable, with the tall trees behind to check the winds from the north and east, and in a naturally light soil, plants flourish on the wall which elsewhere are grown only in the greenhouse. Thus, as we passed along, stopping now and again to examine a plant, Mr. Brock explained:

GREENHOUSE SHRUBS OUTDOORS.

"Here is Calceolaria integrifolia, a beautiful shrub, which was planted out in 1910. The Glory Pea of New Zealand, Clianthus puniceus, is well established. It has been planted out for six years, and not only flowers, but ripens its seed. The Passion-flower, both blue and white, flowers and fruits here; and the greenhouse Genista, or Cytisus racemosus, has also stood for ten years. Here is the Bottle-brush, Callistemon speciosus, another greenhouse shrub, flowering freely every year; and Acacia dealbata, which was planted out eight years ago, has grown above the wall, and is covering the top of the pergola. A somewhat rare greenhouse shrub that does well on this wall is Crinodendron—or, to be correct, Tricuspidaria—dependens. It is a new introduction, and so is not much known. Senecios Heritieri and Grayi are valuable for their foliage and flowers, and have come through the winters unharmed. Another Senecio which makes a handsome wall shrub is S. rotundifolius. Leptospermum scoparium Nichollii, with ornamental leaves of purple colour, has not been introduced more than a dozen years, and is classed as a greenhouse plant, but, as you see, it does well out of doors down here."

Many other interesting shrubs were pointed out on this wall, such as the Soap Plant, Quillaja Saponaria, the bark of which is used in Chile as a substitute for soap; and so we came to the end of the pergola, and turned along to the left, by a path of Roses made at the time of the Crimean war. Across the lawn could be seen a tree of Pittospermum undulatum, which ripens its seed—in fact, many plants have been raised from it, as I saw later in the kitchen garden. Of interest, too, is a Lilac, which was a pot plant in 1815, when the Duke's father was born, and still bears flowers.

Against the wall on this side, facing full south, are many other plants which are only hardy where the conditions are particularly favourable. Abutilon megapotamicum, better known as A. vexillarium, has been here ten years, and was a mass of bloom, its yellow and scarlet flowers being very effective. One of the large-flowered hybrid Abutilons, a rich crimson, was likewise in bloom, and had stood out for a similar period. Romneya Coulteri is frequently met with, but R. trichocalyx, which also flourishes, is less common, being of fairly recent introduction. The Loquat, too, not only survives, but flowers freely; and Sphæralcea munroana, being hardier, finds no difficulty in making itself at home, as does Abutilon vitifolium. Two large trees of the Wintersweet, Chimonanthus fragrans, give no trouble; and honey-scented, white-flowered Rhyncospermum jasminoides was delightful, both to see and to smell. Teucrium fruticans, Azara microphylla, Cæsalpina japonica, and more Passion-flowers, are in this section of the wall, with many other interesting shrubs. But enough has been said to prove how well even tender subjects thrive in this favoured spot, thanks not only to the mild climate, but to the belt of evergreen Oaks which rise to a height of a hundred feet.

THE TAPESTRY LAWN.

Arrived at the end of the walled garden, we glanced to right and left, the eye following the paths through the trees, magnificent Beeches Limes, Oaks, and Chestnuts. Our way now lay, however, to the left, where an avenue of grand old Chestnuts brought us again to the State or Tapesty Rooms, which give the name to the lawn in front. This is a splendid piece of turf, with woods on each side, and is several acres in extent. Rugged old Cedars and other trees assist to form a framework, while through an opening can be seen in the distance the white building known as The Kennels. Close to where we stand is a Lime, fully one hundred feet high, with Mistletoe growing almost to the top; and further round Mr. Brock pointed out a Service Tree, which he says is one of the oldest in the country:

"It is the true Service Tree, and seed was brought from the South of France in 1759 by the second Duke. Loudon could not find it when he visited Goodwood in 1837; but I think it had probably been cut down then, and has since come up again from the base. As you see, it has now four thick branches arising from close to the ground."

We now started to walk across the park, on our way to the gardens, looking back now and again to admire the beautiful outlines of the Cedars growing near the house, their tops breaking the sky line. To right and left, also, the trees are magnificent, varying in outline and colour of foliage; and I remarked that the planner had fine imagination and a seeing eye.

THE FINEST CEDAR IN ENGLAND.

"The park was planted between 1760 and 1770 by Collinson, under the supervision of the second Duke, who was himself a great planter," said Mr. Brock. "Here, in front of us, is the finest Cedar of Lebanon in England. It is one hundred and three feet high, and has a girth of nearly thirty feet. But its great beauty lies in its wonderful spread and the perfect symmetry of its branches, many of which are as large as ordinary trees. This was planted in 1761."

"There are some others very fine just here," I observed, pointing to two other grand specimens near by.

"Yes; these three are a great feature of the park. There were originally a thousand Cedars, but only one hundred remain."

And now, taking the path through the trees, we crossed the road and entered the enclosure. Through handsome iron gates I caught a glimpse of a broad, well-kept grass path, flanked by wide herbaceous borders in the full-

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ness of their summer beauty. Just inside is Mr. Brock's house, gay with Fuchsia Riccartonii reaching to the roof, and the old Tea Roses, Devoniensis and Anna Olivier, draping the side wall, facing full south.

"Anna Olivier is one of the best Roses for a warm wall," said Mr. Brock. "It flowers profusely and continuously."

WELL-PLANNED BORDERS.

"You carry out the plan of having broad patches of colour in the borders?"

"Yes; the aim is to present a mass of one shade, but with no violent contrasts. Thus the blues tone into pinks, and these into yellows, and so on. We contrive to have these borders at their best in July, but they are attractive throughout their season."

Attractive they certainly were, and as we walked along new beauties constantly revealed themselves, for the borders are not in a straight line, but curve, so that the full length is not seen at once. Roses on pillars serve to break up the level, though even without them there would be no monotonous gradation from back to front, as tall plants are judiciously interspersed, and brought to the middle of the border. The Delphiniums were over, but rich blue was provided by Spark's variety of the old Monkshood, Aconitum Napellus, and a bicolor was also very effective. Galega officinalis and the white variety are planted with no niggard hand, and the pale blush of G. o. carnea is very pleasing. A broad patch of Salvia virgata nemerosa, which I have mentioned as making so striking a bed in the "New garden," was musical with the busy hum of bees; and near by the golden-yellow Anthemis tinctoria sparkled in the sun. Monarda didyma, the Sweet Bergamot, with its bright red colouring, proved its worth in another place; and Potentilla Gibson's Scarlet was well disposed in front of taller plants.

STOCKS NOT WET WEATHER PLANTS.

The one flower which, as Mr. Brock pointed out, has not been successful, is the Ten-week Stock.

"The wet season is evidently not favourable to them," he remarked; "whereas Antirrhinums are good in all weathers, and are a splendid stand-by. A fine border plant is Campanula lactiflora, which grows five to six feet high, and is a pretty shade of blue. Gladiolus America is blooming earlier than usual. Here is another fine thing for a big border, Salvia Perfection. Sidalcea Listeri is good, and Phlox Lindhead Beauty is one of the best of its type."

"You do not seem to employ many stakes?"

"No; instead we use Pea-sticks largely. The plants then require but little tying—just here and there only—and they look more natural."

"The Roses on pillars make a good show."

"They are mostly Wichuraianas. Excelsa is one of the best, and it stands the rain better than Crimson Rambler. We have both these varieties on the same pole; and when Crimson Rambler is past its best we cut out the old growths and give play to Excelsa, which is then coming on. So we get a longer season."

THE ROCK GARDEN.

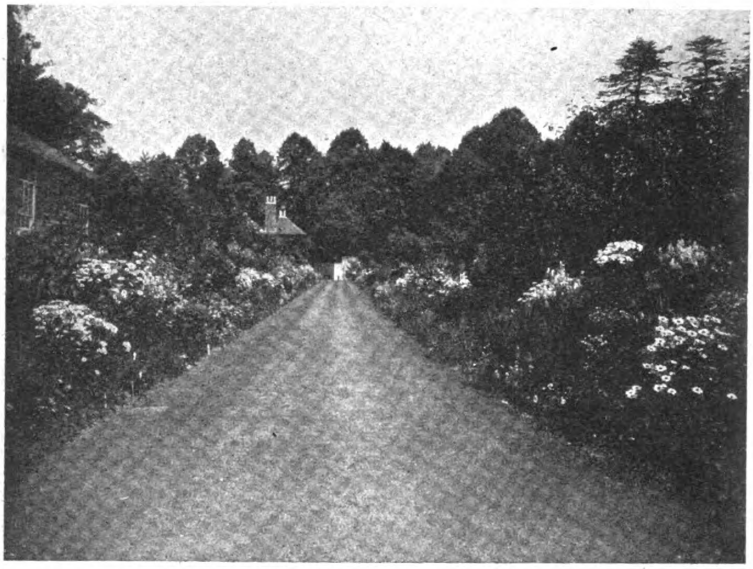
A turn in the path brought the rock garden into view. Up to 1908 the hollow in which it lies was practically a rubbish heap, with sheds dotted about, and on the banks were Potato pits. But by 1913 the alterations were completed, and it is now one of the distinguishing features of the gardens. Surrounding it is a hedge of the half-hardy shrub, Pittosporum undulatum, raised from seed from the old tree on the lawn. It is kept closely cut, and so does not flower, but its beautiful foliage makes it a choice and uncommon hedge.

"The middle of June is the best time for the rockery," said Mr. Brock, "although we are not without flowers now. Here, as elsewhere, we go in for broad plantings, Rock Roses in big blocks of one colour—Magnificent is one of the best; Saxifrages, Sempervivums, and Sedums in all the best varieties; and all the Alpine forms of Dianthus are represented. Raoulia australis is splendid for a dry spot, and Tunica Saxifraga loves a hot place; and a beautiful thing is Globularia nana. Campanula Mayii has stood here for seven years without injury; and so has Asperula suberosa, which does not receive the protection of a glass covering in winter. The Geraniums are well represented, and you see a lot of them are in bloom. The finest, I think, is Geranium lancastriense. This Sedum now in bloom is muralis—a lovely thing in pink, while in autumn the coppery foliage makes a good bit of colour."

Along the top of the rockery, where the Potato pits formerly stood, are now beds of Roses, with Ramblers at the back, and trailing down the bank are species such as R. pomifera, already attractive with its scarlet fruits.

The kitchen gardens occupy seven acres of ground, and in our walk round them I inquired about the fruit prospects for this season.

"The Apple crop will be very moderate," was the answer; "but we cannot expect anything else after last year, which might be called the crop of a lifetime. The young trees, however, are carrying decent crops. Some varieties do better on our light soil than others. Bramley's Seedling, for instance, does not crop well, although the quality is excellent; but Rival is good in all respects, and so is Newton Wonder."



THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS IN THE GARDENS AT GOODWOOD.

Plums and Peaches occupy the south wall. Early Gage was rapidly approaching the ripe stage, and would be ready in about ten days' time; while some of the Peaches, Duke of York and Wellington, were already ripe. Salway, I was told, is another good Peach, which ripens outdoors in October. Trained as lean-to cordons are many Apples and Pears, which, from their shape, serve to support the nets protecting the wall fruit.

OLD STANDARD FIG TREES.

One thing which greatly interested me in this garden was the row of twenty or twenty-five standard Fig trees. They are very old, with immense trunks, and, Mr. Brock informed me, were mentioned as being very old as far back as 1837, but as many as two thousand fruits are gathered off them each year.

In the houses Peaches and Nectarines are the most important crop, and they are chiefly timed for race week, when at least eight hundred to one thousand fruits are used, mostly Royal George. Other favourite varieties are Early Rivers, Cardinal, Napier, Violette Hâtive, Humboldt, Duchess of Cornwall, and Peregrine.

No Vines had been grown—owing to lack of fuel—for the past five years, but this year they were started again, and give good promise. The Orchid house is now devoted to Peaches, and others which formerly had plants now carry crops of Tomato Moneymaker and Best of All. One Tomato house was formerly the Cucumber house, and before that used to have Pineapples.

Out in the open a good batch of Malmaison Carnations were standing, protected by rough lights, and I asked Mr. Brock to tell me his method with them.

"They are planted out from 4-in. pots at the end of March, and flower here three weeks later than if grown inside. They are layered in the same place, and later potted up into small pots, and kept on shelves for the winter. A few are potted on to give large plants."

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

A DWARF ASTER.

Aster sub-cæruleus is a dwarf, early-flowering perennial of the family of Michaelmas Daisies. It bears beautiful mauve-blue flowers, with an attractive orange-yellow eye or centre, and they often measure three inches across. The leaves are of medium length, and grow closely together, forming tufts, while the flower-stems are long and strong, bearing the flowers well above the foliage.

The habit of the plant being compact, it is an excellent subject for the rockery, or the front of the border, and it is also very suitable for growing in pots for the cool greenhouse or conservatory.

If seed be sown during July or the early part of August, the plants will bloom at the beginning of June next year. Very strong specimens may be selected from the batch of seedlings, placed singly in small pots, repotted in due course in September, wintered in a cold frame, and transferred to a greenhouse early in February. If the structure is heated, blooms will open in March. Fairly strong plants bear about twenty flowers, so that each specimen forms a striking object in the house.

For late summer-flowering, plants may be raised from seeds sown in September. Sow the seeds very thinly in shallow drills in a nursery bed, and transplant the seedlings in an open border before finally putting them in their flowering quarters.

G. R.

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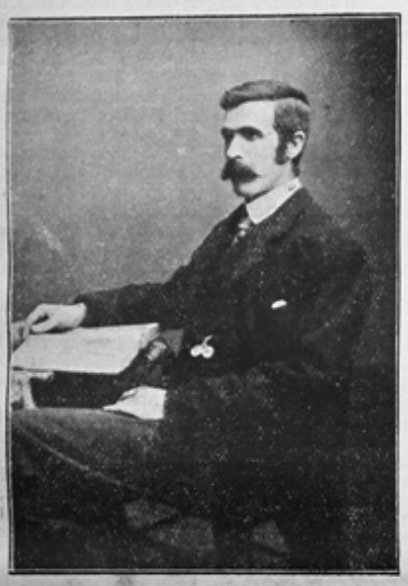
driven by pressure, always spreads out when it escapes from a narrow aperture, such as the end of a pipe, and we should naturally expect it to do the same when it emerges from the stalks with which leaves that do spread out are provided in a greater or less degree. Another analogy will make this still clearer—the analogy of a gas-flame, which may be made more rounded or more elongated by diminishing or increasing the pressure.

November 6th.—I have just come across a list, by Mr. W. Paul, of Roses which he calls "ever-blooming." "I do not mean to imply,"



MR. JAMES BROOKES.

he explains, "that they will bloom all the year round in this climate out of doors, but they will do so if removed at the end of the Rose season to the warmth and shelter of the glass-houses." As to the value of such Roses there cannot be two opinions. I have, therefore, made a note of the names; several are unknown to me, but to all the others I have attached letters to show to which classes they belong. Here is the list:—*Aurora* (H.T.), *Boadicea* (T.), Camoens (H.T.), *Chameleon* (T.), Comtesse Festetics Hamilton, *Corallina* (T.), *Dainty* (T.), *Empress Alexandra of Russia* (T.), *Enchantress* (T.), *Fairy Queen* (T.), *Fortuna* (T.), G. Nabonnand (T.), General Schablekine (T.), Gloire des Polyanthas (Pol.), Gruss an Teplitz (H.T.), Madame Abel Chatenay (H.T.), Madame C. P. Strassheim, Madame Eugene Résal (Ch.), Madame Laurette Messimy (Ch.), Mdlle. Germaine Raud, *Morning Glory* (T.), Papa Gontier (H.T.), Princess Alice de Monaco, *Queen Mab* (Ch.), *Salmonea* (T.), *Sulphurea* (T.), *Alexandra* (T.), Yvonne Gravier. I have looked out the Roses in this list raised by Mr. Paul's own firm, lest it should be thought that his purpose was merely to advertise them, and have placed them in italics. There may, of course, be one or two others among those which I do not know. He states that they flower "continuously from June until growth is arrested by the autumn frosts," and that alone entitles them to consideration, even where there is no intention of potting them up afterwards and removing them for further flowering to the greenhouse.

November 7th.—Much has been written about the fertility of virgin soil, yet if I had to choose between that and soil which had been worked for generations—worked properly, of course—I should not hesitate to choose the latter. I have had gardens new and old, and while the former were a perpetual source of trouble and dissatisfaction, the latter never failed to yield good crops. One of the most prolific gardens I know—the garden of Rushen Abbey, in the Isle of Man—is also one of the oldest, the Raspberries grown there for a firm of jam manufacturers being exceptionally fine. And near here, in the gardens of Beeleigh Abbey, plants of all sorts seem to grow like weeds, so luxuriantly that the picturesque old ruin is almost hidden.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 110.—Mr. JAMES BROOKES, at THE GARDENS, TOTTERIDGE PARK.

AT the first exhibition of the National Chrysanthemum Society this season, the first prize in the cut-bloom section was awarded to Mr. James Brookes, head gardener to Mr. W. J. Neuman, of Totteridge Park, who exhibited twenty-four blooms of eighteen of the best mauve Japanese varieties. This was not the only prize taken by Mr. Brookes, who also gained second for an exhibit of two vases of twelve blooms. But Mr. Brookes is a good deal more than a remarkably successful grower of Chrysanthemums. Thanks to the readiness of Mr. Neuman to fall in with his views, and to his encouragement and co-operation, he has been able to convert what was little less than a wilderness when Mr. Neuman became the owner of Totteridge Park, into one of the most charming gardens in Hertfordshire. He had, it is true, the great advantage of beautiful natural scenery to assist him at the outset, but bearing in mind that the once historic seat, erected in the fifteenth century, had been allowed to fall into an apparently hopeless state of dilapidation, it may be imagined what the surroundings were like when, about six years ago, soon after the restoration of the house, Mr. Brookes addressed himself to the task of improving the gardens. One of the important additions is the Italian garden, which forms a courtyard to the house, and here, in starting, my attention was attracted by a bed containing a large number of Cosmos bipinnatus still in flower. I asked Mr. Brookes if he usually got these plants to flower well, and he said:—

"Yes, ours always flower very freely from July until the frost cuts them down. We have three shades of Cosmos, and the intermingling shades of the single Dahlia-like flower are very pretty earlier in the year. I believe that most persons can grow Cosmos with any amount of foliage—which is very feathery and elegant—but there is a difficulty in making them flower well."

"How do you overcome it?"

"By avoiding the mistake of giving the plants too much manure. This soil is also poor, which, in the case of Cosmos, helps rather than hinders. If they have much manure they grow too strongly to flower, though, of course, the foliage always looks nice, and is useful."

"What number do you usually grow?"

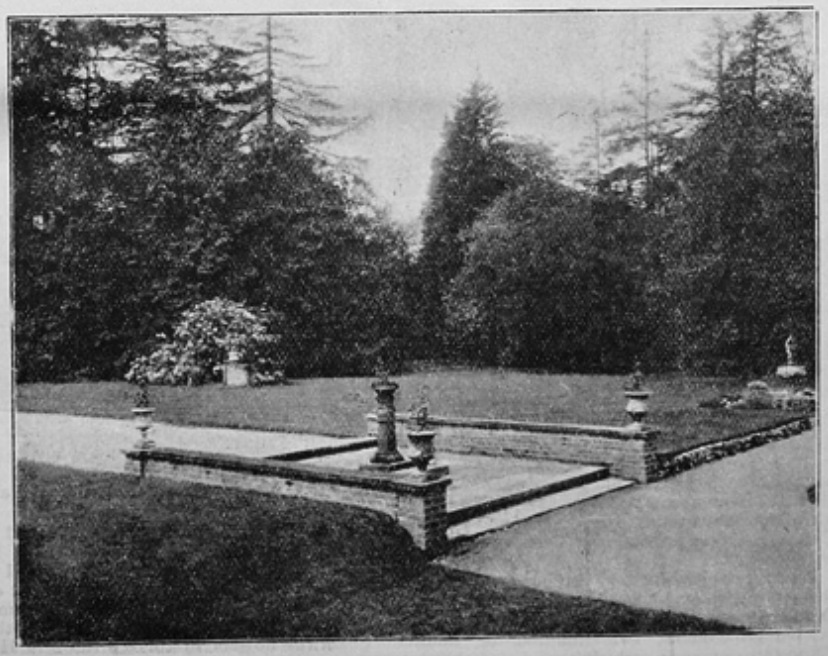
"About two hundred. I plant them out, just the same as any other hardy annual, in the middle of spring."

"Do you save your own seed?"

"Yes, always. I have been growing Cosmos for some time. People say sometimes that they are not worth growing, but as we get a great quantity of blooms from them, we naturally think otherwise. They are fine flowers for vases, and they can be cut with good, long stems."

"Have you shown any?"

"On one occasion I exhibited a big vase, which swamped everything else, and easily took first prize. Each plant makes a bush as big as an ordinary Dahlia. To amateurs who would like to grow Cosmos, I cannot give better advice than to put them on poor soil. They should be starved."



THE SUN-DIAL IN THE GARDEN AT TOTTERIDGE PARK.

Near the courtyard is the ground, open to the south, on which Chrysanthemums are grown, and Mr. Brookes remarked that on the night of the gale in September he lost two hundred blooms.

"Chrysanthemums are your biggest feature?" I inquired.

"Yes, we go in largely for them. The Japanese varieties are our speciality."

"You prefer them to the Incurved?" I said,

as we crossed over to a house full of splendid specimens of the Japanese.

"Mr. Neuman thinks that they are more graceful than the Incurved, and so do I. Last year we took twenty-five first prizes for Japanese Chrysanthemums. In fact, we were awarded first prizes in every show where we exhibited our blooms."

"How many have you grown this year?"

"About three hundred and fifty. In addition to those in this house, we are keeping back in a dark house a few of such varieties as Mrs. Elsie Fuller, Mrs. T. W. Pockett, and Mrs. Bagnall Wylde."

"Which do you consider among the finest varieties of your 'show' specimens?"

"Bessie Godfrey is certainly the best yellow that has been sent out. If you would like a selection, I cannot give better names than F. S. Vallas, M. V. Venosta, Australie, Mafeking Hero, George Penfold, Lily Mountford, Duchess of Sutherland, Mrs. Barkley, Mrs. J. Bryant, Miss Mildred Ware, W. R. Church, Mr. Guy Mileham, Lord Alverstone (a fine dwarf variety), Mrs. H. Emmerton, Mrs. James Lewis (a good white, late but useful), Mrs. Mease, and Madame Carnot. Florence Penford is also coming on very well."

When I had spent some time in examining the collection of Japanese, we crossed over to another house, and Mr. Brookes continued:—

"We grow about two hundred of smaller Chrysanthemums in 'thirty-twos,' for the purpose of decoration indoors, and also some singles. The doubles include Miss Mildred Ware, W. R. Church, Godfrey's Pride, Sensation, M. V. Venosta, and Mrs. T. W. Pockett."

"What about bush varieties?"

"We always have a big batch of the various bush varieties grown in our herbaceous borders. We have also a number of late-flowering Chrysanthemums, including L. Canning and Golden Gem. These flower at Christmas. Indeed, we keep Chrysanthemums of one kind or another going from September to February. I admit that they need a lot of care and attention. But plants that will supply us with flowers for five months are worth looking after."

"Have you suffered from rust?"

"Yes, I have had it, but I do not find much difficulty in getting rid of it. For one thing, I never put new varieties of Chrysanthemums with the stock until I am quite certain that all the rust is killed."

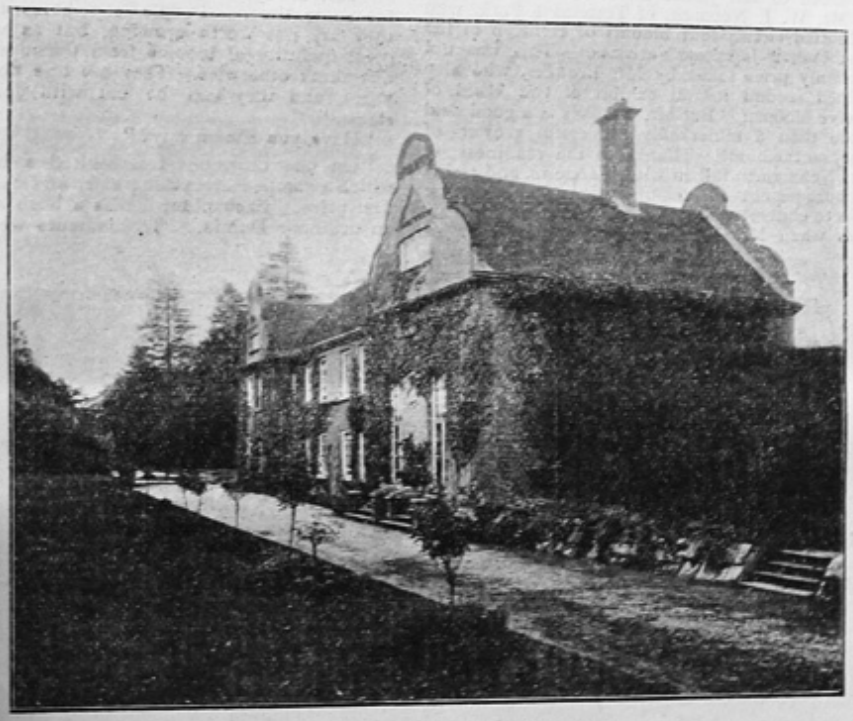
"How do you kill it?"

"I mix up XL All wash with the least drop of paraffin, and dip the plants in two or three times, or as often as they seem to want it. At the present moment there is not a bit of rust on the place."

"You have some nice Crotons in the stove; but, more charming than the Crotons, is the Allamanda on the back wall."

"Yes; that Alamanda Hendersonii has covered the wall with its lovely orange-yellow flowers. It has been flowering for five years. I cut it back hard every year. Freesias and Cyclamens do well in this house, and there are some healthy-looking plants of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine."

Passing into a long corridor, which leads from the house into the commodious stables, I noticed a Lapageria flowering well, an admirable specimen of Rhyncospermum jasminoides, and some Swainsonia galegifolia and alba."



Totteridge Park—South Front.

"That pretty, yellow, Pea-shaped flower, Cassia corymbosa," observed Mr. Brookes, "lasts from August until Christmas. I also cut that back, though only because of want of space. Another plant that flowers for many months is Streptosolen Jamesonii, and one of the most beautiful flowers in this corridor is Hoya carnosa. It is in full bloom in August, and there are thousands of pinkish-white, wax-like flowers. The bees like them immensely, and they are very useful for gentlemen's buttonholes, as well as ornamental."

"What is the name of that superb blue flower, with the elegant green foliage?"

"Pellionea elegans. It is supposed to be a stove plant, but, as you see, it thrives in what is practically a cool house. There is no flower, I believe, of a deeper, richer blue. It starts flowering in August, and keeps on until Christmas. The flowers drop, but they make a splendid show. We have only had the plant for a couple of years. On the other hand, the Myrtle, at the end of the corridor, is an old plant, which still flowers and fruits freely."

"Do you grow many plants of Salvia splendens?"

"A large quantity. We use them in pots for house decoration. They are not difficult to grow. I strike the cuttings in the spring, and pot them on. Splendens is the most ornamental variety, the contrast between the deep red flower and the foliage being so effective. Salvias last until Christmas. The spikes keep lengthening out. In the pits close by are double Petunias, Calceolarias, Cinerarias, Cyclamens, and bedding Geraniums."

"What is the length of the herbaceous border which runs from the west door of the house?"

"About a hundred yards by about fifteen feet wide. We grow in the border, among other things, Sunflowers, Asters, Anemones, early Chrysanthemums, Montbretias, Lilies of various kinds, Funkias, Rudbeckia, and Gypsophila."

At the end of the herbaceous border are an aviary and a pheasant house, while in parallel with it is the tennis lawn. Mr. Brookes called my attention to a very remarkable tree on the lawn. It is generally described as a Hen and Chickens, but it is really an Abies picea, of gigantic height, probably over a hundred feet, and round it are a number of trees which have layered themselves and grown, some of them being sixty feet high. On the lawns, which are approached from very broad and well-kept walks, with a sun-dial at the end of the central one, and a pair of whale's jaws at the end of another, are many other fine trees, chiefly Copper Beech, Abies of various kinds, Cupressus, and Cedars of Lebanon, while on the left hand is a representative collection of shrubs, the most prominent being Rhododendrons, variegated Hollies, Laburnums, and Yews. At the end of the lawns we came to the wild garden, and here I asked Mr. Brookes the extent of the gardens.

"About ten acres," he replied. "The wild garden is filled with bush Roses, double Gorse, and Rhododendrons, with Daffodils at the bottom."

"But you have a Rose garden also, with a singularly effective pergola."

"The pergola divides the Rosery on the right from the old-fashioned flower garden on the left. The whole of it was formerly a kitchen garden. Underneath the pergola are all the best of the wild British and American Ferns. The old-fashioned flower garden, as you see, includes a pond with a rockery all round it. The Lilies in the pond are chiefly Nymphæa alba."

"What do you grow in the rockery?"

"Rock Roses, the early-flowering Iris, Arabis, Iceland Poppies, Alyssums, various Ferns, Ericas, Aubrietias, and wild Strawberries."

"And in the flower beds?"

"Fuchsias, Nasturtiums, Lavender, Carnations, Pansies, Geraniums, Sweet Williams, Petunias, Calceolarias, etc. In the orchard, just beyond, there are about three and a-half acres of Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries, planted in rows."

"You have Roses below the pergola?"

"A few kinds, such as Golden Gate, Beau Brown, Merveille de Lyon, Maman Cochet, Catherine Mermet, The Bride, La France, and Duke of Edinburgh. In the Rosery we have some of the new and best varieties, including Souvenir du President Carnot, White Lady Killarney, Madame Abel Chatenay (one of the best Roses ever sent out), Souvenir de Madame E. Cauvin, Antoine Revoire, Lady Battersea, and Mrs. Robert Garrett. The beds are edged with one kind and edged with another."

"You might give a few illustrations."

"One big bed is filled with Captain Christy, edged with Golden Fairy; another with Madame Darling, edged with Crimson China; and another with La France, edged with The Bride; Madame van Houtte, edged with L'Ideal; Hon. Edith Gifford, edged with Premier Bourse; Duke of Teck, edged with Perle des Rouges; and Madame Lombard, edged with Cecile Brunner. Two beds

beds at the end of the Rose garden are devoted to Daffodils."

"But there are two other beds, with a brave show of Phlox and perennial Asters?"

"Yes, the Asters are rather a feature; the varieties include Vimineus cassiope, ericoides, Clio, cordifolius, Chapmanii, Novæ-Belgii St. Patrick, and others. The autumn borders are planted in front with early-flowering Chrysanthemums, the middle with Cactus Dahlias, and the back with Hollyhocks."

"How large is the kitchen garden?"

"An acre inside the walls, and one out. The usual fruit and vegetables are grown. The varieties of Strawberries are Laxton, Mentmore, Royal Sovereign, Monarch, Gunton Park (a splendid Strawberry), and Leader. We follow Raspberries with Blackberries."

"Have you grown Blackberries for some time?"

"Ever since I have been here. I treat them exactly the same as Raspberries. The fruit is fine, and the flavour is good. We get a great quantity every season. On the inside wall, facing west, we have Plums; on that facing south, Peaches; on that facing east, Pears; and on that facing north, Morella Cherries. Of vegetables, there are beds of Asparagus, Celery, and Leeks, Kale, and Brussels Sprouts."

"What do you grow in the glasshouse here?"

"Tomatoes. Just now we are using it also to dry Onions, because it is impossible to dry them outside. We force Roses through the winter. I cut hundreds of flowers out of this little house. There are about three dozen Arum Lilies, which begin to flower at Christmas, and go on until Easter."

On our return, we stayed for a while in another part of the flower garden, close to the Chrysanthemum house, where we started.

"Some of these beds," said Mr. Brookes, "are filled with Geraniums (Mrs. Pollock and Flower of Spring), Fuchsias (Mr. Marshall), edged with Lobelias, and Gaillardias, of which we have had an enormous quantity."

"Do you go in for Irises?"

"Under the wall in this part of the garden we have, in spring, a border completely filled with German, Spanish, and Siberian Irises. I like to see a big border filled with one kind of flower. It is something to look at, and you can go on cutting from it."

"How many men are employed in the gardens?"

"Six. I mentioned that I came here with Mr. Neuman, but I was with him at Whetstone House, close to the railway station, for two years before he came to Totteridge Park."

"Are you a native of Hertfordshire?"

"No, of Herefordshire. My father is a gardener, in charge of the gardens at the Hereford County Asylum, and I was apprenticed under Mr. John Cranston, of King's Acre. My first appointment was that of foreman at Thing Hill, under Mr. Edwards, an uncle of mine, and a great fruit-grower. I came from Thing Hill to Whetstone, except for a short interval, when I was with Messrs. Wetherall, the well-known Rose-growers, at Finchley."

"Have you been showing ever since you came here?"

"Yes, all the time. I have shown Chrysanthemums, fruit, and vegetables, at most of the local shows. In 1902 I won the Wells silver medal for Chrysanthemums; in 1897 my exhibit of forty-eight Japanese varieties carried off the silver cup and medal at the Highgate Society's Show. I have also been awarded by the National Society the little silver medal, as well as two silver medals by the Highgate Society. I never came away from a show yet without some kind of prize. Mr. Neuman takes a great interest in the shows, as well as in the gardens, and generally attends them. He encourages me to do my best in every possible way."

ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 67.—POTATOES, AND PLANTS FOR DRY PLACES.

DEAR KATE,—I am sorry to hear that your Potatoes have been a failure this year from disease; everyone around here has suffered in the same way (except your humble servant), for the continual downpour of cold rain is about as bad for this crop as any weather could possibly be.

I told you in the spring that I was experimenting with new Potatoes, and would let you know the result, so here it is. The varieties selected were three early Potatoes and three late kinds (two of the very best and newest from Dobbie, Carter, and Sutton), specially chosen for robustness and disease-resisting properties, and they were planted rather late, in the middle of April, in a field free from Potato-disease (for the bacillus lives in the soil), on the sloping side of a sunny hill, the soil being rather light, gravelly loam. It was enriched with a mixture of cow-

DIANTHUS HEDWIGGII.

manure and special Potato manures; and I think the late planting was in favour of the crop, because the plants received no check from late frosts, but went ahead steadily from the first. The result has been a very fine crop of Potatoes, most of the varieties being absolutely free from disease, and only one or two showing slight symptoms of it, involving but very little injury to the tubers.

On looking into the matter, I find that those Potatoes which have been introduced during the last few years are the best to grow, and we ought to avoid the older varieties, for this reason:—Nature's plan of reproduction is from the seed; ours, on the contrary, is from the "sett" (or cut-up tubers), and this custom inevitably weakens the plant year by year, until it becomes decrepit, and falls an easy prey to the bacilli which lie in wait for it in the soil. But, fortunately, our horticulturists are constantly hybridising between the best and strongest varieties, specially selected for robust habit and disease-resisting powers, so that we have our remedy in choosing the young (or newly-introduced) varieties, and avoiding all those which have been grown for a number of years. Perhaps you will say you can't afford to buy these fine new kinds, which certainly cost more (as seed) than the rest. But where is the economy of wasted labour, manure, and time, with the result of a poor crop of diseased tubers at the end of it?

Another great mistake is to plant Potatoes year after year in the same plot. This, too, weakens the plant, for the soil becomes what is called "Potato-sick," and is simply a nest of bacilli, which are quite ready in the spring to devour the next unfortunate crop.

So, order some gaslime, and purify your garden (where the diseased Potatoes have been) with this; but, even then, it will be safer not to crop the same plot with Potatoes for a season or two, but to carry out a proper rotation of crops. If you should be troubled again with diseased Potatoes, never let the gardener dig the haulms or bad tubers into the soil, but have them burnt as soon as possible, for they are so much seed of the disease, and will infest either the soil or other tubers if left. Then, next spring, choose some fresh, pure ground, and order seed of some of the newest and best kinds, such as Discovery, an extraordinarily prolific Potato, which has not shown the smallest trace of disease in my garden this year), the Factor (a fine Scotch Potato, absolutely free from disease, and a grand cropper), or Goldfinder, which produced an equally fine crop of good tubers, quite disease-proof.

We are now eating enormous Potatoes from Royalty, a grand early variety—many of them are so big that they do best baked in their skins (a very wholesome way to cook Potatoes); the British Premier, too, produced extremely fine tubers, and was free from disease, and Ninety-fold was equally good. The tubers from Discovery and the Factor are not so large, but both of these varieties produce a remarkable number of medium-sized Potatoes, very useful for cooking, and all of the above-mentioned Potatoes cook well, and are of good flavour, which cannot be said of all varieties.

In answer to your other question (what to plant under the warm south wall of your house, where it is very dry), I should advise you to put in Indian Pinks (Dianthus Hedwiggii), which are so lovely for dinner-table decoration—especially the fringed varieties (laciniatus), of which I send you a photograph—as soon as you can, getting stout seedling plants, sown last May, if possible. Wallflowers, too, of the best varieties, are lovely for such a dry place, and Helianthemums (Rock Roses), with purple Aubrietia, yellow Alyssum, and the double, white Arabis, all of which will make the front of your house a gay place in the spring. If you wish to have something quite uncommon, order a plant of Iris tectorum, and put it in at once. We have a most flourishing group of this (one of the loveliest of the Iris tribe) and Iris fimbriata, in pale blue; both grow together close to the south wall of the conservatory, on a gravel terrace, and do well with only the protection of a pane of glass sloped over them in winter, which keeps off the worst of the rain and frost. Iris tectorum is the flower which decorates the roofs of the houses in Japan; it is fringed, and the purple, gold, and creamy tints of the flowers are most beautiful. Iris fimbriata is said to be too delicate for the open air, but we don't find it so when grown in this way, and in well-drained, gravelly soil. Both belong to the rhizomatous group of Irises, and they throw out surface-rooting rhizomes into the gravel, some of which we are now going to plant on the top of our stokehole—a peculiar sort of place, you will say, for flowers. But, then, it is covered with coarse wire netting, all over the roof, and between this and the netting there are turves laid (which have previously been kept dry in a shed until the roots of the grass are dead), so that I don't see why Iris tectorum should not make itself as happy on this roof as on those of the houses of Japan. But this, again, is an experiment; we are always experimenting with something, and I think a great deal of the pleasure of being your own head gardener lies in trying new plans.

We have a lot of flowers already on the stokehole roof, which was, before it was planted, quite an eyesore from the windows, but now

SAMUEL BROOME'S MEMORIAL.

All lovers of flowers who live in London, or who have been frequent visitors to the central part of our great metropolis, will have heard of the work, if not of the name, of Samuel Broome. For thirty-eight years, as gardener to the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, it was his living task to contribute to the pleasure and innocent enjoyment of thousands of those who made the Temple Gardens their frequent resort, and especially to the delight of the children of this great city, who found in that ancient pleasaunce, not only a playground, but a charming retreat from the crowded streets.

Samuel Broome, though a famous grower of the chrysanthemum, was much more estimable as a man, from his great natural kindness and good-natured frankness of disposition. We have therefore great pleasure in recording the fact that some of his many friends have subscribed to erect a monument to his memory above his last resting-place in Nunhead Cemetery. Of this monument we now furnish an illustration. It consists of a column of Aberdeen granite eleven feet in height, standing on a double platform, and is embellished by a wreath of chrysanthemums in white marble.

Samuel Broome's Monument in Nunhead Cemetery.

No man in his sphere was more deservedly popular or better known than Sam Broome, as might be gleaned from the numerous regretful notices of his death in the press of all rank We may conclude in the words of *Punch*:—

"Never was simple man more glad than thou,
Never were gentler pride and joy than thine—
Pleased to see pleas'd crowds round thy *pompons* bow,
Children, maids, barristers of parchment brow,
Who rarely noticed snu's or blossom's shine.

"Along Thames bank thy blooms stood brave and bold,
The brighter for the brick and mortar round:
And if *thy* flowers were flowers of gold,
So innocent none grew from Temple mould,
None so enriched, yet cumbered not, the ground.

"How oft, when Autumn daylight in the West
Was blended with the City's lurid flare,
Pale cheeks and aching brows thy flowers have blest,
That breathed a breath of Nature and her rest,
On brains o'er-wearied with law's cark and care.

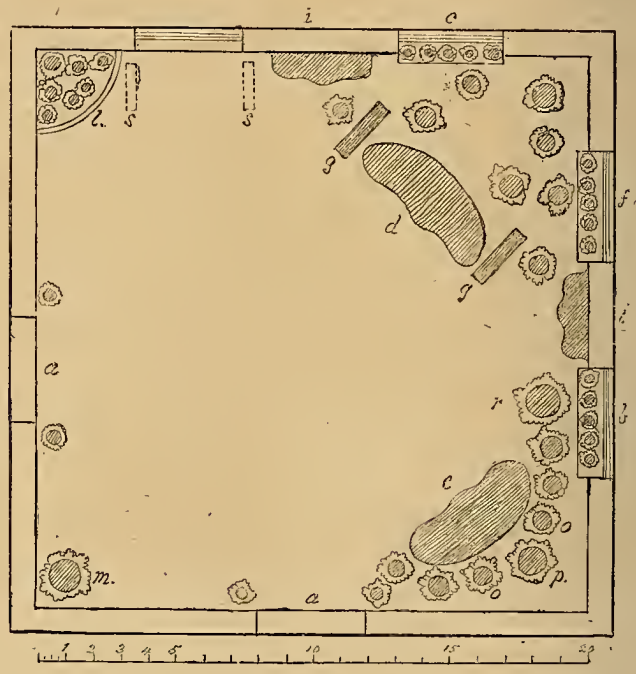
"Farewell to thee, kind, honest, old Sam Broome."

THE GARDEN IN THE HOUSE.

CULTURE OF PLANTS IN ROOMS.

(*Continued from p.* 128.)

The task is more difficult, when, along with a suitable arrangement for culture, the decoration of the apartment is also aimed at. The usual positions selected for this purpose are the corners of the room, and the parts of the walls between the windows. These last positions are generally those which, from considerations of space, people devote to plants when there is not sufficient room for them in the rest of the apartment, but for the culture of plants they are most unsuitable positions, because they are either too far from the light, or the light from the windows cannot fall directly on them. Corners which are opposite the windows receive, at least, the light directly, and so are far more favourabe for the culture of plants than, for example, the corners of the wall in which the windows are placed, or the parts of the wall between the windows, which although nearer to the light, do not receive it directly. Therefore, when the culture of plants is confined to the room itself, and the specimens cannot from time to time be removed to the plant-house, these positions should either not be furnished with plants, or a selection should only be made from the few kinds



Plan of Room with Plants.

which succeed in rooms even when they receive but little direct light, as, for example, Plectogyne variegata (which cannot be surpassed in this respect), some of the taller kinds of Anthurium, with long and broad leaves, and many varieties of ivy. In the immediate vicinity of the fire-place, no plants will last long.

Where it is desired to decorate a room permanently with handsome hot-house foliage-plants, the arrangement must be such that all the plants may be exposed to the direct light from the windows and yet be placed not too far from the fire-place. A few creepers that will thrive in the shade, as the ivies and Cissus antarctica, the plants before-mentioned, with a judicious selection and arrangement of the furniture must then help to fill up the plan. On festive occasions, when a greater number of persons than usual crowd one's rooms, any plants that are in the way can be removed for twenty-four hours without injury to the unoccupied corners of the room, which they will serve to decorate for the occasion. But let not the amateur be seduced into making the experiment in winter of ornamenting cold staircases with plants placed around heated stoves, even for a short time. If he does so he will lose, in a few hours, all

BROOM Richard.
Effects under £100.

29 April. The Will of Richard Broom late of Normanton-upon-Trent in the County of **Nottingham** Joiner deceased who died 5 April 1870 at Normanton-upon-Trent aforesaid was proved at **Nottingham** by the oaths of Thomas Fowe of Eagle in the County of Lincoln Miller Richard Broom of Normanton-upon-Trent aforesaid Wheelwright and William Newton of Wellow in the County of Nottingham aforesaid Carpenter and Joiner the Nephews three of the Executors.

BROOME Ellen.
Effects under £800.

13 April. The Will of Ellen Broome late of 55 Broughton-lane Broughton in the Borough of Salford in the County of **Lancaster** Widow deceased who died 10 March 1870 at 55 Broughton-lane aforesaid was proved at **Manchester** by the oath of Robert Stephen Twyford of Roby-villas Virginia-street Southport in the County aforesaid Gentleman the Son the sole Executor.

BROOME John.
Effects under £200.

14 March. The Will of John Broome late of Chorlton-upon-Medlock Manchester in the County of **Lancaster** Gentleman deceased who died 22 February 1870 at Chorlton-upon-Medlock aforesaid was proved at **Manchester** by the oaths of Charles Edward Roberts of Latchford near Warrington in the County aforesaid Manufacturing Chemist and John Field Carter of Latchford aforesaid Mercantile Clerk the Executors.

BROOME Samuel.
Effects under £2,000.

23 April. The Will of Samuel Broome late of the Gardener's Lodge Inner Temple in the City of **London** Gardener deceased who died 22 January 1870 at the Gardener's Lodge aforesaid was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the oaths of Ralph Thomas Broome of 57 Burton-road Brixton in the County of Surrey Attorney's Clerk and James Frederick Broome of 57 Burton-road aforesaid Attorney's Clerk the Sons the Executors.

BROOME William.
Effects under £7,000.

29 July. The Will of William Broome late of the City of Manchester and of Devonshire Cottage Devonshire-street Higher Broughton near the City aforesaid in the County of **Lancaster** Public Accountant deceased who died 26 September

Brotherston, Robert Page. Born at Ednam, Berwick, February 7, 1848; died at Old Scone, Perth, December 21, 1923. A frequent and welcome contributor to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for many years. In 1874 he became gardener to the Earl of Haddington at Tyninghame, whence I had a letter from him last autumn on the occurrence of *Erinus alpinus* at Morham, East Lothian, where it is adventive. He published "The Book of Cut Flowers" in 1906, a useful work which had a deserved popularity. He had a good knowledge of British plants. See *Gard. Chron.*, September 1, 1923.

more skill, and more care than even the garden proper.

December 23rd.—The importance of good seed is the subject of an article in "The World's Work." Professor Holden has been preaching this gospel in the United States. He has also practised what he preached. As manager of a 20,000-acre farm, he has, in the first year, increased the yield by 10,000 bushels. His remarkable results have arrested the attention of the farmers of Iowa, and now he has to use a special train for carrying his good seed to them. It is stated that, through his agency, millions of bushels have been added to the exportable corn of a single State.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 169.—MR. CHARLES BROWN, AT THE GARDENS, LANGLEY HOUSE, ABBOT'S LANGLEY.

AMONG the veteran gardeners who have earned a solid reputation in the horticultural world, Mr. Charles Brown is entitled to a prominent place. For no fewer than thirty-two years he has been head gardener to Mr. Robert Henty, J.P., first at Nazing Park, Broxbourne, and for the last eighteen years at Langley House, Abbot's Langley. He was in a similar position for three years, at Milnfield House, Great Amwell, Ware, and this experience, which was preceded by that gained in the various departments of gardening, would alone render him a high authority. But he has also been a very successful exhibitor of Chrysanthemums and vegetables, and includes among the two hundred odd prizes and awards he has received, some for table plants. It is just twenty-one years ago since he obtained a first prize at the now defunct Westminster Aquarium. On the occasion of my visit, in the second week of November, to Langley House, which stands on high ground a couple of miles away from King's Langley station, in the heart of the pretty village of Abbot's Langley, Mr. Brown suggested that before we looked round the pleasure grounds we might inspect the extra kitchen garden, a little distance away from the house. An interesting fact is that, by the kindness of Mr. Henty, who is now ninety-six years of age, a portion of this garden is devoted to allotments for the benefit of the people employed on the estate. The privilege is much appreciated, and acts as a stimulus in some cases. One allotment-holder, Mr. Coleman, the cowman, spends most of his leisure in cultivating his plot of land, and keeping his own garden in good order, with the result that at the local show he was champion prize-taker.

"Speaking of prizes," I said, as we stood by the Celery beds, "you have been very successful, I believe, in showing Celery?"

"Yes, I have done pretty well with Celery, and other vegetables, since I have shown at the National Chrysanthemum Society's shows."

"How long have you been showing there?"

"About twenty-one years. I used to show at Watford, and other local shows. At the last Palace show I exhibited a dozen heads of Celery of two varieties. The varieties were Standard Bearer and Major Clarke."

"You grow a considerable quantity?"

"Twelve rows, altogether. With regard to cultivation, I dig the trenches well, quite two feet deep, fill up the bottom first with manure and soil, and plant on the top. I used to feed freely with artificial manure, but I found that the Celery tasted of it, and now we only give plenty of water, and, occasionally, a little farmyard manure-water."

"Onions, you also show?"

"Yes, every year. They are grown on the same piece of ground. I dig it for them three spits deep, putting manure in the bottom spit. The two best varieties are, I find, Sutton's Select and Ailsa Craig. I treat Leeks in much the same way as Celery. I won a third prize this year for them in open competition. The varieties are Sydenham's Lion and Sutton's Champion."

"Which varieties of Parsnip do you prefer?"

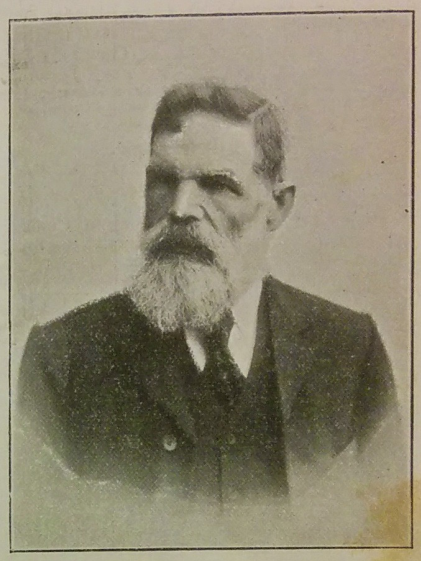
"Tender and True, and Hollow Crown. In growing Parsnips I generally make holes with a crowbar, fill it up with fine soil, and sow the seed in the centre of the hole."

"What about Turnips?"

"I show Turnips also, and have had prizes for them. The varieties are Veitch's Red Globe, and Sutton's Early Whitestone. One of the best Carrots is Sydenham St. Valery; and, of Beets, the Blood Red. I keep to the old sorts of Broccoli, Cooling's Matchless, Knight's Protecting, Snow's Winter White, Sutton's Late Queen, and Model."

"Your Red Cabbages are very fine."

"They are the Red Dutch. have taken a first prize for them several times. I dig the ground well, and manure well, sowing in the spring, and not, as some do, in the autumn. The varieties of Brussels Sprouts are Aigburth and Wrexton; and, of Cabbages, Savoy, Green Curled, the Drumhead, and Colewort, a very useful variety, which will stand the frost. Of Cauliflowers I grow four varieties; for early use I grow Early Snowball. I sow them in February, pick them off into boxes as soon as they are fit, and plant them out in May, in some good, rich ground, and they are very useful in June. I find that this does away with the old plan of keeping the plants all through the winter months. For succession I grow Early London and Walcheren, and Autumn Giant for late use."



MR. CHARLES BROWN.

"Have you taken prizes with Potatoes?"

"I took the first prize at the Potato Exhibition with a dish of Up-to-Date and Satisfaction. I have tried Northern Star, and it did very well, but, so far as I can judge, it will not be any improvement upon Up-to-Date. The latter I grow for the general crop, and a few of Triumph. We used to grow Magnum Bonum until a few years ago, but they diminished in size. Up-to-Dates are still doing well."

"Is the subsoil clay?"

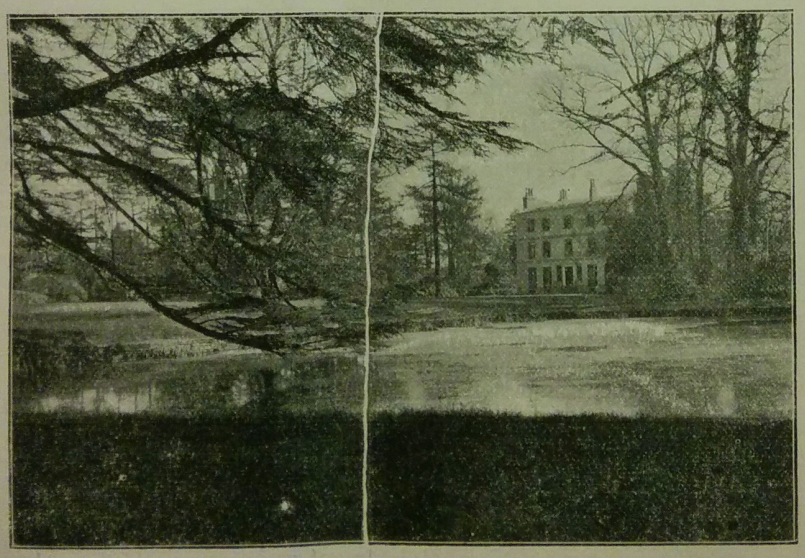
"Here it is, but all the soil on the other side is gravel. The clay suits the late vegetables better, and the gravel the early."

Quitting the vegetable garden, we crossed the road, and paid our respects to the Chestnut tree, which is one of the wonders of the place. It is on the front lawn—which is purposely kept rough—and looks like a number of trees.

"What is the length?" I inquired.

"Forty-six yards, and it is thirty-six yards through. The centre, I expect, will die in a few years, as it is showing signs of decay; but the young branches are nearly independent of the old tree, and are flourishing. In May it flowers right down to the bottom, and is a remarkable sight."

"I doubt whether it would look more remarkable or impressive than it does now, a huge giant bereft of its foliage. I notice that the



LANGLEY HOUSE, ABBOT'S LANGLEY.

branches of all the trees on the lawn grow downwards."

"Yes, there must be something in the soil which draws them down."

"You have a number of fine specimens?"

"One of the finest is a Turkey Oak, but the landmark of Langley House, and, indeed, of the locality, is the Picea Nordmanniana, near the house, which stands quite twenty feet above the other trees, and can be seen for miles around. The Pinus strobus, with its lovely light green foliage, is also much admired. Other notable trees are Araucarias, Hollies, Sycamores, and Thorns, the latter quite dwarf."

Here we entered the flower garden, which is at the south side of the house. On the house itself are Crimson Rambler and Gloire de Dijon Roses, Wistaria, summer-flowering Jasminum, Pomegranates, which flower but do not fruit, and Ceanothus Gloire de Plantare.

"How many plants does the large centre bed usually require to fill it?" I asked.

"About eight hundred. We use a good many Begonias for bedding, and find that they do better than Geraniums. But we still grow a good many of the old pink Geranium, Christine. This year the Tropæolum speciosum on the top of the first pile bed was a mass of flowers. In this bed Aloysias and Phlox Drummondi are used. The centre of the second pile bed was Zea japonica (variegated Maize), the remainder being scarlet Geraniums. The principal varieties of Geraniums used for bedding are Golden Harry Hieover, Flower of Spring, Triumph d'Estelle, and The Czar."

"What is the length of the herbaceous border?"

"Seventy yards. The other, which you will notice at the corner of the flower garden, is fifty yards long. The varieties include Aquilegias, Aubrietias, Campanulas in variety, Daphnes, Celuvarias, Gypsophilla paniculata, Mertensias, Saxifraga Rhei superba and S. Boydi, Silenes, Frankenias, Eryngiums, Doronicums, Pentstemons in variety, Phlox in variety, Potentillas, Rudbeckias, Saponarias, Physalis, Harpaliums, and a good collection of Asters."

"Do Roses thrive on the natural soil?"

"On the contrary, we have to make the soil suitable for them. They will stand any quantity of water and manure. Tree Lupins are rather a feature. They are seedlings, of six or seven different colours. They last about three years."

"You have no conservatory?"

"No, but we use the glasshouse close to the second herbaceous border as a conservatory in the summer. At present it contains Azaleas, Camellias, and also Cinerarias."

"The grounds seem to be of considerable dimensions."

"They are about thirty acres, including the plantation of trees, in which are many Limes, Chestnuts, Oaks, Yews, and Hollies. As you may observe, we keep the leaves on the roots of many of the trees, and let them decay. I think it is a mistake not to do so."

In the kitchen garden proper, which we entered after a stroll round the plantation, I remarked on the number of Black Currant trees.

"We have about fifty, but we do not get a very large quantity of fruit off them, though they do fairly well. The soil is too light for them. The Yew which forms a hedge close to them is ten feet through, and sixteen feet long."

"You go in considerably for Strawberries."

"Yes, they do very well here, and we have very heavy crops. We grow them in three sections, destroying one section every year. The ground is dug two feet deep, and plenty of manure is used. The varieties are Royal Sovereign, President, Monarch, and the Viscomtesse Hericart de Thury. Of Raspberries we only grow Superlative."

"Do you make much of Runner Beans?"

"Yes, we have a considerable number. To show the mildness of the weather, I may mention that I gathered a dish of Beans one day this week. The variety is Ne Plus Ultra."

"What is your principal wall fruit?"

"There are a few Peaches on the walls, Noblesse, Royal George, and Rivers' Early. There is a very good row of Apple trees, and the crop was excellent. The best varieties are Lord Suffield, Keswick Codlin, Lane's Prince Albert, Cox's Orange Pippin, Devonshire Quarrenden, and Blenheim Orange."

"Considering the period of the year, the Dahlias are doing well."

"There are not very many, but the varieties are good. Among the Cactus are Harry Stredwick, Cycle, and Black Prince, and the best of the singles are Seraph, Queen Mary, and Isabella Warder. The Asters, growing in the same bed, include cordifolius elegans, ericoides alba, and Shortii."

Then we went into the houses, the first being the Peach house.

"In this house, which is sixty feet long," said Mr. Brown, "we grow Hale's Early, Noblesse, Prince of Wales and Rivers' Early."

"What do you grow in the frames close by?"

"Carnations, including America, Prince of Wales, Pride of the Market, Celia, and Mr. S. J. Brooks. Also Cinerarias, about a hundred of the stellata kind."

"You grow Francoas?"

"Yes, I raise them from seed. They are sown early in spring, pricked off when large enough, into small "sixties," and then potted on as required. I plunge them in cold pits for the summer months, flowering them during the winter, and they will also flower the following year. I grow nearly fifty, and have had them for years. Francoas should be potted in good loam, with a little leaf-soil and sand."

"You have Black Hamburgh Grapes in the Vinery?"

"Yes, and Foster's Seedling, Muscat of Alexandria, and Alicante. The Chrysanthemums are, of course, the feature just now."

"How many do you grow in pots?"

"About three hundred and fifty. I also plant a good many out in May, as I find them very useful for cut flowers, if the weather keeps open in the autumn; but if these are taken up at the end of September or the beginning of October, they do admirably for decorative work, and it saves a lot of labour through the summer. I grow a few Japanese and a few Incurved, and a great number of Pompons, and also the American Pompons, which are hard to beat. About seven years since, the Incurved were the best Show varieties. Now the Japanese have taken their place."

"Which do you consider the best for decorating?"

"Although we grow so many Pompons, I think that the Japanese and the Singles are the best. I should not advise anyone to grow the Reflexed varieties for decorating, but the best are Clara Jeal, Cullingfordii, Dr. Sharpe, Cloth of Gold, and King of Crimsons. I have lately been going in for the spidery Chrysanthemums, and showed some last year."

"You also grow a quantity of Japanese Anemones?"

"Yes, they and Pompons and Reflexed are now the principal."

"It would be useful to have the names of some you can recommend."

"Of Japanese Anemones I recommend Duchess of Westminster, John Bunyan, La Deuil, Le Chalonais, Mabel Miller, Mrs. Hugh Gardiner, Sir Walter Raleigh, Tam O'Shanter, and W. W. Astor. Some of the best of the large-flowering Anemones are Delaware, Descartes, Gladys Spalding, Gluck, Junon, Lady Margaret, Miss Annie Lowe, and Mrs. Judge Benedict."

"I should like a short list of Pompons."

"Black Douglas, Comte de Morny, Harry Hicks, Madame Marthe, Prince of Orange, Pygmalion, Golden Madame Marthe, Osiris, and Wm. Westlake are some of the best. Of the Anemone Pompons, the following are very good: Antonius, Bessie Flight, Emily Rowbottom, Magenta King, Miss Nightingale, and Mr. Astie."

"You do not grow the new Japanese, nor any Incurved?"

"No. But some of the best of the older Japanese are Australian Gold, Graphic, Madame Gustave Henry, Mutual Friend, Mrs. Barkley, Mrs. James Beisant, N.C.S. Jubilee, Simplicity, Soleil d'Octobre, and Souvenir d'une Petite Amie. Of Incurved, I can recommend Charles H. Curtis, Duchess of Fife, Empress of India, Golden Empress of India, J. Agate, Lord Alcester, and Queen of England. Of singles, Lady R. Buller, Eucharis, Ladysmith, Miss S. A. Robins, Miss C. Warden, Mrs. Walton, Pretoria, Purity, Miss Jessie Dean, and Miss Mary Anderson are among the best; and, of the spidery section, Arab, Cannell's Favourite, King of Plumes, Mrs. Filkins, Banqueterre, and Sam Caswell."

PRIMULAS AT LANGLEY HOUSE.

"Before we finish with Chrysanthemums, you might, perhaps, tell me a little about your system of cultivation,"

"I select the sturdy cuttings, about three inches long, but avoid sappy cuttings showing the bud. I put my cuttings in from the middle to the end of December; I place some singly in thumb pots, and some I put three or four in 'sixties.' For the drainage I use clean crocks and good fibre. The soil should consist of good loam and leaf-soil, with plenty of silver sand, mixed well together. I generally strike mine in a heated pit, being very careful to avoid over-heating. Early in February I examine them, and pot any of those on that require it. As soon as they get established I remove them to cold frames, as they should on no account be drawn. I then pot them on into 'thirty-two's,' and get them well established before putting them into their flowering pots, about the end of May or the first week in June, potting very firmly."

"Have you a large number of Primulas?"

"About a hundred plants. I like The Lady, which we have in different colours, and is very good for house and table work, but we also have some of the sinensis section. In the frames just here we grow a good many Campanulas, and, among other plants, Violets, chiefly Marie Louise. Bulbs are rather a feature, and include Liliums Harrisii, auratum, and lancifolium. Hyacinths, Narcissi, Roman Hyacinths, and Tulips are grown in quantity."

"And in the greenhouse?"

"One of the features is the number of Freesias. We have about fifty in pots. The variety is refracta alba. It is very easy to cultivate. I plant in August, keep the plants outside in ashes until they begin to shoot through, put them into a cold frame until they are proof against the attacks of frost, and then set them on the shelves inside, feeding them once a week with a little weak manure-water. The scent is very pleasant, and the flowers are very useful for house decoration."

"You seem to have a quantity of Zonal Pelargoniums?"

"The doubles are Gloire de France, La Favourite, Lord Derby, Apple Blossom, F. V. Raspail Improved, and Madame Thibaut. There are nearly twenty single varieties, including Mrs. S. E. Cabbo, Hyacinth, Snowstorm, Robert Hayes, Mrs. Gordon, Scott Turner, Winston Churchill, Mrs. C. Tudway, The Sirdar, Britannia, The Khalifa, The Mikado, Mrs. Pale Kouth, Swanley Single White, and King of Crimsons.

"In this house," continued Mr. Brown, "we have also about thirty plants of Aralia Sieboldi. It is a flower which lasts well. Other contents of this house include Dracæna indivisa, Amaryllis hybrids, and Grevillea robusta."

"And Orchids?"

"There are a few nice plants of Cypripedium barbatum, C. insigne, and C. Sanderianum; also Dendrobiums nobile and thyrsiflorum, Epidendrum ciliare, Cœlogyne cristata, and Aerides crassifolium."

"We ought to mention some of the contents of the stove."

"Three varieties of Asparagus are grown; and there are Poinsettia euphorbia, Plumbago capensis, Eucharis amazonica, Eulalia japonica, Pandanum Veitchii, Panicum variegatum, Dieffenbachia Verschaffeldtii, Crotons in variety, and Cyperus alternifolius."

"There is one omission. We ought to have the names of some of your large collection of Roses."

"The climbers are Reine Marie Henriette, Reve d'Or, Waltham Climber, etc. The principal Hybrid Perpetuals are Alfred K. Williams, Beauty of Waltham, Bessie Johnson, Captain Christy, Countess of Oxford, Coquette des Blanches, Duchess of Bedford, Gloire de Ducher, Gloire de Margottin, and Her Majesty. The six best Teas are Belle Lyonnaise, Kaiser Wilhelm, Perle de Lyon, The Queen, Souvenir de Lady Ashburton, and Souvenir d'un Ami."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 125.—THE JAPANESE WINEBERRY, AND HIPPEASTRUMS.

DEAR KATE,—If you have not already planted some of the new fruits, the Loganberry and the Japanese Wineberry (Rubus Phœnicolasius), you should do so without loss of time, for they are both most valuable fruits, especially the Wineberry, which is a handsome plant, with crimson stems and silver-lined leaves, so that it is an ornament in the garden, as well as a most useful dessert fruit, coming in just after the Raspberries, during August and September. The berries are like Raspberries, with no hard core; but they have a distinct and most refreshing flavour, and are clear cornelian-red in colour, and, as for the crop both of these new fruits bear, it is enormous. We treat them exactly the same as our Raspberries—*i.e.*, cut out all the old wood which has borne fruit directly the crop is over in the autumn, leaving only the long, strong shoots they throw up from the base, yearly. These are often fourteen or sixteen feet in length, and we then bend these over in arches (so as to bring them within reach to gather), and sprays of bloom and fruit appear in spring at the axil of each leaf. I have sometimes counted the flowers and berries on one spray; they run from fifty to seventy-five, as a rule, so you may fancy the number on these long canes. The Loganberry, too, is most prolific, producing large fruit like a Mulberry, of a rich, luscious flavour, but at the same time slightly acid. They make the finest of tarts and preserve, and are also much liked for dessert. This plant is a hybrid between a fine American Blackberry and a Raspberry, and looks like a very large and long Raspberry, only that it is darker in tint when quite ripe. We mulch our plants each spring in March (or April for the Wineberry) with cow-manure, for they are hungry things, and need a moist, cool surface in summer when their fruits are swelling, if the crop is to be a fine one. In a very dry time they are drenched with buckets of water once or twice a week, for they need much moisture, and never is the spade allowed to come near their roots. It is not everyone who realises that fruit crops of all kinds (and especially those produced by the Rubi) depend largely on the state of the network of surface roots which the plants form for many feet around the stem; I have sometimes seen in a garden a perfect forest of suckers between the rows of Raspberry canes, and these are thrown up by the severed or injured rootlets, which are too often cut and destroyed by the spade of the gardener, ruining the crop, of course, except in suckers, of which there are then more than enough. Another foolish plan is to pile the manure round the stem of the plant, instead of spreading it between the rows, where, of course, the active, hungry surface-roots are craving for food, which is not wanted close to the collar of the plant at all. Roses (which are nearly allied to the Rubi) are often cankered and killed by this piece of ignorance, so don't let old John do it any more, even if he laughs at your "new-fangled notions," and especially keep him from putting on manure "to keep them warm" in the winter, for it is pure waste, if nothing more, and results in keeping them many degrees colder at the roots than if they were open to the sunshine, and allowed to dry. Cankered roots too often arise from this cause, for the poor things cannot stand being soaked in filth when they are dormant and have no use for it.

AMARYLLIS (HIPPEASTRUM).

Two bulbs which you should now put in are Tuberoses and Amaryllis hippeastrums, both lovely things, but not too often seen in the ordinary greenhouse. The best variety of Tuberose I find to be the American one, called Excelsior Pearl, a silly sort of name, but a good flower; the African Tuberose is earlier, however, in flowering, and you can't do better than to order a few of each, for succession, the rich scent of the Tuberose being delightful in the conservatory in the summer and autumn months. The bulbs are very cheap, and rather large; they want special management to do well, but, like most things, they are easy enough to grow if you know how to do it. First of all, you must pot them up directly they arrive, as they have a nasty trick of going mouldy at once if you leave them in a paper bag. I was asked by a friend, a short time ago, what was the matter with some bulbs which she had bought and shut up in a tin box for six weeks. Of course, the matter was that they were a useless mass of mildew, which seemed to surprise her greatly. Never keep bulbs out of the soil if you can possibly help it, for they are sure to deteriorate, and quickly become rotten.

Well, pot your Tuberoses each in a 5-in. or 6-in. pot, extra well drained, and only half filled with a compost of good loam, leaf-mould, and a little soot, sand, and charcoal; they won't stand anything like fresh manure under them, though when they have roots they need plenty of rich food, so you should only half cover the bulb (the top of which may be level with the top of the pot) with this compost, leaving the top part of the pot vacant for the rich top-dressings they will have later on. Use the compost fairly moist (but not too wet), and then place the pots on the stage over the hot-water pipes, watering them about once a week (only when they look quite dry) with warm water, until the green shoots appear in the middle of the bulb. Then you must change your tactics. As soon as they have roots, Tuberoses want more water, and so you should increase their supply gradually, until, when the plant is six inches high, it will need watering every day, or even twice a day in hot weather. At the same time you should top-dress the bulbs, giving them an inch or so at a time of rich stuff (old cow-manure, with a little loam, hotbed material, or a mixture of both, with a little soot), until the pot is fairly full, but be sure to leave room for plenty of water and liquid manure. When the plants are growing, keep them on a moist board over the pipes, or on the floor, for dry, hot air at that time brings on an attack of red-spider, which

Gard. Chron., 1874

Obituary.

DIED, at Powis Castle, Welshpool, on the 24th ult., in the 78th year of his age, Mr. GEORGE BROWN, for forty-five years the talented gardener to the late and present Earl of Powis. Mr. Brown was a man full of love for his profession, and in every sense of the word a gardener. He was born at Dalhousie, North Britain, on July 8, 1797. Shortly after his birth, his father removed to Arisaig, on the coast of Inverness-shire, having been appointed forester to Clanronald, on his extensive estates in the Hebrides. Here he spent most of his younger days, and to the last he loved to dwell on the recollections of the time passed amidst the wild and romantic hills and lochs of the Western Highlands. He began his professional career at Dalmeny Park, Edinburgh, from whence he obtained a situation as journeyman in the gardens at Dalhousie Castle; from which place, with a view of gaining a knowledge of the seed trade, he entered the seed warehouse of the Messrs. Dicksons, of Edinburgh. After being with this firm for a short time he formed a determination to visit England, and in the year 1821, in company with his brother Hay, he walked every step of the road from Edinburgh to Chester. He never tired of telling the story of this walk, of which he was very proud, and from which he seems to have derived a vast amount of enjoyment. Arrived in England, his first place (obtained through the Messrs. Dickson, of Chester) was at Brynkinalt, Chirk, the seat of Lord Dungannon; afterwards as gardener at Erbistoke Hall, Ruabon; and thence to the Hon. and Rev. James Douglas, at Broughton, Northamptonshire. Here he remained for four years, having charge, during the long absence of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, of the whole establishment.

He now desired to obtain a more extensive place, and therefore accepted an appointment to superintend the formation of the great rockery at Sion House, and on the abandonment of that work he entered the nursery of Messrs. Whitley & Milne, Fulham (now Messrs. Osborn & Sons), where he remained for some months, when, on the recommendation of Mr. Milne and Lord Douglas, he was engaged by the late Earl Powis (at that time Lord Clive), as his head gardener at Powis Castle, entering on his duties there in May, 1829. The writer had the privilege to serve him as foreman for a considerable time, and can speak from experience of the great energy, devotedness, skill, and conscientiousness wherewith he served his employer. The one distinguishing trait in Mr. Brown's character was his utter disregard of self—selfishness was not in his vocabulary; if duty called he obeyed, at whatever cost or sacrifice to himself. Though he was one of the best gardeners of the day, his naturally retiring, unassuming disposition prevented him from being known to fame; but his memory is enshrined in the hearts of many he has benefited, and amongst them are not a few gardeners.

He leaves a widow and two sons, the elder of whom is a surgeon in extensive practice at Tredegar, South Wales, while the younger has for a considerable time assisted his father at Powis Castle. He was carried to his grave at Christchurch, Welshpool, on the 29th ult., by his old workmen, some of whom had been employed by his predecessor at Powis Castle, Lymore Park and Llymystyn Hall, of which places also he had charge. *W.*

remember, for example, the time when Richardia Elliottiana, which was introduced in 1896, could not be obtained for less than a guinea, while R. Pentlandi could be obtained for fifteen shillings; yet I see that the latter is still catalogued at the same price, while the former has dropped to half-a-crown. Both need much the same treatment—rather a higher temperature than the common R. africana—and the one is not more difficult to propagate than the other. Then, why this difference in the price? If it is a matter of demand, I should call R. Elliottiana the more beautiful of the two.

February 29th.—It would be difficult to say why flowers look better with their own foliage, unless it be that the mind naturally associates certain lines with certain flowers, but it is easy to see that this is the case. Even Carnations are most beautiful when arranged with their own leaves, stiff as the latter might seem to be. With a very little help they fall naturally into graceful curves, if they are allowed sufficient space, and their long stalks give them an advantage over many other flowers.

H. C. Davidson.

The Gardens of the Marquis of Lansdowne, at Bowood, Wiltshire.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. GEORGE BROWN.

As may be imagined, it is no easy matter to exhaust interest in the gardens at Bowood, and at the conclusion of a short visit, which, by the courtesy of Lord Lansdowne, I paid to them on a bright day in February, I told Mr. Brown, the head gardener, who accompanied me round, that I required a whole day to grasp their charm. It is not only that they are very extensive, covering some seventy acres, apart from the great lake, whose area is sixty acres: they have been so planned, and so maintained, that they demand unrelaxing attention. The surroundings of Bowood enjoy many natural advantages, not the least being the numerous undulations.

These at once attracted my attention when we entered the garden at a point not far from the portico of a Greek temple, amid the trees of a peninsula at the head of the lake. From here we proceeded along grassy slopes, pausing for a while at the Cascade, to which Britton gives pre-eminence in his famous work, "The Beauties of Wiltshire." From this point a glimpse of the stately historic mansion is obtained, and in this locality are many noble specimens of trees, including Scotch Firs, of which Lord Lansdowne is so fond that, if the question of removal has to be settled, he always requests that the Scotch Firs may remain. But we delayed our talk about trees until the Pinetum was inspected, and discussed the shrubs, which, as we approached the house, came into prominence.

The Shrubberies.

"A number of shrubberies have been added," said Mr. Brown, "during the last twelve years."

"I conclude that the soil is congenial?"

"Yes, it is sandy loam, and all the shrubs do well in it. We suffer from a prolonged drought, but not from excess of rain. Even Rhododendrons, without peat, flourish planted in loam and leaf-soil. In fact, the theory of planting in peat is out of date."

"You have a nice collection of Aucubas in the shrubbery under the walled garden?"

"Yes, they look pretty when they are adorned by the scarlet berries. There is only one male plant, A. japonica maculata, amongst the females. The clumps of shrubs go round three sides of the walled garden. But we shall enter the latter at another point."

"Do you employ any special measures in order to keep up such a thriving collection of shrubs?"

"The ground is carefully prepared for planting. I use a great quantity of leaves, and trench them, with the result that the sandy soil remains cool and moist. But now you shall see the garden attached to the small house."

Lady Lansdowne's Garden.

"May I ask what is meant by 'the small house'?"

"It is the term applied to the suites of rooms occupied by Lord and Lady Lansdowne and the family; and the garden with the sundial in the centre is known as 'Lady Lansdowne's garden.' It was laid out nine or ten years ago, and, as you will note, climbers on the walls are very conspicuous."

"There are some also on the verandah of the house."

"The latter are the white Jasminum, the ordinary and the Japanese Honeysuckles. Along the walls are such varieties as Viburnum macrocephalum, Euonymus Langleyensis, Choisya ternata, Wistaria sinensis, Euonymus Ingramii, Azara microphylla, Aristolochia sipho, Lonicera flexuosa, Ceanothus Veitchiana, and Vitis Coignetiæ."

"How many beds are there in this garden?"

"Sixteen. For spring, they are planted chiefly with Wallflowers, of which the best are Sutton's Purple Queen, Sutton's Fairy Queen, and Sutton's Eastern Queen. The colours of these are excellent. We add the ordinary yellow and dark brown bedders. The long border, consisting wholly of Wallflowers, is made up of dark brown and yellow bedders, with a new white variety, called Ivy White, which I am using for the first time this year. The remainder of the beds are made up with Silenes, Daisies, Primroses, and Tulips. For summer bedding, Geraniums, Verbenas, and Lobelias are chiefly used."

The chief rooms of the "small house" overlook the terraces and gardens on the east side, and here is a collection of Alpines.

"You seem to go in for certain Alpines in number, rather than for numerous varieties," I remarked.

"That is my policy, generally. I am not a believer in a vast number of varieties, but when I get something which I consider good, I grow it in quantity. The principal Alpines are Saxifrages, Sempervivums, Thymes, and Campanulas. The climbers over the house include two Magnolia grandiflora, Ampelopsis Veitchii (a very old plant), and Akebia quinata. In a south corner you will observe that Tropæolum speciosum is doing well. Many people say that it will only flourish when it has a northern aspect. The Roses on the wall are Niphetos, Gloire de Dijon, and Devoniensis."

"Is not the design of bedding near the guest house rather unique?"

"Yes, I think it is. By the way, the older house is called, for convenience, the 'large house.' This bedding, which is on Italian lines, consists, in the centre, of Wallflowers and Tulips, edged by Myosotis, with a standard Rose (Ayrshire) in the centre. The eight beds are made up as follows:—Four corner beds of Silene compacta, with scarlet Tulips (Duchess de Parma), Lychnis viscara grandiflora, and yellow Primroses; and four side beds of white Arabis and Silenes. In summer we always have scarlet flowers in the outside bed, such as Geraniums (West Brighton Gem), edged with Pyrethrum Golden Ball. In the four nooks will be suitable Geraniums, with a nice border of Cerastiums. In the centre, Geranium Paul Crampel is used, the border being composed of Geranium Mrs. Parker. With the grass between the beds, the colour, while brilliant, is sufficiently toned down. We fill the vases on the terrace, facing the boathouse, with Geranium Paul Crampel."

The Orangery at Bowood.

Climbers and Roses.

"Climbers, I notice, are numerous on the guest house?"

"Both Lord and Lady Lansdowne are fond of climbers. In addition to some already mentioned, these include Wistaria multijuga, and Rose Gloire de Dijon. From here you get a good view of the heronry, and the herons on the tops of the trees."

"The entrance faces south?"

"Yes, opposite the deer park. There are more climbers, in which, perhaps, you are more interested for the moment than in the famous Doric portico. They include the white Banksian Rose, Myrtles, and Magnolias. Along the wall, on the lower terrace, are Roses, entirely of the Tea section, the varieties that do well being Safrano, The Bride, Comtesse de Nadaillac, Lord Salisbury, Maman Cochet, Francesa Kruger, Clara Watson, Madame de Watteville, Isabella Sprunt, Rainbow, The Gem, Madame Falcot, Ethel Brownlow, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Amazon, L'Innocence, Souvenir de Therese Levet, Madame Bravy, and Marie van Houtte. On the wall the Fabiana imbricata resembles a Heath in flower. Standard Roses are in the centre of the beds of the lower terrace."

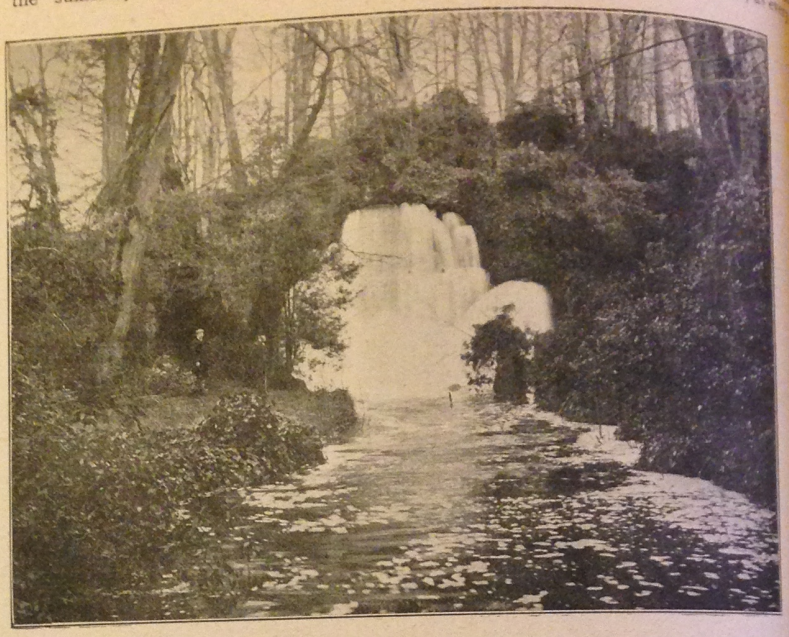
"And the rest of the bedding in the lower terrace?"

"Four of the beds have Geranium Mrs. Parker in the centre, with blue Lobelias in two, and Geranium West Brighton Gem in the other two. Then there are five beds, the central one containing Geranium Paul Crampel; four are composed of Geranium Madame Crousse, and four of white Verbena. In this part of the terrace there are sixteen Irish Yews at intervals. These beds and those on the higher terrace are not planted with spring flowers.

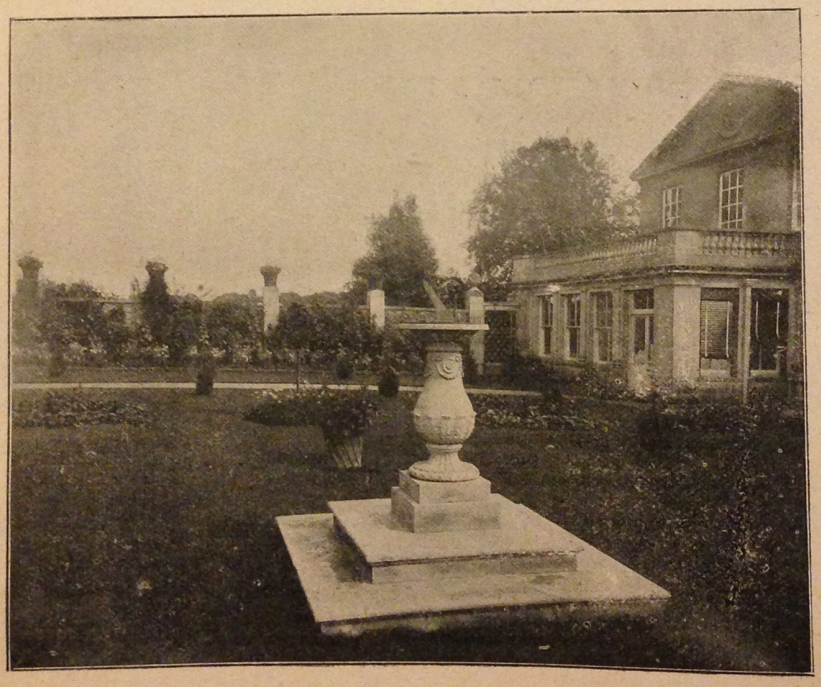
"As to the bedding on the higher terrace," continued Mr. Brown, "it is made to correspond on each side of the marble fountain. There is one bed of scarlet Geraniums, two of Ageratums, two of golden Calceolarias, two of Geranium Henry Jacoby, edged with Dolly Varden, two of white Verbenas, edged with Iresine, four of Geraniums, and four of the old Lobelia West Brighton Gem. At the foot of the eight Irish Yews amid the beds, Tropæolum Vesuvius has a very good effect, the bright scarlet and the green showing up well with the blue, pink, and white all the way round. Of course, the object in view is to get an attractive scheme of colour. Now we come to the Orangery. It is not usually furnished, but on special occasions, as, for instance, when the King visited Bowood, it was profusely decorated."

Crossing the stable-yard, in which is a magnificent plant of Ampelopsis Veitchii covering a large part of the stable, we arrived in the Green Court, a small, enclosed garden, with paved walks, a lawn, a fountain and fish-pond in the centre, and numerous creepers on the walls of the surrounding buildings.

"In the summer," said Mr. Brown, "the Green Court is furnished with Oranges, Myrtles, and Sweet Bays in tubs, and Geraniums in large basket vases; the beds are filled with Begonias, and the pond with Nymphæas. But now I think we ought to make our way to the walled-in garden."



The Cascade at Bowood.



Sundial in the Gardens of Bowood.

Previous to this, however, having passed some more shrubberies planted in the margin with Pæonies and Iris, and containing clumps of Spiræas and China Roses, we looked into the stoke-hole, which holds forty tons of coal, and supplies heat for the whole of the glasshouses. Also we visited the ornamental and well-ranged little bothy, containing six bed-rooms, mess-room, and other excellent accommodation for six of the young gardeners who are included on the staff of twenty. Moreover, here, as elsewhere, climbers have been freely planted, and growing on the walls of the bothy are Jasminum, Forsythia suspensa, Escallonias, Ceanothus, Azaras, Honeysuckle, Choisya ternata, and Ampelopsis Veitchii. The walled-in kitchen garden is divided into four quarters, one portion consistng entirely of glasshouses, and the other three of fruit and vegetables. The arrangement is most convenient, and materially tends to economise labour. In the first quarter, a number of cordon Pears are on the east aspect of the west wall, and on the south wall are Peaches, Apricots, and Cherries."

"What are the names of the Peaches?" I enquired.

"Darwin, Dr. Hogg, Early Rivers, Alexandra, Dagmar, Noblesse. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Pineapple, Humboldt, Spencer, and Rivers' Early Orange. The Cherries include such as Early Black, Black Tartarian, Governor Wood, Early Rivers, May Duke, Belle d'Orleans, and Bedford's Prolific. We are just trying Powell's Late Apricot, but rely chiefly upon Moor Park."

"I see you go in largely for Strawberries."

"The varieties are Royal Sovereign (which we also force), Vicomtesse H. de Thury, Leader, Givon's Late Prolific, and Elton Pine."

"You have not given me the names of any Pears."

"The best of these are Gansel's Bergamotte, Bergamotte Esperen, Beurré Bachelier, Beurré Bosc, Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Diel, Beurré Hardy, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurré d'Arembergs, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Doyenné du Comice, Glou Morceau, Josephine de Malines, Marie Louise, Marie Louise d'Uccle, Passe Colmar, and Olivier de Serres. For some years we were troubled with the Pear gnat, and, after trying many other remedies, finally got rid of it by picking off early in June the infested fruit."

Apples on the Bush.

"How do you grow Apples chiefly?"

"We grow them entirely on the bush. They are the most easy to pick, and the crops never fail. Our bushes were planted twelve years ago, and we have never been a year without fruit. I root-prune frequently—half of the trees

one year, and the other half the following year The kitchen varieties grown are Blenheim Orange, Bramley's Seedling, Chelmsford Wonder, Cox's Pomona, Dumelow's Seedling, Golden Noble, Lord Grosvenor, Peasgood's Nonsuch, The Queen, and Lane's Prince Albert. The best dessert varieties are Barnack Beauty, Cox's Orange Pippin, Duke of Devonshire, Allington Pippin, American Mother, Golden Reinette, Kerry Pippin, King of the Pippins, and Mrs. Gladstone."

"What about Plums?"

"We grow Early Prolific, Dennis'on's Superb, Jefferson, Kirkes', Belgium Purple, Diamond, Washington, Victoria, and Greengages in variety. Plums do well on both west and north walls, and Morella Cherries on the north. I have also seen Morella Cherries thrive with an east aspect. Underneath the latter are Raspberries, all of one variety, Superlative. Of course, we grow Currants and Gooseberries. Before we dismiss the walls, I may add that, in addition to the Rose border, containing Hybrid Perpetuals, there are a number of climbing Roses on the walls."

"Do you make specialities of any vegetab'es?"

The Gardeners' Bothy at Bowood.

"A very large batch of Broccoli is grown, which are protected from the frost by heeling them over. The varieties are Veitch's Maincrop, Chelsea Favourite, and Self-protecting. My stand-by in Cabbages for the winter are Sutton's Flower of Spring and Wheeler's Imperial. Asparagus is a big item. We grow it on the French system. At the end of this quarter, in the borders north and south, are grown herbaceous plants and annuals in clumps."

Herbaceous Plants in Clumps.

"What are the dimensions of the borders?"

"They are two hundred yards long on either side, and we only have tall-growing varieties, which are also largely chosen for colour. They include Sweet Peas (about twenty-four varieties), Pentstemons, Salvias (scarlet and blue), Phlox in variety, Chrysanthemum maximum (William Robinson), Lavatera (rosea and alba), Salpiglossis, Montbretias, Campanula pyramidalis, Anemone japonica, Incarvilleas, and Sedum siberica. Just at the end of the borders we have a few of Lord Lansdowne's favourite spring Alpines—Aubrietias, Arabis, Arenarias, and Alpine Phlox. The Violets in frames are Marie Louise, Belle de Chatenay, and Princess of Wales."

The Vineries.

"Your range of houses is very handsome."

"We had to level all the ground when they were erected six years ago, and the appearance of them is, I think, improved by the plots of grass between them. The fruit range consists of the Vineries, an early, mid-season, and late. In the early house are Hamburghs, Foster's Seedling, and Madresfield Court. In the mid-season house, Muscats of Alexandria, and Mrs. Pince Muscat; and late house, Lady Downe's and Alicante. The Fig house contains Brown Turkey, White Marseilles, and a few varieties in pots. Strawberries do well on the shelves right along the range. You may like to note that the wires in the Vineries are twenty-two inches from the glass, which admits of a free circulation of air between the leaves and the glass."

"You also have Roses in pots here?"

"Just a few of Dorothy Perkins, and three dozen pots of Streptosolen, which we often use in a single day at a dinner-party. The Peach house has only two varieties, Lord Napier and Royal George. On the border outside the fruit range, in lines, we grow scarlet Salvias, Calceolarias amplexicaulis, Rehmannia angulata, Calceolaria Golden Gem, Geranium Madame Crousse, blue Lobelias, and Pyrethrums."

A Begonia House.

"What are the principal contents of the stove?"

"We do not go in much for foliage plants, but Crotons, Pandanus, and Gardenias are grown, with Stephanotis on the roof. In the greenhouse are Cyclamen (Sutton's strain), Cineraria stellata, Primulas (kewensis, obconica, and sinensis), and Arums, which we flower in batches. Another house is devoted entirely to Begonias, with President Carnot grown on the roof, the flowers, as they ought to be, drooping down. Gloire de Lorraine, Gloire de Sceaux, and Turnford Hall are also grown, and in this house we have Lilies of the Valley. We have been cutting Daffodils for some weeks. I am rather fond of Jacobinia; we grow both coccinea and Chrysostephana. Plumbago rosea is also grown, and Moschosma riparium."

The Carnation Houses.

"What is the name of the little purple flower?"

"Ruellia macrantha. We grow a number in pots, and it requires much the same treatment as Poinsettias. In the propagating house there are a few Orchids only, and Imantophyllums are just coming on. The house next is devoted to Melons, the varieties being Royal Favourite, Hero of Lockinge, and Sutton's A1."

"You have two Carnation-houses?"

"Yes; in one we grow Trees and Malmaisons together, preferring white in the Tree varieties. The best of these are Mrs. L. Robinson, Queen Louise, Norway, and Governor Woolcot. We also grow La Penilé (rose-pink), Enchantress, and Flamingo. Of Malmaisons, we grow Princess of Wales, Lady Grimstone, Florizel, Mrs. Wilson, Nell Gwynne (one of the best whites), and Princess of Wales. The other house is devoted to the variety Winter Cheer, and we cut flowers all the year round—about four dozen from each plant—the number of plants being about three hundred. The blooms just now are rather small, but later they will be much larger. It is a most useful colour for decorative purposes."

The Famous Trees in the Pinetum.

Then, having noticed a number of useful pits, all made on the principle of dropping gradually, according to the state of the weather, we strolled across to the Pinetum, which contains a typical collection of coniferous trees, many of them of great beauty.

"You might," I said, "give me the names of some of the notable specimens."

"There are several fine examples of the Evergreen Oak in the pleasure grounds. The specimen of Pinus insignis (radiata) is one of the finest trees in England. Other examples of Pinus are Jeffreyi, cembra, flexilis, and strobus. You noticed, in other parts of the pleasure grounds, a number of small specimens of Lawsoniana Cupressus. We make a number of these from pyramids growing up amongst the shrubs. The other Cupressus represented is nootkatensis. The Cedars are atlantica, C. atlantica glauca, Libani, deodara; the Piceas, orientalis, Sitchensis, and Smithiana; the Abies, grandis, nobilis, Albertiana, and Douglasii; the Thujas, dolabrata and gigantea. We have also notable specimens of the Incense Cedar (Libocedrus), Sequoia, Sempervirens, Wellingtonia gigantea, Hornbeam, and Liriodendron tulipifera. The extent of the Pinetum is about seven acres."

"How long have you been at Bowood, Mr. Brown?"

"I have been here twelve years, but I have been thirty-two years in the service of the family. I came from Scotland to Wiltshire, having previously been at Tullyallen Castle, on the Forth. Earlier in life I spent some time in the gardens of the Duke of Buccleuch at Drumlanrig Castle, and I was previously in England at Linton Park, Maidstone."

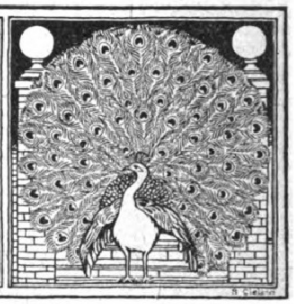
Alfred Wilcox.

Miss Clibran is the name of another of the hybrid race of Begonias obtained by crossing one of the tuberous kinds with B. Socotrana. All these are winter-flowering, and of great value at this season. The one now referred to is of a vigorous habit of growth, with handsome foliage, and a profusion of rich pink, double blossoms. It was shown by Messrs. Clibran and Son, during the past season, and received an award of merit.

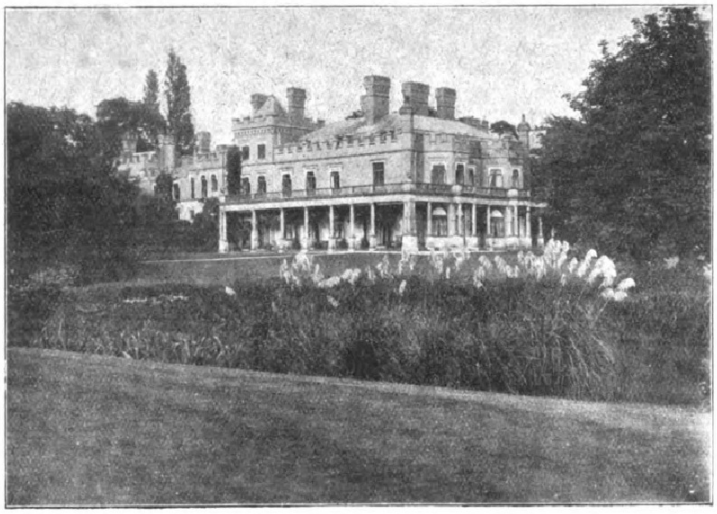
The beautiful scarlet-flowered Eucalyptus ficifolia has flowered recently in the garden of Mr. W. North Row, of Tiverton, Devon. It is a very handsome plant, with fine evergreen leaves about six inches long, and large heads of fluffy, Myrtle-like blossoms, of the richest scarlet. It is not a large-growing species, usually attaining a height of fifteen or eighteen feet. The plant referred to was planted out under glass. This fine Eucalyptus had bloomed several times previously at Letham Grove, Arbroath, N.B.

THE GARDENS AT CASTLE HILL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

Interview with Mr. H. H. Brown.



IMPORTANT additions have recently been made to the gardens at Castle Hill, Englefield Green. Visiting them, by the courtesy of Mr. W. G. Raphael, in the middle of July, I was greatly impressed by the admirable manner in which they have been conceived and carried out. But on my arrival, the head gardener, Mr. H. H. Brown, first called my attention to some noble specimens of Cedars, Beeches, and Scottish Firs at the east front entrance. In this part of the pleasure grounds there have been no changes. The carriage drive is, in fact, quite plain, and altogether in keeping with the style of the mansion. The latter, as it now is, was only built twenty-five years ago, but the original house dated far back, and care was taken, in erecting its successor, to preserve the characteristic features. Noting, in addition to the fine trees on the east side of the lawn, several in the park outside—including two Cedars of Lebanon sweeping the ground, a Chestnut with a very large pink and white flower, and a striking specimen of Liquidambar—with a ponticum Rhododendron of enormous size, I asked if the creepers on the mansion included anything special.



CASTLE HILL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

"Ceanothus fragrans does well," rejoined Mr. Brown, "and the other climbers are Wistaria sinensis, Jasminum, Lonicera, Clematis, and the Virginia Creeper, which colours splendidly. For a white house nothing is better. The servants' quarters, you will observe, are quite concealed by shrubs, with Sedum spectabile atro-purpureum in front. The screen of Ivy at the side, with Berberis, and a few other flowering shrubs, was put up in order that the main lawn might not be visible at the entrance. On the main lawn is one of the new features. I mean the Rose garden."

Roses to Colour.

"What did it take the place of?"

"Carpet bedding. There is one variety in each bed, with two centre beds of Liberty. The centre beds are crimson, and the outside colours in the six other beds are Caroline Testout, Madame Ravary, Frau Karl Druschki, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Mdlle. Jeanne Philippe. The last is a very free-flowering variety, with foliage of a beautiful tint. One advantage of the Roses in this position is that their scent penetrates to the rooms of the house."

"Did you make up the soil?"

"Entirely. The natural soil is very poor, and we need to enrich it constantly. However, since these Roses were planted in the beds, I have not lost one, and this is the third year of blooming."

Tree Ferns for Decoration.

"On the west side of the mansion," continued Mr. Brown, "are hanging baskets, containing Ivy-leaved Geraniums (Souvenir de Charles Turner), and Eulalia gracilis."

"How long have you had the fine show of Tree Ferns in the balcony?"

"For many years. It is thirteen since I came, and they have been put out yearly the last week in May. They stay out until October, and are housed in the winter in an old Camellia house. With regard to protection, blinds are used to shut out the glare of the sun, and, as to treatment, the stems are damped twice a day right up. Several varieties are represented, including Dicksonia antarctica. There are eight in all, and they certainly harmonise with the columns of the mansion."

The Banks of the Ornamental Water.

We next proceeded down the slopes to the stretch of ornamental water, the banks of which during the last three years have been clothed with great success.

"Here," said Mr. Brown, "is a quarter devoted to Heaths, Ericas carnea, mediterranea, vulgaris, and vagans; also the red Heath, vulgaris Alportii. Earlier in the year, the Azalea mollis was a grand sight. On a mound in the water is Hemerocallis (the Day Lily), and right into the water is the Flowering Rush. Later on, the Lilies in the water—auratum, speciosum, and tigrinum—will give a wealth of flowers, which, with the foliage of the Azaleas, will be very effective."

"I notice that your Lobelia cardinalis is almost in the water."

"Yes, it is in the right position, and grows to quite four feet in height. In the border beyond the Azaleas there are many varieties of Irises, such as siberica, aurea, Kæmpferi, Monnieri, monspur, and ochroleuca. The Irises begin to flower in March, starting with I. pumila, and ending with the Japanese varieties. These are followed by hybrid Tritomas. Amongst the plants in the water is Astilbe Davidi; and A. grandis, I think, is going to prove a fine water variety."

The Nymphæas.

"You appear to have a very good collection of Nymphæas."

"They embrace James Brydon, James Doogue, Gladstoniana, lucidæ, Marliacea alba, Frœbelli, Robinsonii, and odorata sulphurea. Along the banks, Crinum Powelli kept on flowering for two months, and one of the most natural plants, yielding masses of flower, is Lythrum roseum superbum. We have done nothing to it since it was put in. The Royal Ferns also find a natural home here."

"You have other attractions than the flowering plants on the banks. What is about the age of the glorious Willow facing a bed of Pernettya?"

"It is between three and four hundred years old. In contrast to that ancient tree, bound up and protected with chains, are the two young Willows planted on each side of it, to take its place when it dies. In this vicinity is the best Cedar on the estate."

How to Preserve Old Trees.

"How do you manage to keep your old trees in such good condition?"

"We manure them at the roots, two or three times every year, with good manure. In a dry season we also soak them well. This treatment has probably affected the fine old Tulip-tree, with its flowers now opening."

At this end of the ornamental water—where a Gunnera manicata, recently planted, is thriving—in close proximity to a pretty summer-house, is a sunk Rose garden, with a hedge of Penzance Briers.

"Are these Roses also planted to a scheme of colour?"

"Yes. The centre is scarlet (Gruss an Teplitz), the colours at each end are white and

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yellow, and in the outside beds pink and red. The mixed beds are all Teas and Hybrid Teas. The pillar Roses used are Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, Blush Rambler, Electra, Ards Rover, Hiawatha, and Crimson Rambler."

Tritomas and Spiræas.

"What are the special beds on this side of the water?"

"Near the ancient Willow at the corner of the tennis-lawn is a bed of red Dogwood, with a Giant Buttercup in the water in front. Clumps of Pampas Grass and clumps of Tritomas (uvaria) are prominent in this locality. Last year there were five hundred spikes of bright scarlet flowers, each plant yielding from thirty to forty."

"You have a number of shrubby Spiræas in another bed?"

"They are grown as much for their foliage as for their flowers. The varieties include Aitchisonii, Anthony Waterer, ariæfolia, bumalda, and Lindleyana, with S. gigantea and elegans in the water. Then, there is a bed of early-flowering Pampas, with Eulalias zebrina or gracillima to fill up, and a large bed of Yuccas just throwing up flowers, with a bank of Bamboos in variety close by."

"Also a bank of Rhododendrons?"

"Yes, consisting exclusively of Pink Pearl. The steps down to the water are sheets of flower in May, Aubrietias and Saxifrages being prominent. At the head of the ornamental water are Wichuriana Roses, a bed of Rock Roses, and a little rockery. In early spring, Kingcups give a mass of flowers."

A Blue Garden.

The glasshouses at Castle Hill are near the mansion, but most of them are screened to some extent from view by a clump of Laurels, and approached through a pergola of Ivy. The two Peach houses and the Camellia house are apart from the range. In the early house are Duke of York Peach and Early Rivers' Nectarine, gathered early in June; and Hale's Early Peach and Violette Hative Nectarine, fruit picked on July 2nd.

"We start picking in the late house," said Mr. Brown, "at the end of July, the varieties being Hale's Early and Princess of Wales Peaches; and Stanwick Elruge and Pineapple Nectarines. The Figs in pots are Brown Turkey and Negro Largo. The Camellia house is approached through the 'Blue Garden.'"

"It deserves its name. How long do you manage to keep it up?"

"For three months. The blue flowers are chiefly Delphiniums in variety, Anchusas (both the Dropmore and Opal varieties), Salvias (patens), Erigerons, Veronicas (Royal Blue), Linums (Narbonense), Clematis in variety, Campanula pyramidalis, Nigella Miss Jekyll, Nemesia Blue Gem, Aconitum Wilsonii and autumnale (Fischeri), Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Agapanthus Moreani, and Violas (Blue King, Archibald Grant, and Maggie Mott)."

"The Camellias in the house are planted out?"

"Yes, and we cut hundreds of flowers in the season, wiring them to evergreens. Hydrangeas (hortensis) are used for fireplace work in the rooms. The plants outside carry hundreds of trusses of blooms."

Winter-flowering Orchids.

"Do you grow many Chrysanthemums?"

"A fair number; but we confine ourselves to the decorative varieties and the singles, which are more useful than the huge blooms. With regard to the other houses, we make a great feature of winter-flowering Orchids. At Christmas last year we had sixteen hundred flowers open, and some plants had thirty-five blooms. Cypripediums insigne are the principal, but we have also, as you see, in the Cypripedium house, a number of the summer-flowering varieties. In the Cattleya house are also several varieties, with several of our own seedlings. The Orchids include Oncidiums, Dendrobiums in variety, Lælia purpurata, and in the intermediate house are Epidendrums, all our own seedlings. In this house is a fine plant of Sobralia macrantha in flower. The Sobralia, which must be kept in a tub, is a bloom of a day, but as soon as one dies, another succeeds it; Odontoglossums are grown in a house facing north at the back of the Vineries. In the stove is a general collection of plants, amongst which Anthuriums are conspicuous, and in the next house are some sixty or seventy plants of Paul Crampel Geraniums, which we use as standards; they grow to quite six feet in height."

"How long have you been cutting your Malmaison Carnations?"

"Since May. These are all one-year-old plants, the varieties being chiefly Princess of Wales, Maggie Hodgson, Lord Rosebery, H. J. Jones, Mrs. Trelawney, and Dragut, a very fine new scarlet. We grow about four hundred Malmaisons, and two hundred Trees, but have no separate house for either. The Carnations are on the sunny side, and the Geraniums on the shady."

The Treatment of Malmaisons.

"When do you layer your Malmaisons?"

"In July, in a mixture of road sidings and garden soil. We pot up, when the plants are well rooted, into large 'sixties,' using a compost consisting of two parts loam, one leaf-soil, and road sand, with a little fine lime rubble. After potting, they are kept rather close for a week or so; then they are gradually allowed full air, with protection in the middle of the day from hot sun. It is a matter of opinion whether the final potting should be done in the autumn, or early in the following year."

"When is yours done?"

"We have potted them at both dates, and the results have been fairly equal. The pots for the final potting are 'thirty-twos,' carefully crocked, with a little broken charcoal sprinkled on the crocks. The same soil is used, with the addition of bonemeal and soot, a 6-in. potful of each to a barrowload of soil. A little broken charcoal is also mixed with the soil. We winter the plants in a cool, light house, and give abundance of air in favourable weather, taking care to keep them a little on the dry side during the dark months. Fire heat is only turned on in severe weather. For the prevention of disease, we syringe the plants occasionally with a solution of sulphide of potassium."

How to Grow Tree Carnations.

"How do you treat Tree Carnations?"

"Cuttings are taken at intervals from October to January, rooted in pans filled with road sand, and planted in a bottom heat of about sixty-five degrees. We pot off into small 'sixties,' in a mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and road sand, and place in a light position, with a night temperature of about fifty degrees. When sufficiently advanced in growth, the tops are pinched out, in order to get good, bushy plants. The next potting is into large 'sixties' or 'forty-eights,' according to the size and vigour of the plants. The plants are kept fairly close to the glass, as this helps to promote strong and vigorous growth. The final potting is into 'thirty-twos' or 'twenty-fours,' and the soil used is the same as in the case of Malmaisons. For the summer we usually erect a light framework where the plants are stood out. We can then put a few frame lights over them in wet weather, and also shade them from the hot sun. The plants are syringed morning and night in favourable weather. They are also syringed occasionally with weak soot-water. Staking and tying are attended to as soon as needed. About the first week in September we place the plants in their winter quarters, in a light and airy greenhouse."

"Which do you consider the best varieties of Trees?"

"Britannia, Enchantress, Mrs. Lawson, Winsor, and Robert Craig. In my opinion, Carnations require as much attention as Orchids. Our other features in the plant houses are Gloxinias and Coleus."

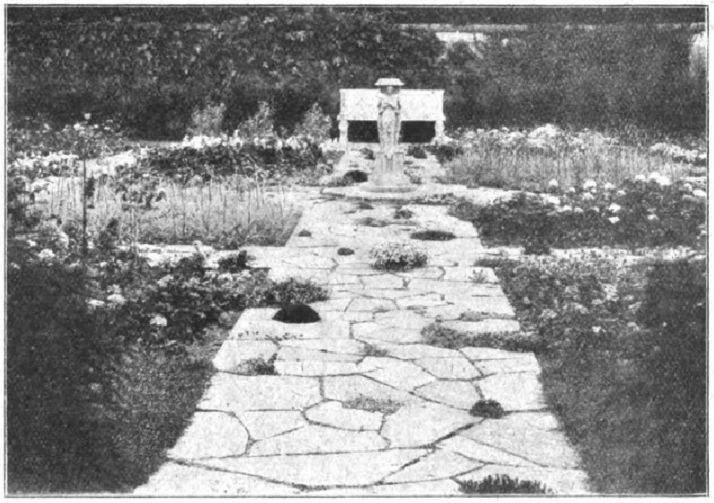
"The Gloxinias seem to fill one house?"

"Yes, a house is devoted to them and Maidenhair Ferns. They are various shades of colour, and some of the varieties are Her Majesty (white), Duke of York (blue), and Sutton's Scarlet. There are also a number of seedlings. They have been in flower since the beginning of May, and last until the end of July. I have another batch coming on in August and September."

"They make a wonderful display. How do you grow them?"

Gloxinias and Green-fly.

"We sow in March and April. After pricking off into pans, we keep the plants growing in a warm house. When large enough, they are potted off into small 'sixties' in a mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and a little fine peat, with plenty of silver sand. When the pots are well filled with roots, they are again shifted into either large 'sixties' or 'forty-eights.' These, if kept growing in a moist, warm house, soon make good plants. Care should be taken that they are free from green-fly, which soon cripples the



THE STONE WALK, CASTLE HILL.

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leaves. We fumigate occasionally with vaporising compound. When the plants commence growth again in spring, they are brought into a warm house, and as soon as they have commenced to make root, they are potted into 6-in. and 7-in. pots. To enrich the soil, we use bonemeal and a little Canary Guano."

"More Orchids still?" I observed, as we entered a house devoted to Calanthes.

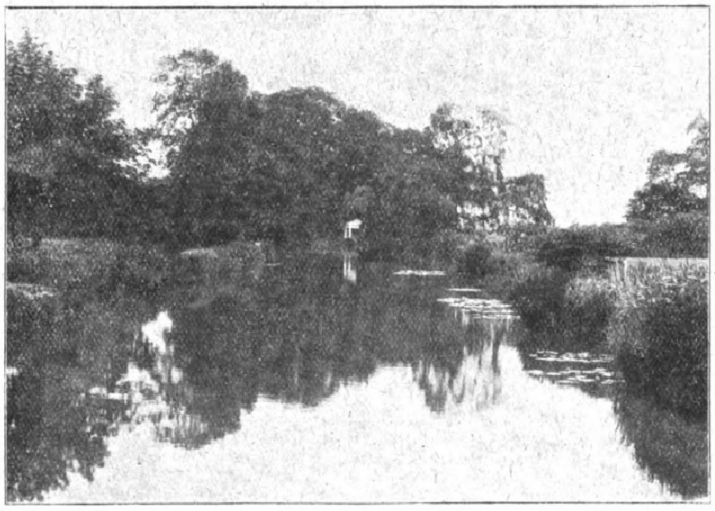
"These are very useful in winter. At Christmas we had a hundred and fifty spikes. On the other side of the stage are Begonias, Gloire de Lorraine. Then, in the next house are the Coleus, of which we have every conceivable shade of colour—yellowy-green; bright crimson; red, tipped with yellow; red, green and yellow; and crimson, black, and green. Crotons also are grown in this house."

"And Tomatoes?"

"Practically, this is the Tomato house. We only grow one variety, a seedling of medium size and good flavour, which does as well outside as under glass. Melons occupy a range of three houses. The best in flavour are Hero of Lockinge, Blenheim Orange, and Royal Jubilee."

"How long does your Grape season last?"

"We started in the early Vinery on June 14th, with Buckland's Sweetwater, and shall go on to March, winding up with Alicante, Black Hamburgh, and Foster's Seedling. We have had bunches of Alicantes weighing seven pounds and a quarter."



THE ORNAMENTAL WATER AT CASTLE HILL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

A Stone Garden.

Having been the round of the houses, we next went into what was originally the fruit garden, but is being gradually transformed into a very pretty part of the pleasure grounds.

"A great innovation was made in 1908," said Mr. Brown, "when we made the 'Stone Garden,' with a Yew hedge and sundial in the centre. Rock plants are used in between the stones, but the sixteen beds all differently made up are the principal attraction. They are as follows: Roses Grand Duke of Luxembourg; Heliotropes Lord Roberts, and Violas Maggie Mott; Antirrhinums Sutton's Carmine Pink; a bed of Gourds; Fuchsias Mrs. Marshall, and Geraniums Achievement; pink Carnations; Geraniums Paul Crampel, and Centaureas Tom Thumb; sweet-scented Verbenas and white Stocks; Sweet Williams Pink Beauty; Carnations Raby Castle; Geraniums Queen of the Whites, and Salvias Star of Zurich; mixed Verbenas; Rosemary and scented-leaved Geraniums; Calceolarias amplexicaulis and Salvia patens; Antirrhinums Orange King; dark blue Heliotropes and Violas Maggie Mott."

"You have a fine bed in three tiers on the centre of the lawn," I remarked, as we proceeded on our way to the kitchen garden.

"It consists of one tier of Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall and Geranium Madame Crousse, another of white Marguerites and red Salvias; and, on the bottom, Geraniums Paul Crampel and red Salvias. On this side of the lawn also are Bamboos (aurea), golden Retinospora, and groups of ornamental shrubs and Conifers."

Standard Roses and Polyanthas.

"Here," continued Mr. Brown, "we have a Rose avenue, consisting of standards, with Polyanthas at the foot. For example, we combine Charles Lefebvre as a standard with Madame L. Levavasseur underneath; Papa Gontier with Ænnchen Muller; Maman Cochet with Mignonette; Caroline Testout with Baby Dorothy; Mrs. E. Mawley with Cecile Brunner; Richmond with White Pet; Laurette Messimy with Leonie Lamesch; and Marquise Litta with Perle des Rouges. About a dozen different varieties of standards are used. Some of the Polyanthas match the standards, and others form a contrast. The result is a considerable prolongation of the flowering season."

"Facing the charming avenue, you have another herbaceous border?"

"In which we grow Dahlias in variety, and Sweet Peas in clumps, edged with Saxifraga Wallacei. The best Sweet Peas are George Herbert, Nora Unwin, Frank Dolby, Helen Lewis, Black Knight, Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes, and King Edward VII. Growing on the small pond is a Taxodium distichum of vast size, with its roots all along the water."

Hardy Fruit.

"What is the extent of the kitchen garden?"

"Four acres. The Peach wall covers three hundred feet, and we get big quantities of fruit, the varieties being Early Alexander, Hale's Early, Goshawk, Dymond, Early Grosse Mignonne, Nectarine Peach, Sea Eagle, Barrington, and Lady Palmerston; Nectarines, Lord Napier, Pineapple, Rivers' Orange, and Victoria. We have gathered fourteen hundred Peaches and Nectarines off the wall in a season. On the Apricot wall are Moor Park, Hemskirk, and Large Early. Several varieties of Plums are grown, but of Cherries we grow mainly Morellos. There is a long Pear wall."

"What varieties do you grow on it?"

"Williams's Bon Chretien, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Doyenne du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurre d'Amanlis, Beurre Superfin, and Marie Louise. The Apples on wires, horizontally trained, are Irish Peach, Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Claygate Pearmain, Worcester Pearmain, Lady Sudeley, Sandringham, Bramley's Seedling, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Cox's Pomona, Newton Wonder, and Alfriston."

The Best Peas for Light Soils.

"Which do you consider your most important vegetable?"

"Peas are one of the most important, and we grow a quantity of them, picking from June 12th up to October. For our earliest crop we usually rely upon Ideal and Green Gem. These are sown as early in January as possible. A mixture of wood-ashes and soot is put in the trenches; and the seeds are thoroughly soaked in red-lead and paraffin. This is very necessary, as we are sorely troubled with mice and birds. Our second-early and maincrop varieties are sown in trenches six inches deep and a foot wide. In very dry weather they are flooded occasionally with weak liquid manure. For maincrop and late varieties, Duke of Albany, King Edward, Magnum, and Autocrat suit our soil best."

How to Get Early Potatoes.

"Do you grow Potatoes in frames in quantity?"

"Largely. The best variety for this purpose is May Queen. The tubers are placed in shallow boxes early in January, and put in a light position near the glass in a cool greenhouse, where they are safe from frost. As soon as the shoots are half an inch long, we reduce them to about three on a set, and having been kept near the glass, they are strong, sturdy shoots ready for planting. Then we gather together a large quantity of stable manure and leaves, mixing thoroughly and turning two or three times, so that it makes a good lasting heat. The pits are next filled with manure to a depth of two feet, well trodden down and left for two or three days, when the soil is put in about seven inches deep. As soon as this is sufficiently warm, the tubers are planted. Care is taken to keep the plants strong in growth, particular attention being devoted to the airing of the frames. In fine, mild weather, an abundance of air is given, though precautions are not neglected to afford protection from cold and cutting winds. By these means we can always rely upon an early supply of good Potatoes."

The Care of Celery.

"I see that you have large breadths of Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, and Winter Greens."

"Yes, and the crops are satisfactory. We grow a quantity of Celery, the chief varieties being Sutton's A1, White Gem, and Superb White. We usually sow in the middle of February. The young plants are pricked out into pits in rich soil, and given plenty of room, in order to develop strength. When the plants are well established in the trenches, they are regularly supplied with liquid manure from the farmyard. The earthing is regularly attended to, so that good blanched plants may be secured. In very severe weather, protection is afforded with long litter."

"You have shown fruit successfully at the exhibitions of the Royal Horticultural Society?"

"I was awarded a prize for Grapes (Alicantes), last year; and I have shown Peaches, Nectarines, and Melons at Richmond and Reading, all grown under glass. The hardy fruit is not good enough to show. With regard to my experience, I began gardening in North Durham, was for two years at Osberton Hall Gardens, Worksop, and before I came here as head gardener thirteen years ago, I was for nine years foreman in the fruit houses at Gunnersbury House."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE next interview will be with Mr. F. Dennison, of Cranford, Leamington, a famous amateur Rose grower.

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rarely dug and never manured, a root being lifted as required—not such an easy matter as it might seem, owing to the difficulty of finding one fit for use. If it pays to export Horseradish to this country, it would surely pay to grow it here—that is, of course, to grow it properly. The whole crop should be lifted every year after the leaves wither and fall off. The best roots should then be trimmed and laid in the ground for use, or else stored in a shed. The smaller roots should also be trimmed into straight pieces, and they and the trimmings should be planted about a foot apart in deeply dug, well manured ground—those with crowns just below the surface, and those without an inch deeper. Every piece of root will grow, and for that reason any that is not wanted for planting should be carefully collected and burned.

LIVE HEDGES.

November 21st.—The cost of timber is now so high that not many new fences are likely to be put up in gardens. Live hedges will largely take their place. They have their advantages; but on the other hand they take time to grow; they demand a certain amount of care, and it is rarely that even the thickest of them will exclude cats or dogs or poultry. They should, therefore, be supplemented by wire netting, which, again, has increased enormously in price. Hornbeam or Beech makes a cheap and strong hedge, and as both carry their brown leaves through the winter, the Beech well into spring, they make as effective a screen as evergreens. Privet is popular mainly because it costs less than most other suitable plants, but it is weak, and generally associated with the Thorn. The Myrobalan Plum is quicker than the Thorn, and has such formidable spikes that it will stop almost any animal. The common Laurel has much to recommend it, but if neglected is liable to die back and become gappy. The Yew is excellent when well grown, but slow. The Holly is the best of all if good plants are obtained, but they are certainly not cheap.

CHOICE EVENING PRIMROSES.

November 22nd.—The common Evening Primrose, Œnothera Lamarckiana, is only a biennial, and as there are many fine perennial species, it is surprising that they are not more often seen in gardens. Œ. Fraseri and Œ. Youngii are admirable border plants, the former about a foot high, and the latter rather taller, both of them producing great quantities of clear yellow flowers for a long period, especially in moist soil. Œ. missouriensis is a good trailer, and Œ. speciosa has beautiful white flowers with a yellow centre. The long, white, trumpet-shaped flowers of Œ. taraxacifolia are very charming, but the close resemblance of the leaves to those of the dandelion renders the plant rather difficult to preserve. I have had a number of them, but they have been hoed down, or else, when the foliage withers in autumn, dug up and destroyed.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

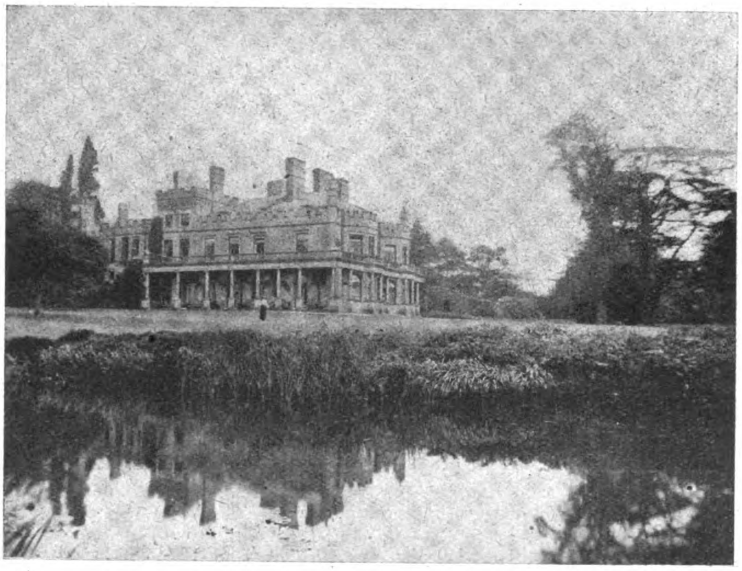
A BEAUTIFUL COTONEASTER.

Those who desire to cover a cold, unsightly wall, or some steep bank, with an accommodating yet beautiful plant, should not overlook Cotoneaster horizontalis. I have grown this shrub, and observed it growing in all sorts of unpromising positions, but I have never known it to disappoint. Attractive at all times with is pretty leaves and dwarf, spreading habit, it is especially so during autumn and spring. Everyone admires the pretty pink flowers, which are so profusely produced as literally to stud the branches in spring; while in autumn they are followed with bright red berries.

If this enumeration of the merits of Cotoneaster horizontalis is not sufficient, it may be added that the foliage turns from its usual deep green to a glowing crimson in the autumn. Very free-growing, it will flourish in the poorest soil, and it is a thoroughly useful shrub for either town or country gardens.—F. W. MILES.

IN the class for Alicante Grapes at the exhibition of British-grown fruit on October 21st, Mr. H. H. Brown was an easy first from five other competitors. I was interested in this exhibit because, four days previous, the bunches were pointed out to me as they hung upon the Vine. This was at Castle Hill, Englefield Green—where Mr. Brown is head gardener—which I visited by the courtesy of Mrs. W. Raphael.

But at Castle Hill Grapes are a minor matter compared with the many attractions of the gardens and grounds, which are of considerable extent, comprising, with the farms, about fifty acres. A typical October morning mist had been followed by a glorious burst of sunshine, in which the majestic trees displayed their autumn glories to perfection. Standing on the south terrace, the eye took in a Rose garden immediately in front—where still many a plant was flowering bravely—and beyond that broad lawns, dotted here and there with magnificent specimen trees; while a belt of woods in the background closed in the scene. Off to the right, and running almost parallel with the west front of the house, is a sheet of water, which reflected back the colours of the shrubs on its banks. Concerning these shrubs Mr. Brown told me more later; but for the moment I was lost in admiration of the beautiful colour effects on all sides.



THE WEST FRONT OF CASTLE HILL, ENGLEFIELD GREEN.

HANDSOME TREES.

Walking round to the east front of the house, which was gay with the rich crimson of Ampelopsis Veitchii, green was predominant, for the lovely Beech across the lawn, with enormous, spreading branches, had not commenced to change colour, and would not do so before the end of the month. Here are some very fine Cedars, both C. atlantica and C. Libani being represented by specimens of great size, feathered down to the ground. More Beeches came next, and beyond them a Scotch Fir towered to an immense height. But before we reached the trees my attention had been drawn to a wide circle, marking the former site of a large clump of Rhododendron ponticum, which had been cut down to open up the view from the house. The space is grassed over, but the turf lacks the springiness of the rest of the lawn.

Under tall trees, mostly Conifers, we made our way until we came to a clearing looking on to Englefield Green. Hereabouts are a couple of grand specimens of Thuyopsis dolabrata, and not far off more finely-feathered Cedars, the glaucous foliage of C. atlantica argentea being especially noticeable.

"What is the nature of the soil?" I asked, as we turned and took a southward course through the trees.

"It is very poor and shallow," was the reply, "under two feet in depth. Below that we come to gravel, sand, and ironstone."

"The trees are, of course, very old?"

"Some are two hundred years old at least, if not more; but we also plant young trees here and there, to replace the others when they die."

"Whoever planned the grounds had a fine imagination," I remarked, as we came out upon the farther lawn, which was, up to a few years ago, a portion of the park, where cattle grazed. The golden tints of a wide-spreading Chestnut seemed to take on a brighter tone against the dark background of Conifers, whose outlines, however, were sufficiently varied to relieve the picture from monotony, and were interspersed with other trees. The Weymouth Pine, tall though it be, is exceeded in height by its neighbour, a Lombardy Poplar, which has on its other side a Black Austrian Pine.

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Looking through the trees, the house could be seen in the distance, the crimson of the creepers showing up finely on the grey stone walls. Still more Cedars—one with a girth of between twenty-one and twenty-two feet; another, a Cedar of Lebanon, with branches of a more vertical habit than usual, in consequence of which it shows the effects of snow and wind in sundry foreshortened limbs; and another, a noble specimen of Cedrus atlantica; and then we come upon a giant scarlet Chestnut, now glorious in gold and green as the sunlight plays through its leaves.

FINE AUTUMNAL FOLIAGE.

Oaks, too, are well represented. Quercus Cerris, the Turkey Oak, with its mossy acorn-cups; the Holm Oak, with its evergreen leaves; and the Knap Hill variety of Q. coccinea, are among the trees that skirt the lawns to the south. There is also a fine example of the Black Walnut, Juglans nigra.

Standing alone on the other side of the lawn is a wonderful old Tulip Tree, with a huge bole swelling out like an Onion in shape. It flowers, I was told, very freely; and on this afternoon was a mass of rich yellow, handsome leaves. Hollies seem to be everywhere; and it may interest those who believe that the nature of the coming winter can be forecasted from the quantity of the berries, if I mention that they seem unusually numerous and fine. The Liquid-ambar was just putting on its autumn colours, which would be at their best a little later.

Having crossed the lawn, we came now to the stretch of water which I mentioned ran along the west side of the grounds; and as we walked along the bank, towards the house, Mr. Brown indicated some of the most interesting features. Autumn colour had evidently been borne in mind when he planted the shrubs, and Berberis Thunbergii was a particularly fine patch, with B. Darwinii to keep it company. Vaccinium pennsylvaticum finds the moisture congenial; and Rhus Cotinus was already a brilliant crimson. With its "feet in the water," the Royal Fern, Osmunda regalis, has assumed imposing dimensions, and its foliage has become golden in colour. Nearer to the house are large plantings of Azalea mollis, pontica, and Ghent varieties, their leaves now changed to ruby and crimson.

"We get two fine shows from the Azaleas," said Mr. Brown. "The first is in spring, when they are a mass of bloom; the second is in autumn, when the leaves change colour."

"These Heaths are also very effective," I remarked, as we passed a large patch, some white, others purple.

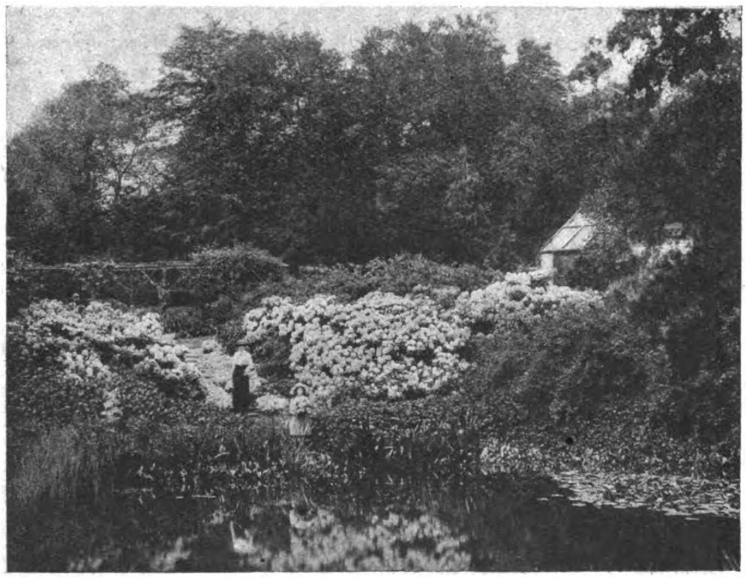
"They are all the best hardy sorts, such as Erica carnea, ciliaris, mediterranea, vagans, and vagans alba, also Calluna vulgaris Alporti and Hammondii. There used to be a large plantation of Laurel here, but it was cleared away six years ago, as it screened the view from the house, and the Azaleas and other plants were not seen. At the top end the bank is clothed with all the best varieties of Japanese Maple, Acer palmatum, but, owing to the steepness of the slope, the ground gets too dry in summer, and it is intended to take them up and replant them where the conditions are more suitable."

AUTUMN-BLOOMING ROSES.

Before exploring the other side of the pond, with the gardens which stretch invitingly beyond, we turned to look at the Rose beds on the lawn in front of the house. These are seven in number, and each has one variety, to give a good block of colour. There were still many blooms open, with others coming on, but not, of course, in quantity such as would be earlier in the season.

"General MacArthur is the finest scarlet bedder," said Mr. Brown; "and I find it very little subject to mildew. Mrs. Wakefield Christie-Miller is a splendid doer, and is always good in autumn. Madame Ravary wants some beating as an orange-yellow. These plants are twelve years old, and have been replanted only once. The other varieties are Caroline Testout, Lady Pirrie, Madame Mélanie Soupert, and K. A. Victoria, which is one of the best of the cream whites."

We now passed to the head of the pond, which is a natural piece of water, and at one time little better than a broad ditch. The shrubs and plants have all been added since Mr. Brown took charge of the gardens; though a fine Weeping Willow, which casts its shadow on the water, is very old, for it is shown in a picture of the house, dated 1764.



RHODODENDRONS BY THE WATER SIDE.

PLANTS FOR THE WATER SIDE.

Standing at the head of this ornamental water, which runs north and south—and looking from its banks to the pavilion which crowns the farther end, rich and varied foliage is revealed, not, of course, always in bright colours, though these are sufficiently in evidence to impart a warm and cheerful touch to the autumn scene. Shrubs that revel in moist conditions are planted liberally, and nearer the water's edge are Spiræas, Primulas such as P. japonica, and many fine Irises, the varieties of Japanese Irises being especially choice. Right in the foreground are many large bushes of the best hybrid Rhododendrons, well set with buds for next season; a big bed of Crinum Powelli and its white variety was pointed out; Aralia chinensis makes a large bush; and there are thriving patches of Hypericums in a number of species. In the water, Nymphæas are represented by James Brydon, Robinsoni, Gladstoniana, alba, Marliacea chromatella, and other good varieties; Sagittarias, Sedges, Astilbes, Hemerocallis, the Flowering Rush—these are among the plants on the water's edge.

Some of the subjects on the left bank I have already mentioned; on the right are masses of Rhododendrons, and Cistus laurifolius and ladaniferus; and beyond these Yuccas, Phormium tenax (the New Zealand Flax), Eulalias with variegated foliage, Pampas Grass, Tamarisks, Bamboos, shrubby and herbaceous Spiræas, Purple Loosestrife, and many more, with Gunnera manicata in a sheltered corner, and the wonderful old Willow, whose leaves are reflected on the surface of the water.

"Is the Phormium tenax quite hardy with you?" I inquired.

"Quite," was the answer; "and it also flowers well. The Gunnera merely requires a covering of leaves over the crowns in winter."

And now we turned away from contemplating the plants on the banks of the water, and proceeded towards the flower gardens. Passing a border which two years ago was the site of a range of fruit houses, I noticed Bignonia grandiflora and Cydonia Maulei among the climbers that clothe the old Peach wall. Others that have stood the winter unharmed for several years are Cæsalpina sepiaria, Jasminum primulinum, and the blue Passion-flower. In the border in front are Antirrhinums of sorts, Verbena chamædrifolia—here quite hardy—and a very fine Pentstemon, George Horne, scarlet with a light throat, but of this cuttings have to be taken in autumn.

A BLUE GARDEN.

Passing through a gate we next looked at the Blue Garden, which maintains its name with a varied collection of blue-flowering plants, amongst them Delphiniums, annual Larkspurs, Anchusas, Cornflowers, Aconitums, Nigellas, Salvia patens, and Violas. Although at this time shorn of its greatest charms, it still gave a patch of colour here and there.

At the end of the Blue Garden is a remarkably fine Azalea, fully fifty years old. It occupies a space of at least twenty feet in diameter, with proportionate height, and as the sun lighted up the brilliantly tinted foliage, it made a highly decorative feature.

Another turn, and we came in view of the Rose garden, surrounded on three sides by a square-cut Yew hedge, through openings in which at one end we caught a glimpse of the next garden. On the left side runs a pergola, covered with handsome foliage and flowering plants. Before entering the Rose garden, however, we stopped at a border backed by a Clematis Lady Caroline Neville, Lord Neville, Nelly Moser, and Lady Northcliffe. In the foreground standard and dwarf Heliotropes, with the white Marguerite Mrs. F. Sander to give the necessary relief, had made a very effective bit of planting; and the same tone had been carried out a little farther on with Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, which was now in bloom for the second time.

"This was formerly the kitchen garden," Mr. Brown explained, as we entered the Rose garden, "and had been so for probably a hundred years. It was the best cultivated soil on the estate, and was good for two to two and

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a half feet down. The soil generally is very poor, and not suited for Roses—nor is it good for fruit trees, and consequently we cannot get the fruit to colour well. It we want to make a new Rose bed we have to buy new soil, though, fortunately, we can get sufficient cow manure."

GOOD AUTUMNAL ROSES.

There are six large beds, each containing a hundred Roses, planted with a separate variety, to give blocks of colour, and to flower as long as the weather remains open. Two of them are singles—Irish Elegance and Irish Fireflame; the others are Lady Battersea, Prince de Bulgarie, Lady Hillingdon, and Mrs. Wakefield Christie Miller. Herbaceous borders run round the sides of the garden, and the beds are edged with grass.

Through the Yew hedge we came into the Dutch garden, with broken stone paths, with dwarf plants between the stones. Radiating round the centre are twelve beds, which had been filled, as to three, with Antirrhinums, Sutton's Bright Pink, Carmine Pink, and Orange King; three others with Sutton's large-flowered Phlox Drummondii; two with Verbenas; two with Heliotropes Lord Roberts and President Garfield; two with Pentstemons Myddleton Gem and heterophyllus; and one with scented-leaved Geraniums and Delphiniums.

Among the plants in the paths are Sedums, Saxifrages, Campanulas, Violas, Thyme in variety, Gentians, Dianthus, and Verbena chamædrifolia.

Next to the Dutch garden is another Rose garden, also with six large beds. A magnificent Elm, with a girth of eighteen to nineteen feet at five feet from the ground, stands in one corner, and overshadows everything, while its roots travel far in search of food. In consequence, the Roses here are not so satisfactory, but the Elm itself is so ornamental that it compensates for this. The varieties here are Sunburst, Mons. Joseph Hill, Betty, Madame Edouard Herriot, Caroline Testout, and the polyantha Orleans, and, in spite of all drawbacks, they provide a quantity of cut blooms through the season.

PLANTS ON THE PERGOLA.

We now retraced our steps, in order to see the herbaceous borders and pergola, which run parallel with the gardens I have just mentioned. The borders, Mr. Brown said, have been very good this season. They contain all the usual run of herbaceous plants, in the best varieties; but just now the Michaelmas Daisies were in possession of the field, Climax, Beauty of Colwall, and Perry's Favourite being notable. Sedum spectabile atropurpureum makes a good edging.

Continuing the pergola to the south is a walk with shrubs on either side, which meet overhead and form a natural pergola, through which we emerge level with the far end of the ornamental water. Here a turn brings us to yet another Rose garden, at the end of a lawn. This garden is sunk, and the beds are planted with mixed varieties, while Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Delight, Lady Gay, and American Pillar are trained on pillars. At the head of the steps it is intended to plant Irish Yews.

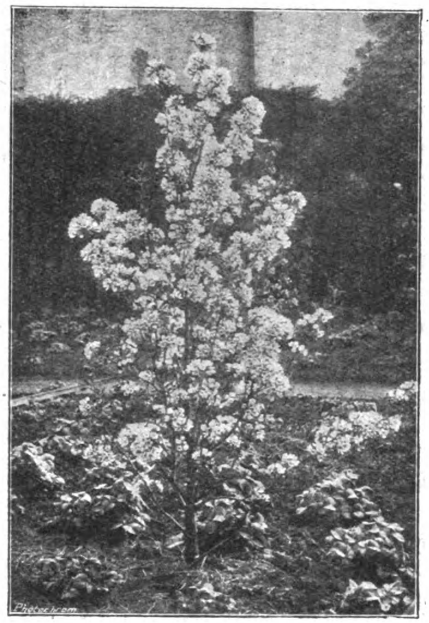
"This garden," said Mr. Brown, "had to be neglected during the war, owing to shortage of labour; and, of course, the lawns had to go, and we have not been able to get them into good condition again. They will be all right in the course of another season or two, I hope."

"What is the extent of the lawns?"

"The three together are about five acres."

Regaining the path, and standing on the high ground at the head of the water, the trees and shrubs were again to be seen to full advantage, while close at hand is a hedge of Penzance Briers and Rosa rugosa, ornamental with its profusion of hips.

By winding stone steps, whose interstices were filled with plants, we descended to a large rock and water garden, made between seven and eight years ago. The water from the pond has outlets here, and when turned on falls noisily over the boulders into the stream at the bottom. The rock is North Wales limestone, which is now nicely weathered. As to the plants—they are of the usual type, all the best varieties being represented. Different forms of Spiræa, the Royal Fern, Saxifraga peltata, Funkias of all sorts, Eulalias, and Primula japonica show their appreciation of the site by making handsome clumps. Artemisia lactiflora was carrying its creamy white blooms; Geranium plantagineum and other wild-garden plants are in profusion; and lower down Irises, Senecios, and Epimediums were seen. Nor must I omit to mention the fine effect produced by Cotoneaster horizontalis, hugging the rock, and now taking on a rich colour. Across the stream Spiræa palmata had assumed a bright orange-yellow colour; Bocconia cordata had been good. The Rhododendrons, whose appearance betokens a



A UTILITARIAN PEAR—BEURRE HARDY IN BLOOM.

ravishing display in spring, are a host in themselves, and there are many other interesting subjects hereabouts.

A HANDSOME DECIDUOUS CYPRESS.

At the other end of the bog garden we mount by natural-looking steps to the higher ground again, and bearing to the left, come to another pond. A feature on its banks is an old and very fine deciduous Cypress, Taxodium distichum, said to be one of the finest in the country. That it is in a congenial spot is evident by its great height and flourishing appearance, while for some little distance from the thick trunk "knees" arise from the roots. The foliage has now assumed a golden tint, lighting up the scene and reflecting itself on the water. This tree is at the end of a row, and so is fully exposed; a little way off are two others, in which the foliage is still green. I may mention that on the lawn, some distance away from the water, a Taxodium shows by its comparatively stunted growth how little it appreciates the dry conditions.

From this pond we made our way across the lawns, already described, to the greenhouses. The scarcity of fuel has made itself felt, and, combined with labour shortage, has led to the giving up of many of the Orchids. Thus, in one house, they have been entirely done away with, and Heliotropes take their place. Another, run at an intermediate temperature, has Cypripediums such as Leeanum, insigne, and nitens, to give flowers in winter, with Palms and Ferns for house decoration.

From the houses we proceeded to the kitchen garden, which is about three acres within the walls. On the south wall Peaches do well, with Strawberries in the border in front of them; while on the other side of the wall, facing north, are Morello Cherries. Apricots had been tried on the east wall, but last year they were taken out, and replaced by Plums. Pears and Plums are on the west wall.

The paths in the kitchen garden are planted with espalier Apples and Pears, and in reply to my questions Mr. Brown said:

"This has been a good year for Apples, Pears, and Plums; but we do not get colour, and the fruit does not keep so well as on a heavier soil. We have all the leading varieties. One of the best-flavoured Pears I know is Thompson's—a small fruit, but worth everyone's growing. It is in season in November and December."

"What is your best Strawberry?"

"I have not found anything half so good as Royal Sovereign."

"Do you get good crops of Potatoes?"

"Yes; this is a good Potato soil, though deficient in lime. We have to lime every four or five years, and could not grow a Cabbage unless we did."

Many other interesting things I saw, and brought my visit to a conclusion after going through the fruit room, where the fine crops of Apples and Pears are stored. Mr. Brown, I may add, was for some years in charge of the fruit at Gunnersbury House, Acton. He came from that place to take up his present position twenty-two years ago, and during the time he has been here has entirely made the gardens, including the rockery and the water garden.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

A UTILITARIAN PEAR.

Of first-rate flavour, and a great cropper, Beurré Hardy Pear should be in every collection, and should especially commend itself to the owner of the small garden who cannot afford to give up his limited space to choice varieties, not always vigorous in growth, and often far from being reliable croppers.

In Beurré Hardy is combined the qualities of first-rate flavour, ideal size for the table, consistent cropping, and vigorous and healthy growth. Here, in Gloucestershire, it has been grown for a great many years, and has never failed to yield a heavy crop of splendid fruit. This Pear makes a splendid bush tree on the Quince stock, or it will succeed admirably as an espalier, or as a cordon for a south or west wall. If particularly fine fruit is desired, I would recommend the espalier or cordon method of training, and a south aspect.

A PEAR FOR SMALL GARDENS.

For flavour, Beurré Hardy is in the front rank, although perhaps it is not quite so exquisitely aromatic as Doyenné du Comice, Thompson's, or Winter Nelis. It is in season from mid-October to mid-November, perhaps lasting till the end of November, if kept in a good store.

The tree is practically immune to fungoid pests, but wasps have a great predilection for the fruits, far more so than for most other varieties, and it is well to protect the finest fruits, when nearing maturity, by enclosing them in muslin bags. If the bags are secured correctly, not to the fruit stalks, but to the wood beyond the stalks, this will also prevent the Pears from falling, and so being badly bruised.

The tree bears well in a young state, and is successful as a standard for orchard planting. It is the ideal Pear for the small garden, and I would like to see it planted extensively, for it is sure to give far greater satisfaction than the coarse and third-rate varieties which somehow invariably find their way there.

RALPH E. ARNOLD.

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Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 237.—Mr. HENRY BROWN, at THE GARDENS, CLOUDS, WILTSHIRE.

THERE is no seat in Wiltshire more finely situated than Clouds, the residence of the Hon. Percy Wyndham. Some idea of its charm may be gathered from the fact that the terrace in front of the mansion is as high as the top of the spire of Salisbury Cathedral, but only those who have climbed the ascent from the village of East Knoyle can realise its beauties. As to the gardens, which it was my privilege to visit towards the end of April, when they were in their spring loveliness, they are in keeping with the house and surroundings. If I had to describe them in a sentence, I should say that they constitute a succession of delightful surprises. They certainly attest, in a remarkable manner, the knowledge and the taste of Mrs. Wyndham, by whom they were planned and planted twenty years ago, when her husband purchased Clouds; and they also reflect credit on the skill and proficiency of Mr. Henry Brown, the head gardener, who assisted Mrs. Wyndham, and carried out her instructions. Mr. Brown is one of the veterans of the horticultural world. Just over three score and ten years of age, he has been with Mr. Wyndham for thirty-four of them, and was previously at Wilbury House, in the same county. Apart from his long experience in garden life, he has been a great prize-winner at horticultural shows. For example, since 1899 he has taken at Salisbury nine first prizes, eleven second, and five third, for fruit, flowers, and vegetables, and at Winterbourne Earls, since 1901, no fewer than eighteen first and six second prizes. He is still very active and vigorous, but he thinks that, so far as showing is concerned, the time has come for him to rest upon his laurels. Mr. Brown's own cottage stands near a quaint garden, whose background (the stables) is covered with green, and has a pergola in front.

Mr. Henry Brown.

The Walled Garden.

"On this pergola," he said, "there are Roses, Jasminum, and Vines, and, in the garden itself, plants of many varieties, including Roses and herbaceous sorts."

"I see that you have some very good specimens of Lilium auratum."

"Yes, they are considered rather fine. Crown Imperials also flourish here. We merely plant them in common soil. There is a clump of Rhododendrons of the best kinds at the corners, and Magnolias opposite. In this garden, as all over the pleasure ground, everything is grown in masses."

"That is the principle which you follow?"

"It is always kept in view," he rejoined, as we noted an archway of Crimson Ramblers and Jasminum, and proceeded to the walled garden beyond, which, except a few Plum trees on the walls, and four flourishing Mulberry trees, is devoted to flowers.

"Magnolias appear to be a great feature here."

"There are six trees, the varieties being grandiflora and conspicua, which are in flower for a fortnight or six weeks. Daphne is another plant which does remarkably well, and Choisya ternata flourishes on the south wall. One of the most notable things in this garden is the collection of Cyclamen (white and pink), which flower twice a year under the east wall. Then we have three beds of Dog's-tooth Violets, and amongst varieties of Crinum we find Powellii exceedingly good. Lilies of the Valley are grown in quantity, and sent to London, when the family are in town, two or three times a week. Here, as in other parts, are masses of Daffodils, Narcissi, and Tulips."

The East Garden.

Next we went into the east garden, with the spring flowers again conspicuous, and a Sweet Brier hedge all round the circle of beds.

"How many beds are there?" I enquired.

"Sixteen, four consisting of Carnations and Roses, four of Roses and Narcissi, four of Tulips and Irises, and four of Tulips alone. Outside the circle are two beds of Roses and Lilies, with Tomentosas in the corner. Roses and Jasminum are planted all along the walk, and on the wall at the side are Myrtles, Clematis, Pyrus, Figs, and Honeysuckles. At the bottom are flowering Crabs, Cherries, and Almonds."

"Then there are the six square beds, and the long bed at the top."

"As you see, they are at present filled with spring flowers, and they will be succeeded by herbaceous plants and Roses in all the beds."

"Roses, I gather, are one of the leading features of the gardens?"

"We grow about two thousand five hundred, of which Hybrid Teas, I think, are the most prominent. They include Augustine Guinnoiseau, Captain Christy, Camoens, Caroline Testout, Cheshunt Hybrid, Gruss an Teplitz, Gustave Regis, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La France, Killarney, Longworth Rambler, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Papa Gontier, Reine Marie Henriette, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, and Viscountess Folkestone. The Teas are chiefly Amazon, Bouquet d'Or, Dr. Grill, Gloire de Dijon, Gabrielle Nabonnand, Madame Eugene Verdier, Madame Pierre Cochet, Maman Cochet, Marie Van Houtte, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Niphetos, Papillon, Souvenir d'un Ami, and Wichuriana."

"What about Hybrid Perpetuals?"

"We have not many of these, but the principal are General Jacqueminot, John Hopper, Madame Victor Verdier, Mrs. John Laing, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, and Tom Wood. Among Noisettes, we grow Aimée Vibert, Alister Stella Gray, Celine Forestier, Lamarque, L'Ideal, and William Allen Richardson. The Chinas include Irene Watts, Laurette Messimy, Madame Eugene Resal, and Queen Mab. In this garden we have a bed of Penzance Briers, Crimson Ramblers, and Honeysuckle, which is rather effective when in flower. But the Rosery itself is behind the kitchen garden."

"How often do you clip your Yew hedges?"

"Only once a year. They are considered quite a feature of this garden, which is much brightened by the spring flowers in the grass under the trees. Flags, as you may have observed, are placed all round as a protection to the feet in wet weather."

"There are more Magnolias on the front of the mansion."

"Yes, on the south front, with Roses and Myrtles on the border below. Some of the latter grow to nine feet high, and six feet in diameter; they are kept, during the winter, in the Myrtle house, and put on the terrace in the spring. Here is a little combination which you may like to mention, consisting of a seat on a grass mound, with Pyrus japonica on each side, Roses and Jasminum behind, and Rosemary below. Again, west of the mansion is another combination, consisting of a bed of Rosemary and Lavender, while close by is the biggest single Rhododendron I have seen. I do not know the variety, but the colour is pale blue."

A Decorated Tennis Court.

Passing away from the mansion, we ascended what is called the River Walk, because it winds like a river to the top. On each side are flowering shrubs, Magnolias, and spring bulbs, with fine Cedars in the background. In another direction is the water tower, with a remarkably well laid out tennis court, decorated by an archway of Roses.

"Those Roses," continued Mr. Brown, "make a fine show in July and August, when they are quite eight feet high. In the beds below are more Roses and herbaceous plants."

"Of course, you have a great number of herbaceous plants, but you might name a few which you grow in greater quantity."

"Montbretias, Phloxes, Delphiniums, Pæonies, Gladioli, Spiræas, and Yuccas are amongst the favourites. In the rear of the tennis lawn are the extensive golf links, and behind the seats and tea table is a rock garden with numerous varieties."

Having observed a number of Roses on the path to the water tower, we walked down the slopes towards the kitchen garden, staying for a few minutes at the frame ground, where Watercress, Cucumbers, Melons, Carrots, Potatoes, and Violets are forced, the Violets being the Czar, California, Neapolitan, Princess Alice, and Princess of Wales. Close to these frames is the Rosery, which is a hundred and forty-six yards long. In spite of its name, it includes many other flowers, and on the wall, which runs the whole length of the kitchen garden, are Wistarias and Pomegranates, which flower but do not fruit.

The Kitchen Garden.

"How large is the kitchen garden?" I asked, as we entered the wooden gates.

"About three acres. This is the Nut walk, with Filberts and Cobs, spring flowers growing in the grass beneath. You may like to know that I have lately adopted a new system of tying down Apples. Sticks are put round the tree, and form a circle, the boughs being tied on to them. The system occupies a good deal of time, but I find that it answers, particularly in the case of Bramley's Seedling."

"How old are the Black Currants growing away from the wall?"

"Twenty years, and they still fruit very well. Below, we have quite a plantation of them. Strawberries we also go in for largely, but we do not force any. The varieties are All the Year Round, Royal Sovereign, Princess Alice, and Laxton's Latest of All. I ought to have mentioned, when we were at the frames, that the Melons are Ne Plus Ultra, Sutton's Green Flesh, Windsor Castle, Netted Kincaird, and Mr. Jones. We have cut as many as a hundred and eighty Melons in one season."

"Do you go in largely for Cherries?"

"They are grown in the Cherry walk, alternately with Apples, and the chief variety is Emperor Francis. As to other fruit, on the east wall Plums are chiefly grown, the varieties including Diamond, Orleans, White Magnum Bonum, Pond's Seedling, July Greengage, Coe's Golden Drop, Victoria, Jefferson's, and Kirke's. Two varieties of Pears are also grown on that wall, viz., Williams's Bon Chrétien and Duchesse d'Angouleme. On the south wall we grow Beurré Diel, President, d'Osmanville, and one or two other varieties. Also Figs—Brown Turkey, White Marseilles, and Black Ischias."

The Favourite Vegetables.

"Do you find that fruit or vegetables do better in this garden?"

"Vegetables, on the whole. They are very good, but late; the soil suits most of them. We pick Peas, in the open, within a month of Christmas."

"What are your varieties of Peas?"

"Ameer, Sutton's Bountiful, Early Sunrise, William Hurst, John Bull, Sutton's Prize-Winner, The Daisy, Kingfisher, Alderman, Autocrat, Ne Plus Ultra, Duke of Albany, and Sutton's Magnum Bonum."

"How many varieties of Broad Beans do you go in for?"

"Five, and four varieties of French Beans, as well as four of Runners. Beet is another feature, of which we have five varieties. Then we have about the same number of varieties of Kale, and about a dozen of Broccoli. The single variety of Brussels Sprouts is Aigburth, but of Cabbages and Savoys we grow about eight varieties. Our favourite Cauliflowers are Early London, Mammoth, and Veitch's Autumn Giant. We grow four varieties of Carrots, seven of Celery, and about the same number of Onions."

"Which do you consider the best Cucumbers?"

"Lockie's Perfection, Hunt's Marvel, Worthing Favourite, Telegraph, and Her Majesty. The Turnips are Early Snowball, Early White Star, Jersey Navet, Model White, and Orange Jelly."

"Do you grow many varieties of Potatoes?"

"Only Early Frame, Ninetyfold, Sir John Llewellyn, Duke of York, Dunbar's, and Up-to-Date. As to other vegetables, we grow Endive of sorts, Corn Salad, Dandelions, Leeks, Radishes, Spinach, Salsify, and Chicory."

The Wild Garden.

Leaving the kitchen garden, we proceeded to the wild garden, with Roses and Berberis on the walls, and the grass full of Bluebells and Primroses.

"Here," said Mr. Brown, "I grow Watercress in trenches, but a more ornamental the bed of Japanese Iris in variety. sorts of things are grown in the wi Thus, in one direction there is a ver of Azalea mollis, and in another a B while, in beds, there are quantities of Seal and Myosotis."

"Are there named Lilies in the fi

"Yes, but the chief adornment here is the magnificent crimson Rhododend

"It is, indeed, a wealth of bloom. to have Rhododendrons and Yews all pond."

"They were all planted by us t years ago, when the pond was made the Bamboos, which do well. I ne say that the Laurel, with a wonderful not planted then; both the Laurel Hollies are of considerable age. This be emptied into another by means o necting ditch, which is planted wit bog plants, and looks its best from September."

"How large is your Apple orchard

"About four acres. The trees bl but we do not usually get much fruit smaller trees were planted within t years, and they include several of varieties."

Returning to the entrance to the Mr. Brown mentioned that last year Lilacs, grafted on Privet stocks, and to see how they will turn out.

"Facing the porch," he continued, Yew hedge behind Roses, trained in of peacock's tails, with Hydrangeas The large tubs will be filled in May niums, quite eight feet high, and Or which are kept in the Orange hou winter. The feature in the greenhous is the show of Arum Lilies. We use largely for grouping in the corners o sion, there being no conservatory eighty are grown in pots. Last ye three hundred and twenty-six flowers obconica and stellata and Freesias grown largely, and in spite of the the obconicas being poisonous, no has suffered from them. In the ot Hydrangeas, Salvias, Geraniums, F few Carnations (Malmaisons), and (yellow and white) are grown. But, now understand, the interest at Clou in the outside features, and, I think, in what may be called the more n wilder parts of the gardens."

ALFRED

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT CLOUDS.

J.W. Buckingham

The Gardens of Florence, Viscountess of Massereene and Ferrard, at Milland Place, Liphook.

IN splendid September weather, I visited the lovely gardens at Milland Place, now in the occupation of Florence, Viscountess Massereene and Ferrard, and the property of Mr. Cecil Quinton. Milland Place is not only beautiful itself, but is surrounded by the most charming of Sussex and Hampshire scenery. The nearest railway station is Liphook, but the Sussex boundary is passed about a mile from the entrance to the park, and the commanding mansion overlooks the South Downs. The approach is through a picturesque and circuitous drive. Mr. J. W. Buckingham, who is in charge of the gardens, has been at Milland for eleven and a half years, and he has remodelled the whole of the extensive pleasure grounds. Lady Massereene has occupied the place for the last eight years. Though extensive they have, however, the advantage of compactness, and Mr. Buckingham was able to show me all the leading features, though my time was far too short for a tour of inspection pursued in the most favourable conditions.

ONE OF THE GREENHOUSES AT MILLAND PLACE, WITH MR. BUCKINGHAM.

Part of the mansion, a portion of which dates back eight hundred years, was at one period a Royal residence, and among the sights to be seen is the bathing pond used by King Charles I. Other silent witnesses to its age are several noble Chestnuts, including, on the left of the house, a spreading Cedar (C. deodara), said to be eight hundred years old, eighteen feet in circumference four feet from the ground. The decoration of the Mosaic Terrace first claimed attention.

THE MOSAIC TERRACE.

"Since the end of June," said Mr. Buckingham, "Ceanothus Veitchii and Gloire de Versailles have been magnificent—I have the latter hard pruned back each year—and the combination with Escallonia is pleasing. The favourite colours of Lady Massereene are blue, scarlet, pink, yellow, and white; and these are called into requisition in all parts of the garden as much as possible. On the south front of the house are Ampelopsis Veitchii and Hendersonii, Ram, Clematis, Euonymus, Wistarias, and Vitis in variety; Ivy is only on the north side. The Masonic wall on the south side is covered by Azara microphylla, and the whole of the vases—upwards of twenty—are filled with Salvias Pride of Zurich, which have been a blaze of scarlet since June, when we began to bed out. There are three plants in each vase. The edging consists of variegated grass and Mesembryanthemum. The six beds on the top terrace form a combination of scarlet and blue. Four are filled with Salvias, and two with Heliotrope Lord Roberts. They flower from June until the frost cuts them down in October, when we throw them away. Cuttings are struck in the autumn, and, in fact, we have a fine batch now ready for next year."

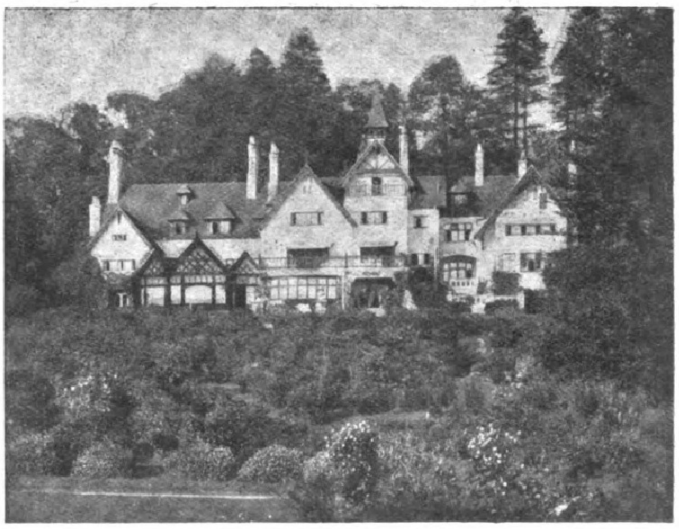
"Is this the first year you have tried the combination of Salvias and Heliotropes?"

"No; we tried it last year. This is the first time a design has been repeated, but it was so successful that we thought it worth while to try it a second time. You will notice that the border round the house embraces Geranium Paul Crampel, edged with variegated Geraniums, while the edging of the beds of Salvias is Pyrethrum aureum, and for the Heliotropes, Dactyllis glomerata. The spring bedding on the terrace this year was red and white Daisies, red and yellow Wallflowers, and Myosotis Royal Blue. We go in for large quantities, both in bedding and for decoration, and in the spring bedding a thousand Wallflowers, five hundred Forget-me-nots, and four hundred Daisies were used. We never have less than a hundred of any plant."

THE DECORATION OF THE CONSERVATORY.

"One of the chief features is the decoration of the conservatory. The only permanent contents of this building, which is paved with tiles from Ostend, are eight fine Palms, and the creepers on the walls, chiefly Ficus repens and Cobœa scandens; the rest of the contents are entirely in pots. Of course, they are constantly changed, but at the present time, they are in seven groups, two of the best, I think, being a mixture of Coleus, Browallias, blue and white Campanulas, Begonias, Statice, Adiantum, and blue Lobelias. For the rest, there are conspicuously variegated Coleus; Begonias semperflorens and Firefly, Browallias speciosum, Heliotropes Lord Roberts, Maidenhair Ferns, Lobelias Sapphire Blue and Kathleen Mallard, Statice sinuata and imbricata, Abutilons, Dracænas, Acalyphas, and Aspidistras, all placed to the best advantage.

"On the lawn below the terrace, there is another fine Cedar, and a natural fountain, which plays night and day, with an overflow from a stream penetrating to the lake. There are eight beds, four of mixed Roses, two of Paul Crampel Geraniums, edged with variegated grass, and two of Viola Cliveden, purple, edged with Primrose Dame. From



THE GARDENS AT MILLAND PLACE, LIPHOOK.

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here we get a good view of the Rhododendrons, which are edged with hybrid Azalea mollis and Heaths in variety. The Rhododendrons are seedlings, some quite equal to the newest named kinds; there are between four and five hundred, and they were planted ten years ago. At that time, this was all uncultivated ground, and as you can imagine, a great deal had to be done before anything could be attempted.

THE ROSE BORDER.

"Then there is the Rose border, a hundred yards long, all Hybrid Perpetuals. The varieties were selected by the late Dean Hole, and are called the Dean's Selection. They do extremely well; they are edged with Mrs. Sinkins Pink. I find that soot and guano are capital fertilisers. A mulching of spent cow manure is also given towards the end of May; this keeps the roots cool in summer. Copious supplies of water are given during a hot season.

"The four beds overlooking the stream of rockwork, two hundred yards long, are filled with Pentstemon Newbury Gem, intermixed with Lobelia Queen Victoria, Chrysanthemum Princess Henry, and Aster acris, which has a beautiful effect from early in the summer to late in the autumn. The collection of rock plants is very representative, and embraces all the best known sorts."

"You have also a fine collection of shrubs."

"Yes; the belt of shrubs which runs from the racquet court close to the mansion, as far as the lake, is over two hundred yards long. This was planted by me and involved a considerable amount of preparation before planting could be done. About two thousand five hundred drain-pipes had to be laid down, and two hundred cartloads of new soil were added. To raise the plants from the boggy ground in some places, large stones, weighing from one hundredweight and upwards, were placed on the verge to prevent displacement of the bog; and most of the shrubs in these moist positions have stones and rubble under them. The soil is now in fair working order. The shrubs were planted eight years ago.

"Subsequently the wild garden was constructed with a stream in the centre, and seven rustic bridges over it. The features are chiefly the Bamboos and Ferns, with half a dozen trees of the Crabs John Downey and Dartmouth, which make excellent jelly. Just outside the wild garden is an acre of space devoted entirely to vegetables; it was trenched three feet deep from the top to the bottom. I am a strong believer in trenching; it promotes better root action and growth. All vegetable crops, both here and in the kitchen garden, are looking remarkably well this season."

THE BLUE GARDEN.

At this point we entered the blue garden, which Mr. Buckingham says looks at its best in spring. It is much prized by Lady Massereene, and I asked for the names of the favourite flowers.

"Anchusa Dropmore variety, Lupinus polyphyllus, Veronica spicata, Salvia Blue Beard and patens, Delphiniums and Lavender, Aquilegia cœrulea, Aubrietia, Myosotis, Lobelia Kathleen Mallard, Ageratum, blue Primroses, Aconitum, Asters Thomsonii, Amellus, and cœrulea, Linum sibericum, Campanulas pyramidalis, grandis, glomerata, and Canterbury Bell, Catananche cœrulea, Brachycome Little Blue Star, Commelina cœlestis and Sellowiana, Cornflower, Exacum affine and macranthum, Lisianthus Russellianus, Nemesia Blue Gem, and Nigella Miss Jekyll."

CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND DAHLIAS.

Proceeding to the kitchen garden, of which the feature is the arch in the central walk, we spent some time in the plant and fruit houses. There are two Vineries, in which I saw several fine bunches of Grapes; two Peach houses, one of them yielding a crop this year of seven hundred fruits; and two houses ready for the reception of Chrysanthemums. As we made our way through these, Mr. Buckingham gave me some interesting figures concerning the plants grown for decorative purposes.

"Chrysanthemums," he said, "are a very important feature; we grow seven hundred in pots; four hundred for specimen blooms, made up of eighty varieties; three hundred decorative and singles, in 6-in. and 8-in. pots, forty varieties; and one hundred and fifty for Christmas decoration. Four hundred early-flowering plants for September and October are grown in eighteen varieties; three hundred Malmaison Carnations are grown in eight varieties; and one hundred and fifty Perpetuals in twelve varieties. Cyclamen, Primulas, Zonal Geraniums, Regal Pelargoniums, Canterbury Bells, Campanulas, and many others, varying in quantity from twenty to four hundred, are used during the season. Hardy shrubs are also largely employed for decorative purposes. Also two hundred Hydrangea hortensis, which were in a mass of flower, and of a beautiful blue."

"You have not mentioned Dahlias."

"There are forty varieties, which are grown for massing in colour."

"How many kinds of herbaceous perennials do you cultivate?"

"About sixty, which include a great number of Asters, Phlox, Helianthus, Rudbeckias, Lupins, and Anchusas. For massing purposes, nearly a thousand Pentstemons are used. We have also quite a thousand Violas. There is a herbaceous border each side, twelve feet wide, one hundred yards long, with about sixty varieties of herbaceous plants. It has been trenched three feet deep three times. This is Lady Massereene's favourite walk."

CROPS OF HARDY FRUIT.

"The Asters are a beautiful sight. And your hardy fruit, which seems to be in a flourishing condition, notably the Pears in the delightful arched walk, which alternate with the Roses.

"The best of these, and well up to the standard size this year, are Beurre Easter, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Rance, and Beurre Superfin; Pitmaston Duchess, which has been immense in size; Doyenne du Comice, Williams' Bon Chretien, Fondante de Therriot, and Josephine de Malines. The crop of Apples has been splendid; kitchen varieties are more in demand than dessert, especially Alfriston, Bismarck, Bramley's Seedling, Ecklinville Seedling, Edward VII., Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Derby, Newtown Wonder, Sandringham, Peasgood Nonsuch, Royal Jubilee, and Hambledon's Deux Aus. These have borne remarkable crops, and will keep in a suitable storehouse for twelve months. My system is to place a double thickness of paper on the brick floor of the fruit room, arranging the fruit in single layers. Cox's Orange Pippin is the principal dessert Apple grown.

"As to other fruit, Apricots, of which we have four varieties, have yielded immense crops, and Peaches seem likely to go on bearing until the middle of October. Some of the fruit gathered from Goshawk weighed ten ounces. Cherries, Plums, and Figs have done well, and also small fruit, with the exception of Strawberries. As you see, the Plums, Coe's Golden Drop, are still hanging well on the trees, and promise to last till the middle of next month."

Congratulating Mr. Buckingham on the appearance of the gardens, particularly in view of the fact that several of his assistants, including the foreman, have joined the Army, I enquired as to his previous experience.

MR. BUCKINGHAM'S EXPERIENCES.

"I started at Brockhampton, Herefordshire, and then proceeded to Forthampton Court, Tewkesbury; my subsequent experience was gained in succession at Langley Manor, Wiltshire; Chute Lodge, Wiltshire; Hatherton House, Hampshire; Paulton Park, Romsey; Welford Park, Newbury; Yattendon Court, Newbury; Taplow Court, Bucks, where I was for two years general foreman; and Englemere, Ascot, where I was head gardener and bailiff to the executors of the late Sir Robert Meade for four years and a half—Lord Roberts bought the property. Then I came here, and in addition to the garden, I have charge of the farm, the whole estate being about sixty acres. Everything is done by Lady Massereene for the comfort of the gardening staff, and the bothy, which has accommodation for five, is suitably furnished. Just now, of course, the work is very hard, but is always most interesting, and I only regret that I am not able in the time at our disposal to give you more information respecting it."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Where the soil is of a heavy character, it is an excellent plan to burn some of it, as it is thereby rendered lighter, sweeter, and more adaptable to the needs of various plants. Make a ring of lumps of clay, and inside this light a fire of wood and small coal. When burning well, cover it with smaller lumps of clay and plenty of small coal. When this burns through, repeat the process.

Peaches and Nectarines, like other deciduous trees, require a period of rest, and those grown under glass should be kept very cool during the winter months, until the time for starting them into growth comes round again. If it is necessary to have heat on to protect other subjects in the same house, give plenty of air on all suitable occasions. The night temperature should not exceed forty-five degrees.

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gardens might be greatly improved, and that is the number of paths. There are almost invariably too many of them—in some cases far too many. The general impression seems to be that wherever people are likely to walk, gravel must be laid down. But surely it is far pleasanter to walk on grass, and, if it be objected that grass is liable to get damp, the obvious reply is that people do not walk—much, at any rate—in their gardens in wet weather. If a certain narrow track is likely

MR. F. G. BULL.

to be much frequented, as from the gate to the front door, there may be an advantage in using gravel, because the perpetual tread of feet would wear the grass away, and along such tracks the gardener must go with his barrow to reach the beds. Gravel must often be preferred. But it seems to be overlooked that, when a garden is cut up into, say, rectangular sections, with a gravel path on each side of each section, that only one is necessary, and that the other, if wanted for walking, may, with advantage to appearances, be laid down in grass, or, if the lawn is alongside, thrown into it. If it is not wanted for walking, it may be broken up and planted. If owners of gardens were to calculate how many of their paths were really unnecessary, they would be astonished to find how much land was wasted. In my own garden, though it is only about an acre, and does not contain as many paths as is often the case, I find that another hundred and twenty square yards, or enough to make a fine border, can, with advantage, be planted next autumn. One does not want to look out from the windows on stretches of gravel. Flowers and grass are infinitely preferable, and by a little management they can be substituted for it in all but a few places.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

THE best species of Banana (Musa) for fruiting in this country, under glass, is M. Cavendishii.

WE have received from Miss M. Williams, Killucan, Co. Westmeath, Ireland, a boxful of a very fine strain of the St. Brigid Anemones. The flowers were large, finely formed, and of rich and varied colouring, some of those with white centres being especially beautiful. They arrived in splendid condition after the long journey, and have lasted in water for some days since.

The Evolution of a Modern Garden.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. F. G. BULL, AT THE GARDENS, WESTON FAVELL HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.

WHEN I had spent some time, during my visit in the second week of June, in the gardens at Weston Favell House, the residence of Mr. J. Manfield, J.P., between two and three miles from Northampton, I came to the conclusion that they supply a remarkable object-lesson in the astounding progress of scientific horticulture. Under the auspices of Mr. Manfield himself, who is familiar with every detail of the work, and knows the name of every shrub and plant, and of his head gardener, Mr. F. G. Bull, the process of converting stubble and grass fields into pleasure grounds was commenced eight or nine years ago. The natural advantages were few when Mr. Manfield, having purchased the estate, decided to erect a house on the brow of the hill. But there was one of great importance. In and near the meadows were many fine trees, and these, it was recognised, could be turned to splendid account. But the history of the evolution of what is now one of the most delightful of modern gardens will be best gathered from the information supplied to me by Mr. Bull as we pursued our way. Incidentally it may be said that the process of development is still going on. Mr. Manfield has lately acquired an adjoining farm, and of this land six acres have been added to the gardens. They were only laid out in the spring, but they already give promise of being a very pleasing extension.

Groups of Conifers.

"The aim in view here," said Mr. Bull, "is to have a series of groups of choice Conifers, with Austrian Pines and ornamental Crabs at the back, with Silver Birch to lighten them. There are several clumps of Cedrus deodara, C. atlantica, and C. atlantica glauca, and Abies pinsapo and A. pungens glauca. In one clump there are fifty Abies pinsapo, which will make a fine show when they are fifteen feet high."

"Judging by the growth most of them have made in such a short time, the soil must be congenial?"

"Yes, it is limestone, and suits trees, though, as you know, there are other things to which it is not congenial. But now we are entering the original gardens, and here are clumps of Cedrus atlantica, which were planted at the outset. The clumps of Abies Nordmanniana, which are doing equally well, were only planted six years ago."

"Then, your plan was to have Pines and Cedars in the background, close to the public road?"

"Yes, and to get them to form a high belt as quickly as possible. In the front we planted clumps of Hollies, with Lavender, which also likes the limestone. We do nothing to it, except cut it hard back, so as to prevent it from smothering other plants. Among the clumps of Cedars and Pines are dotted flowering shrubs, such as the Crab, the Cherry, and the Almond; also Mahonias."

"You appear to have an enormous number of beds on your very extensive lawns?"

"They have all been planted with a view to masses and effective combinations of colour."

"Flowers and shrubs being freely grown together?"

"Yes. Here, for instance, is a bed of Golden Queen Hollies and China Roses, the latter only put in this spring, dotted with a few flowering Cherries. Earlier in the season we had bulbs in this bed. Next to it is a bed consisting entirely of double-flowering Gorse."

"How long does the Gorse last in flower?"

"Quite six weeks. I wonder that, as it is so effective, and gives so little trouble, it is not grown more in pleasure grounds. We have only to keep it from encroaching on the lawns. A combination of white and red in another bed consists of Arundo conspicua and Kniphofia uvaria, the Arundo being succeeded later in the year by Pampas Grass. There is almost a companion bed to this a little further on."

"What are the chief contents of the large bed of mixed flowering shrubs?"

"Almonds, Pyrus, Bird Cherries, ornamental

THE BEAUTIFUL ROCK GARDEN AT WESTON FAVELL HOUSE.

Crabs, Thorns (scarlet, red, and pink), Berberis in variety, Hollies (Silver Queen), Osmanthus ilicifolius, Phillyreas, and Rhamnus californica, which makes a lovely back."

"You have a bed of Thorns?"

"The Thorn used in that bed is Cratægus tenacetifolia, with Roses Dorothy Perkins and Iceland Poppies, which we grow to cut."

"The Roses are looking well."

"Considering that they were only planted two years ago, I think that they are satisfactory. Here is a bed composed of Hollies (Silver Queen), and Solomon's Seal. Near by is one consisting exclusively of Berberis purpurea; and just coming into flower is a bed of Ivy, with a big tree in the centre."

The Rose Banks.

"Then, there are Rose banks?"

"One of the best of Roses for banks is Alberic Barbier, but Dorothy Perkins is equally a favourite. But the Roses here are only temporary, to hide the bank. Abies are planted at intervals. Now we turn into the shrubbery walk, which leads to the wood."

"What an excellent effect is produced by the contrast between the vivid green of the Ivy and the gravel path."

"The variety is Helix dentata, and the border is the same on both sides for the full length of the walk—a quarter of a mile. On either side are chiefly flowering shrubs, such as Lilacs, Guelder Roses, Philadelphus, Deutzias, Forsythias, Berberis purpurea, Pyrus aria, Cotoneasters in variety, Olearia Haastii, Berberis Thunbergii, Berberis Wallichiana (a yellow flower, larger than the ordinary), Laburnums, Golden Privet, Portugal Laurels, and Box."

"But you have not mentioned the Roses, which are a charming picture."

"They do particularly well here, because we are away from the limestone. Crimson Ramblers, Mrs. Anthony Waterer (another lovely crimson), Antoine Rivoire, and the white Rugosa thrive especially, and the growth of Crimson Rambler in five years has been most remarkable. As to blooms, you can see for yourself the enormous quantity.

"The walk between here and the lawns," continued Mr. Bull, "is planted with double Gorse, and Cedrus atlantica glauca interspersed. Next year we are going to try Spiræa argentea multiflora, and we think the contrast of the white with the yellow Gorse will be very pleasing. The two large beds of Laurustinus at the corner were only planted two years ago."

"What are the bulk of the trees you have planted on the lawns?"

"There are single specimens of Cedars, Walnuts, Silver Birch, Copper Beech, Fern-leaf Beech, Weeping Elm, and Acer Prince Hedgeri. One of the features in trees is the group of scarlet Thorns, the centre tree of the ten being the most ornamental. Facing the group of Thorns is a belt of Hollies, which was only planted three years ago. The varieties are Silver Queen, Golden Queen, Hodginsii, Shepherdii, maculata aurea, madeirensis, and Perry's Weeping. Lavender is planted in front, but not allowed to smother the Hollies. What may be called the terrace bedding, close to the house, will be made up for summer entirely of Begonias. At present there are four beds of purple Pansies, two of yellow, and two of white. It is perhaps worth noticing that the white flower earliest."

THE ROSE GARDEN AT WESTON FAVELL HOUSE.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT WESTON FAVELL HOUSE.

Strolling past the house and carriage drive, which is planted with Cedars on either side, I was struck by the mass of white flowers which completely covered the wall of the handsome stables.

"The length of that wall," said Mr. Bull, "is betwen sixty and seventy yards, and the Pyracantha Lælandii is a splendid plant for the purpose of covering it. After it ceases flowering, we get a great profusion of lovely scarlet berries. The border underneath the wall is planted with Saxifraga oppositifolia Wallaceii."

Beautiful Climbers.

"On the house itself you have more of the Pyracantha; what are the other climbers?"

"Golden Ivy, Ampelopsis, Cotoneaster microphylla and C. horizontalis, Wistaria sinensis, Escallonia macrantha, Choisya ternata, Jasminum officinalis, Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles and C. Veitchiana. The latter is one of the finest of creepers."

Proceeding in another direction on the lawns, Mr. Bull pointed out a bed containing Chestnuts Briota as dot plants, with Dorothy Perkins Roses as groundwork; five round beds of Begonias (three scarlet and two white), and a clump of Pyrus aria chrysophylla. Beyond these is a magnificent bull-ring of old Limes, twenty-six in number, with a beautifully-trimmed lawn in the centre, and a statue representing a wild boar hunter.

"The Limes," said Mr. Bull, "like the grand Elm just beyond, protecting the croquet lawn, were, of course, here when we commenced making the gardens, so that at this spot you get an idea of the old and the new. Further on is another border, consisting of Berberis Knightii, with ornamental Crabs, Laburnums, Clerodendrons trichotomum, at the back. Near to this border is a clump of China Roses in flower, and behind these are Laurustinus and Portugal Laurels. A recent addition here is a grass walk, with an Irish Juniper hedge on either side, the number planted being between

seven and eight hundred. At the back of the hedge is a reserved plantation of Silver Birches, which will be planted out next autumn, and a batch of evergreen Oaks. Also, you might make a note of a bed combining Arundos, Kniphofias, and Pampas Grass. The Kniphofias give between twenty and thirty spikes of flowers. Nearer the tennis court is a bed of Weigelas in variety, Hibiscus, Golden Larch, Prunus Pissardi, and Hollies. On the banks of the tennis court itself are more Hollies, Berberis, Elæagnus aurea, E. aurea variegata, Olearia Haastii, and several trees of Magnolia Soulangeana."

"How do you fill the large beds in the little garden surrounded by a clipped Yew hedge, with the fountain in the centre?"

"With mixed Begonias, edged by Dactylis glomerata variegata. The fountain garden leads into the Rose garden, which is about three-quarters of an acre in extent, and has a grass lawn between the beds."

"Are the beds in one variety?"

"Yes, and chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals. The pillar Roses are all Alberic Barbier, thirty in number. On the alcove we are trying the Vitis Coignetiæ."

Best Roses of All Classes.

As we stood in the summer-house, elevated some distance from the ground, at the end of the Rose garden, I inquired the names of the Rambler Roses.

"They are, chiefly, Aglaia, Bennett's Seedling, Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Dundee Rambler, Electra, Francois Foucard, Leuchtstern, Longworth Rambler, Paul Transon, Elisha Robichon, Psyche, Thalia, René André, Queen Alexandra, and Waltham Rambler. I may say that we find the Ramblers, of which we grow fifteen hundred, not particular as to the soil they are planted in; they do as well in the stony ground and clay as in what is known as good Rose soil, providing they have a little of the latter given round the roots at planting-time. When they have done flowering, we cut away a quantity of the old growths which have flowered, in order to allow them room to develop and get thoroughly ripened. Then we are sure of a fine show of bloom the following season."

"What are the best of your Hybrid Perpetuals?"

"A. K. Williams, Captain Christy, Captain Hayward, Countess of Oxford, Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Dufferin, Frau Karl Druschki, General Jacqueminot, Her Majesty, Louis van Houtte, Margaret Dickson, Marie Baumann, Mrs. J. Laing, Paul Néron, Prince Arthur, Ulrich Brunner, and Victor Hugo, many of which are grown in this garden."

"Then there are the Hybrid Teas and Tea Roses?"

"The former include Bessie Brown, Caroline Testout, Gloire Lyonnaise, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Killarney, La France, Liberty, Marquis Litta, Mildred Grant, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Souvenir du President Carnot, W. F. Bennet, Souvenir de Catherine Guillot, Souvenir de Pierre Notting, and Souvenir de S. A. Prince. Here are the pick of the Tea Roses:—Anna Olivier, Catherine Mermet, Etoile de Lyon, Francisca Kruger, Grace Darling, Hon. Edith Gifford, Innocente Pirola, Madame Charles, Madame de Watteville, Madame Eugene Verdier, Madame Falcot, Madame Hoste, Madame Lambard, Maman Cochet, Miss Ethel Brownlow, Papa Gontier, Rubens, and The Bride."

We next strolled to the rock garden, in which Rambler Roses are a great feature, and I asked Mr. Bull to name some of the various plants in flower.

"Primula japonica, Veronica alpestris, Heuchera sanguinea, Trollius europæa, Saxifrage pyramidalis, Azalea mollis, Iris germanica, Alpine Phloxes, Cheddar Pinks, Ramondia pyrenaica, Ranunculus cortusæfolius, Thymus in variety, Aubrietias in variety, Hemerocallis, and Cheiranthus alpinus. A number of Water Lilies in the pond will flower later."

WESTON FAVELL HOUSE FROM THE LAWN.

The Wall Fruit.

On the way from the rock garden to the kitchen garden are several Rose pergolas, which are also conspicuous in other parts of the pleasure grounds. The kitchen garden itself is two acres and a half in extent, and is surrounded by high walls. It combines the ornamental with the useful, and I inquired first about the fruit grown on the walls.

"The east wall and part of the west wall are devoted to Pears," replied Mr. Bull, "of which the best varieties are Beurré de Capiaumont, Beurré Diel, Beur é Easter, Beurré Superfin, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Charles Ernest, Conference, Doyenné du Comice, Durondeau, Emile d'Heyst, Glou Morceau, Jargonelle, Josephine de Malines, Le Lectier, Marie Louise, Olivier de Serres, and Pitmaston Duchess. On part of the west wall we grow Plums; on the south wall, Apricots, Peaches, and dessert Cherries; and on the north wall, Morella Cherries and Victoria Plums, with a few Gooseberries and Currants. The Plums include Coe's Golden Drop, Denniston's Superb, Jefferson, Kirkes, Pond's Seedling, and Reine Claude de Bavay. The Peaches on the walls are Alexandra, Noblesse, Royal George, and Waterloo."

"And Apples?"

"They are trained horizontally all round, with two rows of bushes up the centre. We obtain the largest fruit from the bush trees, and the most choice from the horizontally-trained. As to crops, Apples, Pears, and Plums all promise well."

"Do you grow many varieties of Strawberries?"

"Royal Sovereign, Sir Joseph Paxton, which is a better keeper, and The Laxton."

"You have Roses at intervals in this garden?"

"Yes, we have Roses everywhere. Other flowers here include Border Carnations Raby Castle and Old Clove, and in the two herbaceous borders, each twelve feet wide, we have a great number of varieties. Those now in bloom are chiefly Dictamnus, Aquilegias, Pyrethrums, Delphiniums, Hemerocallis flavum, Arnebia echiodes, and Pæonies. They are all in masses, and are all more or less used for house decoration."

"I see you have a nice lot of Sweet Peas coming on."

"We sow them in pots, four seeds in a pot, and plant out, setting them eighteen inches apart from pot to pot, and getting varieties together in rows. Some of the best are Dorothy Eckford, Miss Willmott, Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, Scarlet Gem, John Ingman, Janet Scott, King Edward VII., Henry Eckford, and Bolton's Pink. Henry Eckford should be grown in the shade."

The Glasshouses.

"Which do you consider your best Peas?"

"Edwin Beckett, Autocrat, Chelsea Gem, Sutton's Century, Peerless Marrowfat, and Lord Roberts. As to other vegetables, of Celery we grow Sutton's Solid White and Major Clarke (pink), always in trenches. Ailsa Craig Onions are grown for exhibiting. The Potatoes are Factor, Sutton's Ringleader, Scottish Triumph, and a seedling of our own, an early Potato. In a frame sixty feet long we grow one variety of Tomato. It is called Kirby's Sensation, and was raised by a local man, Mr. Kirby, who was an amateur, but now runs a small nursery."

The first of the houses we inspected was the greenhouse, and I remarked on some very fine trusses of a Pelargonium, asking the name of the variety.

"Mrs. Hill. The others are, mainly, John Hill, Rosy Morn, Barbara Hope, Paul Crampel, Pride of Edinburgh, Raspail Improved, Cannell's Favourite, and Marquis of Dufferin. Heliotropes are grown on the wall."

"Your Vine borders are inside?"

"Yes, and I prefer them so. In the early Vinery we have Muscat of Alexandria and Madresfield Court. The latter do not split. Alicante, Black Hamburgh, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Foster's Seedling are grown in the late Vinery, with Tomatoes on the shelf."

"You have such a good collection of Farleyense Ferns in the stove that I should like to know how you treat them."

"We split them up into single crowns, pot them in loam and sand, and grow them on. They are very useful to decorate with. We have a few Crotons, Dracænas, Abutilons, Eulalias, and Palms; and in the Orchid house, beyond the lobby, Cattleyas and Cœlogynè cristata. I think we shall go in for Schizanthus next year."

"Then there are the Peaches?"

"In the early house we have Hale's Early

and Crimson Galande. A net is put up to catch any falling fruit. The Nectarines on the wall are Early Rivers and Early Alfred. In the late Peach house we grow Goshawk, Sea Eagle, Princess of Wales, Dymond, Rivers' Orange Nectarine, and Elruge."

There remained what is called the orchard, though all the land, four acres in extent, is cultivated, and here is grown, in addition to all sorts of hardy fruit on standards and bushes, the greater part of the plants for cut flowers. Walking back to the pleasant farmhouse, where Mr. Bull, who is now in charge of the farm, as well as the gardens, lives, I inquired about showing and his own experience.

"We only show at Northampton," he rejoined, "staging Chrysanthemums in groups, and fruit. As to my own experience, I was for some six and a half years at Flore, before going to Birmingham, under Mr. Latham, at the Botanical Gardens there; and then with Sir Edmund Loder at Flore, near Weedon. Seventeen years ago I was engaged by Mr. Manfield as head gardener. It has been a great pleasure to me to take an active part in the making and development of these gardens."

ALFRED WILCOX.

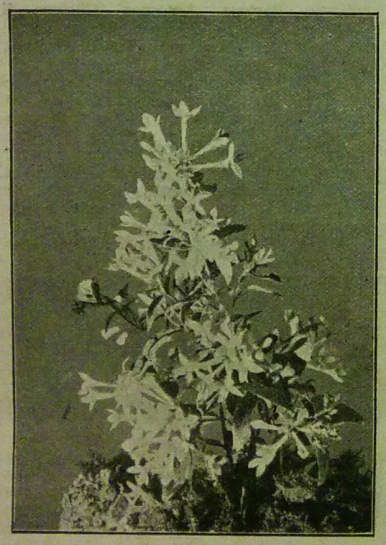
Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 310.—A SUMMER OUTING FOR PLANTS.

DEAR KATE,—This is the time of year in which we all long for the open air and a change of scene, if possible. It is the same with our plants, and they must now be put out of doors, with the exception of Ferns and a few hothouse flowers (such as Gloxinias, Gesneras, Tydæas, etc.), which need more moisture in the atmosphere than they can get in our summer climate, and, consequently, must remain indoors. But ordinary plants of many kinds will be the better for an outing, especially if they have been closely shut up, or in a shady place, and a few weeks in the open air will make as great a change in their appearance as it does in the case of human beings. Instead of being anæmic, they will become robust, and will stand the winter cold much better than those unfortunate beings who never take an open-air cure at all.

Discrimination Necessary.

But you should carefully choose the positions in the garden for your plants. Many of them will be the better for the full sunshine,



BOUVARDIA—BOCKI.

but a few must have slight shade, especially from the afternoon rays of the sun, although all of them enjoy the morning sunshine. Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons, and Heaths must not have great heat; a south-east or east-south-east position will please them, and their pots should be sunk to the rim in a bed of ashes, both to protect their fine, hair-like roots from being baked by the heat, and also to preserve the moisture about them, for, if once these roots shrivel for want of water, they will never thoroughly recover.

Libonias, too, Fuchsias, Hydrangeas, Spiræas, and Cytisus racemosus are all very thirsty plants, and will suffer severely from any sort of neglect in their water supply, so that it is not wise to place them in the hottest position, where Geraniums, Roses, Deutzias, and the rest will do well, for they need plenty of sunshine to ripen their growths. Shrubs, too (in pots), such as we use in the window-boxes in winter (Laurustinus, Choisya, Mahonia aquifolia, and berried shrubs of various kinds), all stand out of doors in the full sunshine throughout the summer, and are then well set with buds again in the autumn. Chrysanthemums must, of course, be out of doors, and should have plenty of sunshine, but they need careful watering in a dry, hot season, as they should never be allowed to droop.

Watering and Rain Supply.

But "careful watering" is by no means common. If left to a boy, or anyone else who does not love the plants, mischief is sure to take place, for the watering-pot will just skim over the top soil in the pots, making them look damp, of course, for the moment; but no more deadly proceeding than this could be carried out. Just consider the effects of this surface watering to the unlucky plants. The coil of strong roots at the bottom of the pot will never receive a drop, and soon must shrivel away, whilst the fine roots near the surface become daily more rotten, until the whole suddenly collapses, and your plant is dead.

Then, if there should be a shower of rain, your careless gardener will depend upon its making the plants look all right, and excuse himself the trouble of giving them a proper soaking; or he will give them a douche of cold water in hot weather, which will chill them through.

The fact with regard to the rain supply of plants in pots is that, as a rule, very little rain reaches their roots at all, for the circumference of the pot is more or less sheltered by the foliage of the plant, and it will take a lot of rain to moisten the top soil below the first inch. Another common danger for pot plants in the open air is that they are not always placed upright, and a very slight slant in the pot will drain away every drop of water given to the plant before it has had time to soak the lower soil.

Nothing but the vigilant eye of the owner can save the plants from all these dangers, unless you are so fortunate as to possess that most valuable helper—a gardener who really loves flowers, and takes a pride in their health and beauty. Too many gardeners are so engrossed by their Cabbages (and the rest of the kitchen garden) that they have no time or trouble to spare for flowers, except the Stocks and Asters which they admire in the borders, perhaps.

Treatment of Bouvardias.

A good many of our plants are put out of their pots into a border of good soil in the kitchen garden, for their summer outing, and are potted up again in September or October. These are Arum Lilies, Cyclamens, Eupa-

BOUVARDIA—DOUBLE WHITE.

toriums, Salvias of the winter-flowering varieties (splendens, Bethelli, rutilans, etc.), Spiræa japonica (which needs a moist spot, however), and Bouvardias. We have tried both plans with the Bouvardias (*i.e.*, keeping them in pots throughout the year, and planting them out in summer, from June till the middle of September), and certainly they become stronger and flower better when they have free root-room at this time of year.

Bouvardias are not to be seen in every conservatory in the winter, but they are so lovely that they ought to be grown by everyone who can keep up a minimum temperature of fifty degrees in the cold weather, for they like a little more warmth than some other plants need. After flowering, we let them get rather dry, and then prune the plants back to within two or three eyes of the older wood. They then go into the warm Vinery (being syringed there daily, but not over-watered), when fresh shoots quickly appear. The next thing to do is to shake out the soil from the roots, prune these, if necessary (cutting off one or two of the older, woody roots), and repot them in smaller pots, with a compost of loam, leaf-mould, peat, and a little charcoal and soot. They are still kept in a moist, warm atmosphere, and constantly syringed, until the end of May, when they go out into the border, after being hardened a little. You should pinch out the points of the shoots several times as they grow, when the shoot is about four inches long, so as to induce plenty of sideshoots to start, and make the plants bushy.

Towards the middle or end of September the plants should be profusely watered, and then raised and potted up (without any undue disturbance of the ball of soil and roots), keeping them in a cool, shady, and moist atmosphere for ten days, until all danger of their drooping is over. After that time they should have all the warmth and sunshine you can give them, and they will open their buds in November

to get dry before the plants begin to come through, when, of course, the shade round must be removed.

Unwelcome Attention.

April 20th.—It may be heresy to say so, but I am not at all sure that our plants appreciate all the trouble we spend upon them. If they had voices, I fancy they would often ask, "Why can't you leave us alone?" It is customary, for

Mr. A. Bullock.

example, first to sow the seeds of many plants in boxes under glass, then to prick out the seedlings, then to move them again—perhaps into small pots—and so on. Is so much disturbance good for them? I had some Pansies sown in two boxes in autumn. Those in one box were afterwards pricked out, the result being that many died; those in the other were left alone, in spite of their being rather crowded. In early spring, when all were planted outside, the latter were, almost without exception, the stronger, and although it was necessary to disturb them more than the others, they have continued to be the stronger. It is only fair to say, however, that the seed was sown rather thinly in the first instance. There is sometimes a reason for repeated disturbance—the prevention of the formation of strong, thick roots—but where this does not apply, the most satisfactory method of cultivation is to sow the seeds thinly, and not to disturb the plants until it becomes necessary to transfer them to their permanent quarters.

Perennial Sunflowers.

April 21st.—Among the plants that are seldom thinned as they ought to be are the perennial Sunflowers. The two commonest species are Helianthus multiflorus and H. rigidus. The former makes great clumps in the course of three or four years, and unless these are divided and replanted in rich soil the flowers deteriorate, for all the Sunflowers rapidly exhaust the ground. H. rigidus, on the other hand, extends by means of underground runners or stolons, and if these are not kept in check, it spreads all over the borders. That, however, is not enough. The stems which it sends up in great numbers must be thinned if it is to have a chance of flowering properly. This may be done now if it has not yet been done.

April 22nd.—The photograph shows a delightful old English garden, full of charming nooks, yet so arranged that the view is never confined to the few yards immediately around. Trees and shrubs and flowering plants combine to produce a series of beautiful pictures, each perfect in itself, all harmonising with one another.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 234.—Mr. A. BULLOCK, at THE GARDENS, COPPED HALL, EPPING.

Although it was early in March that I visited the gardens at Copped Hall, the weather was brilliantly fine, and I was therefore able to see the place under the most favourable auspices at a period of the year when flowers are scarce and fruit is not visible. The situation of the historic seat, which was once the occasional residence of Henry VIII., is on the brow of a hill, and commanding views of a picturesque stretch of country, including a mile of park, are obtained from the front of the mansion. Some idea of the manifold attractions of the gardens was speedily afforded me, on my arrival, by Mr. Bullock, who conducted me to a delightful little Dutch garden adjoining the famous corridor.

A Blend of Colours.

"How are the beds planted?" I inquired.

"Anemone fulgens in the centre. As a blend of colours, white Crocuses, Scillas, and Chionodoxas are used. Last summer the same beds were planted with Cupid Sweet Peas, standard Heliotropes, and scented Verbenas. These were carefully taken out, and the bulbs left undisturbed. I consider that gold, pure white, blue, and scarlet form one of the prettiest combinations that can be imagined. If you can give Anemone fulgens a south-west aspect, it will always do well, and the colour come out satisfactorily."

"Have you anything special on the walls of the mansion?"

"Yes, Jasminum primulinum, which is now throwing up spikes of flower, does remarkably well. It is one of the Chinese introductions by Mr. Wilson, of Messrs. Veitch, and makes a fine specimen plant for forcing. As you see, it has no protection on the south wall, and, in any case, a light covering would be sufficient; it flowers in April and May."

The Corridor and its Charms.

"Your corridor is one of great beauty and elegance."

"We think it one of our features, and we try to have it very gay all through the winter. With regard to the plants growing alongside the walls, you will notice that Daphne indica promises to make a good specimen."

"Is it difficult to cultivate?"

"Very. It is necessary to put in some good soil, but I think that its proximity to the Cassia counteracts the excessive moisture. It blooms from October to December, and the perfume of the Daphne is very agreeable in the corridor. There are two or three Limes planted here, which fruit very nicely and look very well when they are bearing fruit."

"I see you have a Camellia reticulata which appears to be thriving?"

"It flowers freely each year, the colour being scarlet. It was some time in making a good start, but it is now doing exceedingly well. The large size of the single bloom and the rigid stamens make it very effective, the stiffness being natural without formality. We aim at keeping the corridor in the best of condition from October to February, putting on successive batches of plants to keep it bright."

"What did you start with in October?"

"Chrysanthemums, which we manage to keep going until the end of February. We grow from fifteen thousand to eighteen thousand specimen and bush varieties. Then come the sections of Begonias (Gloire de Lorraine and Gloire de Sceaux), Primula Kewensis, distinct shades of Cinerarias, batches of Tulips, Hyacinths, Mignonette, and Arum Lilies. When the Chrysanthemums are at their best, we bank each side of the corridor with them. We always arrange everything in batches with colours to blend, but not mixing the flowers."

"What is the height of the building which you use as a winter garden?"

"Over thirty feet. The Nymphæas in the pond are very good varieties; this pond used to be a bed of Bamboos, but I thought that Lilies would be an improvement."

"When did you plant the wall?"

The Gardener's Cottage at Copped Hall, Epping.

"About three years ago. Ferns do exceedingly well on it, also Anthuriums, Philodendrons, Rubus phœnicolasius, and Begonia Rex. A feature on the wall is Begonia Haageana, which, from August until the end of November, is one blaze of white flower with a pink shade. Tillandsias and Cypripediums also flourish on the wall. Then the creepers are rather a feature. For instance, Vitis Voinercana makes a splendid creeper for a large building like this. The foliage is so much more vigorous than that of other varieties of Vitis, and the green is also of a better colour."

Pretty Creepers.

"You might, please, tell me the names of some other specially good creepers."

"A very nice thing, with a pretty flower hanging down in trusses, the prevailing colour being orange, is Hexacentrii mysorensis. It flowers luxuriantly from February to the end of March. Another creeper most suitable for a building like this is Passiflora quadrangularis, and Schubertia graveolens is a fine creeper, growing very freely, with a flower very much like a glorified Stephanotis. Another favourite creeper is Ipomœa Thompsonii, and the same may be said of Tacsonia Buchannii, the scarlet-flowering variety. During the winter months we have a number of flowering plants here, such as Poinsettias, Euphorbias, and Begonias. The Palms are all planted out, and their quarters seem to suit them."

"How do you manage to water the plants on the wall?"

"It is watered from the top, the water travelling from one end of the wall to the other. The pipe always remains full, so that directly the water is discharged it travels the whole distance with an equal distribution. The tank is merely pumped full of water."

Bedding on the Terrace.

"What is your scheme of bedding on the terrace in front?" I asked, after I had inspected a fine piece of statuary.

"In spring there is a display of Tulips and Wallflowers, and in summer the system is to blend flowers that are sweet in perfume and well defined in colour. Thus we use the Tobacco plant very freely, the deep crimson Ivy-leaved Geranium, Heliotropes, and Alyssums. To relieve the groundwork we have standards of Abutilons, Aloysias, and Fuchsias, and the effect generally is very satisfactory. Of course, it is a formal garden, but the style in which the bedding is done takes away its stiffness. You might mention that standard Portugal Laurels are planted in two rows the whole length of the terrace. There are also specimens of Junipers and Irish Yews."

"Speaking of style, I notice that the beds are raised in an unusual manner."

"Yes, they are designed on turf; the outside borders are raised first with a row of Box edging, then a margin of dwarf Euonymus, then a second tier of Box edging, and, finally, the flowering plants. Veronicas and Ivies are used in the same way as Euonymus in some of the beds."

Flowering and Foliage Shrubs.

Proceeding to the lower terraces, Mr. Bullock pointed out the great variety of flowering and foliage shrubs, commencing with Carpenteria californica growing under the terrace in a very vigorous, happy condition.

"It flowers here," he said, "very profusely during July. Among other varieties in vigorous health are Ceanothus indigo, C. Veitchianus, Cæsalpino japonica, Cistus lusitanicus, C. nillosus, C. florentinus, C. sahræfolius, and others. If you care to have the names of more of the best flowering shrubs, I think it may be said that Olearia stellata, Magnolia stellata, Veronica Halkeana, Abelia rupestris, Pentstemon Scouleri, ornamental Cherries, Deutzias in variety, Daphnes, and Hibiscus do remarkably well. It has often struck me that if on this hard, cold soil we can do so well with flowering and foliage shrubs, much more ought to be sometimes done with them on warm, congenial soil."

"What do you grow chiefly in the herbaceous borders underneath the terrace walls?"

"They contain a large variety of subjects, chief among which are Eremurus robustus, Irises in great variety, Phloxes, Asclepias, Asters, Astrantias, Campanulas, Delphiniums, Eryngiums, Hemerocallis, Incarvilleas, Pæonies, Platycodons, Pyrethrums, Senecios, Statices, and Veronicas. Each side of the lower terraces is so planted that the same effect is given."

Rock Garden and Rosery.

Quite one of the features of the pleasure grounds is the main centre walk leading to the Rosery and the rock garden, and even more interesting, perhaps, is the famous Yew walk, along which Henry VIII. is said to have been promenading at the time of Anne Boleyn's execution. Bamboos are a feature of the rock garden, where also is a varied collection of plants, including the choicest Water Lilies. Advantage is taken of some old Scotch Firs to grow Clematis, Vitis, Wistaria, and Polygonums up their stems. When I had noticed the old Elm avenue at the border of the park, which, by the way, forms a small portion only of an estate of six thousand acres, I inquired when the Rosery was made.

New Carnation—Nana.
A white-ground Fancy, flaked purple.

"About three years ago," rejoined Mr. Bullock. "Two varieties of two well-defined colours are planted in the large beds, and one in the smaller, the idea being to get a mass of colour at one time. The varieties are Tea and Hybrid Tea, and we find that among the best are Madame Abel Chatenay, Clara Watson, Caroline Testout, Viscountess Folkestone, Lady Battersea, White Maman Cochet, Killarney, President Carnot, Anna Olivier, Antoine Rivoire, Grand Duke, A. de Luxembourg, and Enchantress. We select the vigorous doers—those, I mean, that tend to give a quantity of colour from June until December."

Some Notable Borders.

On our way to the kitchen garden, we passed, on the right, an Azalea garden, with Tree Pæonies on the bank, which, although only recently planted, are already showing signs of vigorous growth, and, on the left, Mr. Bullock called my attention to a fine, irregular border. "This," he said, "has been enclosed from the park in order to extend the pleasure grounds, and, as you see, scarlet Oaks, Acers, Acacias, Pyrus molus floribunda, Cotoneaster frigida, Prunus Pissardi, and standard Golden Privets form a background for a large collection of flowering and foliage shrubs, with other plants."

"What do you grow in the opposite border, underneath the walls of the kitchen garden?"

"In summer we have a very showy display of annuals, massed for effect, at the back of the flowers being standard Currants and Gooseberries, which are in fruit the same time as the flowers, producing a very pleasing effect."

"How long is the border?"

"A hundred yards. Besides the display of annuals, we have a number of the Darwin Tulips, late-flowering Tulips, and Wallflowers, the groundwork being double Arabis, Alyssums, and Myosotis. In fact, there is no period of the year when the border looks uninteresting. A little garden is specially set aside here for all the types of the early-flowering Iris, Crocus, and Anemone. Beyond the first wall, at the back of this little garden, is a fine specimen of Chimonanthus fragrans."

A New Fruit Garden.

"Beyond the recent extension of the pleasure ground," continued Mr. Bullock, "we are just planting a new fruit garden of about two acres. Gooseberries in bush, standard, and cordon form, Red and White Currants in the same way, and Black Currants and Raspberries are grown under a permanent covering. An occasional inspection for caterpillars is necessary, but, beyond this, no further trouble is taken. Cordon fruit trees are extensively grown, both on walls or in rows across a piece of ground which has been set aside for cultivating a large quantity of cut flowers, and the system is one that finds great favour."

"Shall we take the glasshouses next?"

"Yes, but I do not think we shall have time to go through the whole of them. Recently, a number of new houses have been erected, with new heating arrangements, etc. Malmaison Carnations are one of our features."

"How long have you been cutting them in these houses?"

"Since Christmas. This month we are cutting about two dozen a week. As to varieties, I have the greatest regard for the old Souvenir and Princess of Wales. Although the constitution of these leaves a good deal to be desired, they are two of the most delightful flowers, and none of the new varieties do better. In the next house are pot fruit trees—Peaches and Nectarines are a feature. Here, also, we force Strawberries in pots plunged in the leaves."

"How long will they remain here?"

"Until after they fruit. They get all the benefit of light and air. I am trying this system for the first time here this year, but I have carried it out elsewhere with great success. The variety is Royal Sovereign. On the shelves above are some recently-propagated Tree Carnations, which will furnish a supply of flower from October this year to January, 1907."

"Do you grow many Crotons in your flowering stove?"

Ixoras and Isolomas.

"We have done away with them, and have substituted a nice collection of stove flowering plants. Ixoras, in pots, are grown. In cultivating them, watering has to be done very carefully, and neither too much or too little given. Other flowering stove plants are Glomeria jasminiflora, Burchellia capensis grandiflora, Medinilla magnifica, and Isoloma Horbutes, which hardly ever go out of flower."

"Do they require much looking after?"

"No, only a little brisk heat, to keep them healthy. In the way of Orchids, we have a few Cypripediums, and on the south side, in one of several houses for retarding plants which are too forward, we have a number of Cœlogyne cristata. Here, too, is a miscellaneous collection of useful flowering plants. In another

house are Cinerarias, Arum Lilies, Narcissi, and a small quantity of the Himalayan Rhododendrons."

"What about Amaryllis?"

"I have some seedlings of my own, from which I select those of good form, and hybridise carefully. The results are good, and sometimes astonishing."

The Cultivation of Violets.

"Before I ask you about the kitchen garden, you might, please, tell me something about your Violets, which seem to be on a considerable scale."

"They are a very special feature, and every attention is given them in order to ensure success. One important point is the careful selection of suitable runners towards the middle of April. These are thoroughly cleansed in a solution of quassia extract, as a safeguard before being inserted in the ground. The ground is measured off for wooden frames to cover plants in the autumn. The plants are not lifted in the autumn, but simply have frames placed over them. This applies to the single varieties only. I find Princess of Wales, Luxonne, and La France three of the best varieties."

"Do you syringe the plants often?"

"Every night and morning throughout the summer."

Vegetables and Outdoor Fruit.

"Are there any notable characteristics of the admirably-walled-in and well-laid-out kitchen garden?"

"An extensive supply of vegetables is necessary all the year round, but clean, medium growth is the order rather than for exhibition. Recently, from time to time, the old fruit trees on the walls have been eradicated, and young trees planted; great pains have been taken in the selection of the latter to exclude all but the best varieties."

"What do you grow on the walls?"

"Figs, Plums, Cherries, Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Pears, and Morella Cherries. The range at the top, which formerly consisted of Vineries, now comprises Peach houses, a Fig house, a pot Cherry house, and a pot Plum house. In the centre walk of the kitchen garden, leading from the houses to the pond, is an arched fruit walk, with cordon Pears trained over arches, with pyramids on either side. Below the pond, leading to the plant houses and Vineries, are pyramid Apple trees. Of Vineries, there are four, including Hambros, Madresfield Court, Muscat of Alexandria, the one variety in a house in the order named, and one house of late varieties, such as Black Alicante, Appley Towers, Alnwick Seedling, Lady Hutt, and Gros Colmar."

"You have a very pretty house to reside in, Mr. Bullock."

"My employer studies the comfort of everyone. The gardening staff numbers twenty-eight, and the bothy, which was erected for the young men, of whom seven live there, contains every possible accommodation, including bath-rooms."

"How long have you been at Copped Hall?"

"Four years. I started in my native county, Cornwall, where I served an apprenticeship of five years in the gardens of the late Colonel Tremayne. I served two years further in good gardens, including Lockinge, Hatton, and Margam Abbey. For seven years I was with the late Lady Howard de Walden at Malvern, where I gained, under Mr. C. R. Fielder (who was responsible for the making and planting of a wonderful garden), a useful practical knowledge of the laying out of grounds. On the death of Lady Howard de Walden, and upon the retirement of Mr. Fielder, I took charge of the gardens for two years previous to my appointment here." Alfred Wilcox.

In the letter on "Pea Sticks," appearing in our issue of April 14th, the word *wire* was inserted instead of *coir*, in describing the rope used.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 194.—A GARDEN ON THE LEADS.

Dear Kate,—The country is now most beautiful, Primroses embroidering every bank, Bluebells and Ferns pushing up, and a green lace mantle appearing over the trees, varied with pink and white where there are orchards.

How anybody can choose to live in a town instead of the country is incomprehensible to me; but then, unfortunately, many of us are obliged to do so, and those who cannot get into the lanes and fields must do the best they can without them. And, really, that "best" is not to be despised. Even in the heart of London there may be found green vases, most delightful to their possessors, and, fortunately, a garden, however small, which we plant and tend ourselves, has a wonderful charm, which many a rich man, who owns broad acres, and employs a dozen gardeners, can never enjoy.

A Vase of Gladioli.

Boxes and Tubs.

On the leads of a city house, and in the strips of ground behind the suburban cottage, gardening is probably as difficult as it can be anywhere, yet even here we can do a great deal to make a little paradise of our own, if we spend a little time daily in caring for our plants. The lack of soil on the leads can easily be got over, by growing everything in boxes, or tubs, which are cheaper than pots, and much lighter to move, although, unless there is a strong arm at hand, I don't advise you to go in for very large boxes, but rather for plenty of smaller ones, with some lard tubs from the grocers, and, perhaps, a few small barrels, which you can saw in two for larger plants.

Rather long boxes, about fifteen inches deep and broad, will be useful for the climbers which are to cover up every bit of masonry, and stand against the walls, and it is best to have rather large square boxes for such tall plants as you wish to grow (Lilacs, Laurestinus, Choisya ternata, etc.), as they need plenty of room for their roots, and annuals (such as Mignonette, blue Lobelia, dwarf Tropæolums, etc.) will do very well in shallower boxes of good soil. You should make a few holes for drainage at the sides of the tubs or boxes, near the bottom, and, if you can raise them on strips of wood, so as to allow a free course for the drainage, it will be all the better. Coal ashes, and a few crocks, should be laid at the bottom, but very shallow boxes want but little drainage.

The "Hanging" Garden.

If I were you, before arranging your "hanging garden"—which sounds quite Babylonish—I should make a little plan of the space you have to fill (putting in the aspect of the walls, too, because different climbers should be grown on a sunny wall from those which like the shade), and arranging your tubs and boxes to the best advantage before you fill them with soil, so that you won't have to drag them about afterwards. And be sure that you get good soil to fill them with. Rich, kitchen-garden loam, that has been well manured last season, is what you want, and if you have a friend in the country who can send you a sack or two of leaf-mould, you will find it very useful for some of your plants.

Soot as a Fertiliser.

Then you should store all the soot you can get out of your chimneys, and, if necessary, give the sweep an extra sixpence to leave all the soot behind which he brushes down at "spring-cleaning" time. This seems a weak thing to do, because, of course, it is your own soot, and he has no right to it, but then it has become a

in Europe. All of them might have been saved by the exercise of a little common sense. If the expert had been consulted first, there would have been no need to destroy these plants. All that they required was syringing with a suitable fungicide. There are many, no doubt, who cannot afford to pay an expert, and cannot themselves distinguish between the two forms of disease, but if they will write a letter to the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, the question will be settled for them at no expense to themselves. Not, perhaps, with the speed they might desire, for all Boards are notoriously slow, but at least the decision is conclusive.

The Scotch Climate.

September 25th.—If the Scotch climate is not remarkably mild, many of our plants must be much hardier than we think. "I was once in a garden in about the hottest corner of the Isle of Wight, in June," said Mr. Osgood Mackenzie, in a lecture before the Royal Horticultural Society, "and, walking round with my hostess, we came upon the gardener carrying big plants of Agapanthus in tubs from under glass to be placed out of doors. His remark as we passed him was, 'I think, my lady, we may venture them out now'; and I could not refrain from answering the old man back, 'If so, then I don't think much of your climate, for in the far North of Scotland we never house them, nor protect them in winter.'" I have had great clumps of Agapanthus in the open for thirty years and more, and the white, as well as the blue, flowers magnificently every year.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

A Notable Sussex Garden.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. J. BUNNEY, AT DANNY, HURSTPIERPOINT.

THE mansion known as Danny, within a short distance of Hurstpierpoint, sheltered below the South Downs, is rich in historic associations. It has been in continuous occupation from the time of Queen Elizabeth until now. Erected in 1595, it is a fine specimen of Elizabethan architecture, though since it was built one of its owners removed the old gables, and put a Queen Anne front on the south wing. My concern, however, is with the gardens which form the setting, and which, by the courtesy of Mrs. Campion, I visited towards the end of August. In approaching them—in company with Mr. Bunney, the head gardener, who met me at the cricket ground in the park—I was much struck with the fact that, as Miss Mary Campion, in a charming sketch of her beautiful home, says, Danny is guarded by its Elms, "those green-robed sentinels of mighty woods." The Elms are, indeed, a feature, but so are the Oaks and Planes. Yet even these warriors must give place to the amazing specimen of a Carolina Poplar which monopolised my attention on reaching the lawn.

DANNY, HURSTPIERPOINT.

An Ancient Poplar.

"Yes, there is but one trunk," said Mr. Bunney, as we stood under its tremendous spread of branches, "and the tree is about four hundred years old."

"Do you interfere with its offspring?"

"No, we never touch any branches, and, as you see, five or six of them have rooted, developing, in their turn, into fine trees. The thickness of the outside coat of the parent tree is tremendous."

"Is there another such specimen in the country?"

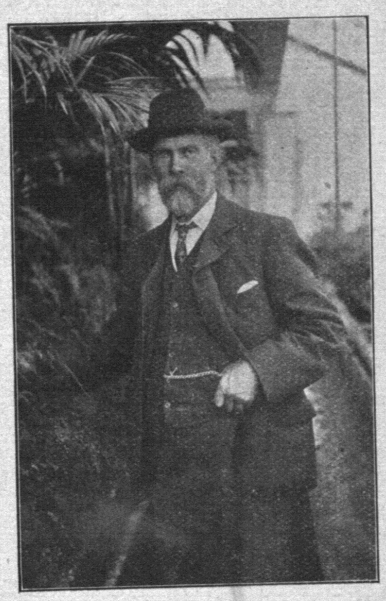
"Only one more, I believe; and though this occupies a large amount of space on the lawn, as everyone who comes here says, it merits all it takes up."

In contrast to the ancient and mighty Carolina Poplar is the rock garden in close proximity, which was made two years ago.

"Here," continued Mr. Bunney, "we try to combine the old with the new, in order to render the garden more decorative. Thus, besides all the Alpines and herbaceous plants, there are Roses on stumps of old trees, Crimson Ramblers growing on one Elm, and Alberic Barbier on another. The garden itself was originally a part of the adjoining field."

"You have a pretty herbaceous border on one side, with Sweet Peas, I conclude, planted for colour?"

"Yes, and chiefly of the Spencer family. The herbaceous plants which suit the stiff, heavy soil, include Polygonum Rosy Queen, the White Swan Poppy, Asters in variety, Chrysanthemum maximum, Rudbeckia Golden Glow (which, by the way, must not be exposed to the wind), Nigella Miss Jekyll, Anchusas (including the Dropmore variety), Phlox, and Tree Lupins."



MR. J. BUNNEY.

"Then, there are Mallows?"

"They are intended to make a break only; the slugs like them too much. The soil also suits German Iris remarkably well. Mauve Queen is a fine variety, quite worth growing for the foliage alone. We have only had a few single Hollyhocks for trial, so far, but they seem to thrive."

"To some extent, I conclude, the rock plants are experimental, but you seem to have a very varied collection."

A List of Rockery Plants.

"Among the most thriving are Aubrietias in variety, Saxifrages in variety, Alpine Phlox, Sedum spectabile, Veronica incana, Phlox amœna (a very free-blooming species), Ranunculus aconitifolius (or white Bachelors' Buttons), Statice latifolia (a fine blue), Campanula alpinus, Gentiana acaulis (which does not like being moved), Plumbago larpentæ (a pretty blue), and Alpine Dianthus (white and pink)."

"What is the sheet of white which stands out so well?"

"Arenaria balearica, a capital variety for carpeting stony places in a cool aspect. As a contrast in colour, the Indian Strawberry is a brilliant red. The Lithospermum prostratum flowers twice, and we find Fuchsia corallina (which flowers from August to October) very useful. Another useful variety, grown from seed, is Commelina cœlestis, which is put in during January, and yields a mass of blue flowers. Veronica repens is exceptionally good for creeping over stones, and one of the best white flowers is Tunica saxifraga, which does well on stony places. Other varieties worth naming are the Mexican Calceolarias and Agathæa cœlestis (the blue Daisy)."

Terrace Combinations.

Retracing our steps, we passed the Carolina Poplar again, and proceeded to the terrace, where the beds looked very bright and effective.

I commented on the appearance of the Fuchsias, which were conspicuous.

"Four beds consist of Fuchsias Rose of Castile, with Madame Crousse and Ivy-leaf Geraniums. In the beds on the other side the Salvias are rather conspicuous; the variety is patens. Here, Miss Nightingale Heliotropes are mixed with Hyacinthus candicans, and white Violas with scarlet Salvias. One bed is made of Cannas in variety, with scarlet Lobelias and Antirrhinums, and another of Marguerites, which corresponds in size and shape with a bed of Pentstemons and Candytuft. On the terrace are five tubs of Agapanthus umbellatus."

The Gardener's Cottage, Danny.

"And the pretty Fuchsias in the border under the wall?"

"The variety is Madame Cornellissen, and it has a red and white corolla. The Lantanas are Chelsea Gem. We lift the latter in the autumn, and protect them, bringing them out again later."

"You use a good deal of Phlox Drummondii just here."

"Yes, the variety (splendens—crimson, with white eye) is particularly good; also the white and scarlet varieties. Behind the Phlox are scented Geraniums."

The Yew Hedge Garden.

The Rose garden is approached through the "Yew Hedge Garden," and in the latter I noted a large bed with Hyacinthus candicans in the centre, with a bed of mixed Cannas on one side, while at the corners were tuberous Begonias (mixed).

"On the other side," said Mr. Bunney, "is a similar bed of Hyacinthus candicans, with Fuchsias and a white variety of variegated Geraniums—Mrs. Mappin, a very good doer."

"You have four fine beds of Antirrhinums. How do you raise them?"

"From seed in January. We save the separate colours, and mix as we plant, with an eye to harmonious arrangement. The colours are light and dark pink, crimson, white, and yellow. They begin to flower in the middle of June, and go on through September. Both inexpensive and easily grown, they are very suitable for amateurs. There are sixteen Golden Yews in round balls, which add to the effect of the garden."

"What is the plan of your Rose garden?"

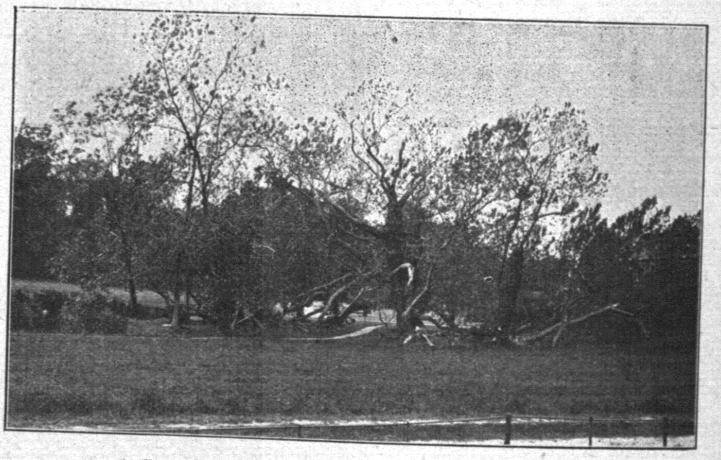
"One variety in each bed, Roses being grown in masses for cutting. Under the hedge is a row of Penzance Briers. Nearly all the Roses are on the Manetti stock, and many of the best Hybrid Teas and Teas are represented. We have also, in beds, Fellenberg and other Noisettes, which are doing well."

"There are some houses in this garden?"

"Yes, Peach houses. The varieties are Rivers' Early, Royal George, and Nectarine Lord Napier, in one house; and in the other, in addition to these, there are Bellegarde and Princess of Wales Peaches, and Pineapple Nectarine. Tomatoes are grown in pots in one of the houses, the varieties being Victor and Earliest of All. Here, too, are grown pot-Strawberries on the shelves in a gallery above the Peaches. The double white Pelargoniums are Cynthia, an excellent variety to use for altar vases. The houses are of considerable age, and the mode of ventilation, though ancient, is admirable."

White Flowers for Church Work.

"Do you grow many other white flowers for church work?"



A Carolina Poplar and its Offspring at Danny.

"A considerable number, including Lilium candidum, Ostrich Feather Asters, and the herbaceous hardy white Pea. Late-flowering Chrysanthemums, Salpiglossis, and Montbretias are also grown for cutting."

Leaving the Rose garden, we returned to the lawn, noting a Rose pergola, on which Thalia, Dorothy Perkins, Crimson Rambler, Carmine Pillar, and Hiawatha are grown alternately.

"What is supposed to be the shape of the large bed facing the Tulip-tree on the lawn?"

"It is called the 'Wheel Bed,' and consists almost entirely of Geraniums, the varieties including Henry Jacoby, Paul Crampel, and Souvenir de Charles Turner. On the other side of the Tulip-tree are Lilies, Verbena venosa, Montbretias in clumps between the Rhododendrons, with Phlox in front. Some of the Lilies now in flower are longifolium, gigantea, and auratum. There is always something in this bed. When the Rhododendrons, for which we used peat mixed with manure, are in flower, there are also Pansies. Beyond the pergola in the corner is a block of Guiding Star Dahlias (white), and Glare of the Garden (scarlet). Now we pass into the wild garden."

Features of the Wild Garden.

"In which, I observe, you do not maintain any particular order?"

"On the contrary, we allow everything to grow as it likes. For instance, we have made use of some old Apple standards in rustic form, and planted climbing Roses with Honeysuckles, all hanging carelessly together. They not only have a fine effect, but throw out a beautiful scent morning and evening. This garden was only taken in three years ago, but rapid growth has been made. Here is a water-loving plant which I strongly recommend for a wild garden, Inula Elecampane. Then a pretty effect of scarlet and green is produced by the Tropæolum speciosum growing up the Cupressus Lawsoniana. Clumps of large-flowering varieties of Honeysuckle are a feature, and Bamboos do remarkably well. In October a corner planted with Sumachs, scarlet-leaved Oaks, Golden Elms, and Liquidambars is quite a picture."

"You appear to have a good many Roses?" I remarked, as we proceeded along the walk with its numerous lovely vistas.

"Several were only planted last winter, such as Lady Gay and Felicite Perpetue. Then we have Ards Rover also in combination with Honeysuckle and the Rambler Roses Euphrosyne and Philadelphia. The latter variety flowers twice, the first blooms being deformed, but the second are all right; the colour is rather darker than that of the Crimson Rambler. Lilacs and Laurels, above them towering Horse Chestnuts and giant Oaks, add to the charms of 'The Walk,' from which are obtained glimpses of the Devil's Dyke, Cowfold Monastery, and Chanctonbury Ring."

Grapes and Figs.

Emerging into the open country, with surrounding hills, we arrived at Mr. Bunney's pretty cottage, commanding a full view of the

glass ranges, kitchen garden, and orchard; and, as a storm of tropical violence came on at that moment, we made for the Vineries.

"How old are the Vines in the early Vinery?"

"Nearly fifty years. They are planted inside, and the roots run out. In this house Black Hamburgh and Muscats are grown, and in the late Vinery are Alicantes and Black Hamburgh, the best of the blacks."

"When do you begin to pick your second crop of Figs?"

"We began this month, and shall continue into September. The varieties are Violette Sepor and St. John. The first crop ripens at the end of May, and goes on until the end of July. When the Fig trees have finished fruiting, we take them out of doors, and do not bring them back until severe frosts begin. Tomatoes are grown inside and out, the varieties inside being Barcombe Champion and Winter Beauty. Both do well, and we have been picking since the first week in June. On the walls outside we grow Earliest of All and Victor, taking care to get the young plants strong."

"How large is the kitchen garden?" I asked, as we went outside.

"Within the walls, two acres and three-quarters. With regard to flowers in this garden, Sweet Peas are grown in rows for cutting, only the best varieties being used. Chrysanthemums are grown extensively, the bush varieties in pots, some of the Japanese, and a large number of early-flowering. The earliest in bloom are the Masse family, and for late use in January we have Winter Cheer, White Perrin, and Tuxedo. The Border Carnations include Duchess of Fife, Mrs. Nicholson, Raby Castle, Sir Walter Scott, and a dark seedling I raised a few years ago."

Wall Pears.

"You have a fine show of Plums and Pears on the walls."

"The Plums include Transparent Gage, Early Gage, Cox's Emperor, and The Denby, a crimson Plum."

"Which Pears do you recommend for flavour?"

"The best varieties, I think, are Beurre Diel, Beurre Hardy, Beurre d'Amanlis, Clapp's Favourite, Durondeau, Nouvelle Fulvie, Marguerite Marillat, Doyenne du Comice, Souvenir du Congres, Catillac, Thompson's, Conference, Marie Louise, Le Lectier (a fine late Pear), and Seckle (a Pear not much grown, but a good dessert variety which comes in during October). I ought to mention Pitmaston Duchess, because of the size to which we grow them, some weighing nearly two pounds each. I may say that we use burnt clay for planting, and find it very efficacious."

Apples on Bushes and Espaliers.

"How are most of the Apples grown?"

"As bushes. We have also Apples on espaliers, and also on standards, but we are replacing the standards with bushes by slow degrees. The best varieties are Allington Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Beauty of Bath, Charles Ross, Ecklinville Seedling, Lady Sudeley, Tower of Glamis, Cox's Orange Pippin, Annie Elizabeth, American Mother, Golden Noble, Wellington, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Baumann's Reinette, Worcester Pearmain, Mère de Menage, Red Astrachan, Lane's Prince Albert, Irish Peach, Mannington Pearmain, and Beauty of Kent."

"What about Strawberries?"

"We only grow Royal Sovereign, which do well on the slopes facing south. Gooseberries and Currants are grown both as bushes, and trained on wires on a north wall. We gather Gooseberries on the wall up to the end of September, and frequently have them in October. Warrington is a particularly good variety for this purpose. Raby Castle is an excellent Red Currant for growing on the wall. Although we had a few mites on the Black Currant trees, they did not injure the crops, because we picked them out the minute we saw them."

"Have you anything special to say about vegetables?"

"Peas are a feature, and we get very good crops. By far the best variety, in my opinion, is Ne Plus Ultra. You can judge how well they do, when I say that they have never had a drop of water since they were sown, fourteen weeks ago, until last week. We do not use cans. There is nothing else to mention, except, perhaps, the imposing breadth of Scarlet Runners, which are quite twelve feet high. The varieties are Neal's Ne Plus Ultra and Sutton's Best of All."

"And about yourself, Mr. Bunney?"

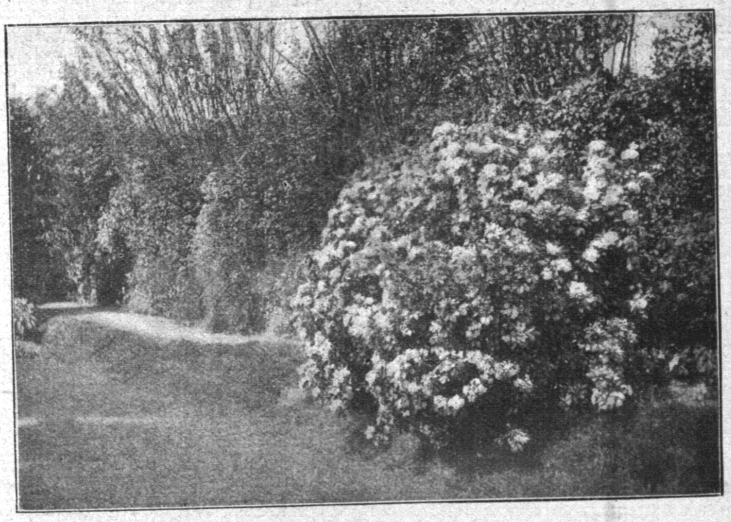
"There is little to say on that subject. My father held this post for sixteen years, and I followed him. I have been here twenty-seven years."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 322.—FLOWERING SHRUBS FOR THE YEAR.

Dear Kate,—With October the time for planting shrubs, climbers, and Roses begins. Those who have quite small gardens can make them much larger (so far as concerns the amount of flowers to be got out of them) by judicious planting, for just consider the masses of bloom which cover your house (or should do so), and add to them the wreaths of Roses, Clematis, Wistaria, Honeysuckle, and Jasmine that hang from the arches (if not the pergola); also the quantities of flowering shrubs which take no more room than the Euonymus, Box, and such-like flowerless things (so to speak), which, unfortunately, fill so many British shrubberies, to the exclusion of really valuable plants.



Choisya ternata—The Mexican Orange.

Dangerous Subjects.

Laurels and Privet, too (although they bloom), should not be tolerated in the garden, except as a hedge to shelter a broad walk, in which case they will not be able to do much harm, as their roots will only extend below the walk. But both of these shrubs are so dangerous as neighbours to all other plants that they should not be allowed to grow within six feet of them; for their roots extend on all sides, and seize upon all the nourishment in the soil, so that no other plant has any chance with them, but must starve to death.

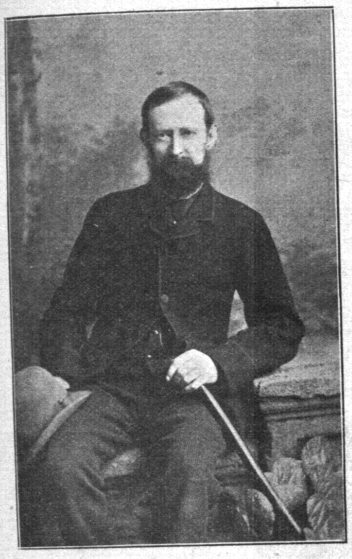
If you have any such shrubs as these (or Portugal Laurel, which is just as hungry a plant), I strongly advise you to root them up, and fill their places with shrubs which will provide you with a great bouquet of blossom once or twice in the year, which you will not only enjoy in the garden, but can use for decorative purposes in the house with much advantage.

I think it quite possible to arrange a series of flowering shrubs to supply the whole year with flowers or bright berries; and the following selection will go far towards it. Their arrangement depends partly, however, on the position and climate of the garden concerned; for we cannot expect early blossoms (or, indeed, many of them) in a sunless garden, or one which is exposed to the bitter north-east winds of our spring, which are specially severely felt by those shrubs which are then trying to open their blossoms. But with the shelter of a wall or a hedge at a little distance behind them, and an abundance of sunshine to ripen their growths and make them woody, there are many exquisite flowering shrubs which should be far more often seen than they are in our gardens.

The Mexican Orange.

Just now the Choisya (Mexican Orange) is in bloom for the second time this year. This is perhaps the most desirable of all shrubs, for it is only out of bloom during the late summer months, and resting (although a mass of embryo blossoms) during the coldest part of the winter, though even at that time it is not uncommon to find a few sheltered blossoms amongst its thick foliage. With the advent of spring it becomes a mass of snow-white Orange-blossom, which lasts until the middle of June, after which it proceeds to the formation of fresh buds, so that by September the whole plant is again a mass of them. But of these buds only those which are on the sunniest side open in the autumn, whilst the rest go to sleep as soon

not a favourable season for it, precautions must be taken which would not otherwise be necessary. The plants must be lifted with as much soil adhering to their roots as possible, placed in holes previously prepared for them, thoroughly soaked with water, the ground not being made really firm until it has had some time to dry, and shaded from the sunlight for at least a week. In the case of a very choice plant, I also protect it from the air by erecting a sort of tent over it,



MR. EDWARD BURRELL.

with three sticks and a piece of matting or brown paper. If these precautions are observed, transplanting may be successfully done at any time. The abundant supply of water helps the roots to get to work again very quickly, while the leaves, protected from sun and air, are not forced to perform their functions at high pressure, and though they may sometimes flag slightly, are equal to their task.

June 23rd.—This is the season for observing the effects of our autumn or winter planting. Then we had to imagine what the result would be; now we can see. Further changes are sure to suggest themselves. Defects, unsuspected while the plan was merely on paper, or in our own minds, are sure to crop up—some faulty arrangement or clashing of colour; much that is good will urge us to something still better, for no true gardener is ever really content. It is a good practice to wander round occasionally, notebook in hand, ready to write down anything that may seem worthy of comment, and to outline future improvements. No garden should disclose all its beauties to the eye at once. It should draw the spectator on from picture to picture, each in its own setting, each framed so as to enhance its merits. It is here—in the use of trees and shrubs, arches and other devices—that the hand of the artist is seen. He continues to show each of his pictures in turn, and the person who comes on them suddenly experiences the same delight as he does in spring, when Nature unexpectedly discloses her treasures, unfolding lovely flowers where yesterday there were only green leaves. Keep the centre open by all means, but arrange the views around so as to give glimpses of the fairyland beyond.

June 24th.—There is, perhaps, no question more frequently asked than: "Should I be likely to make money out of growing this or that?" From one source or another, I am perpetually receiving such questions. It is impossible to answer them satisfactorily without an intimate knowledge of those who put them, for the answer depends far less upon horticultural data than upon business capacity and personal character. I believe that anyone who devotes himself to a speciality—whether Mushrooms, Seakale, Asparagus, or anything else—can make money out of it if he goes the right way to work. He may have poor soil to contend with, he may be badly situated as regards a market, he may be handicapped in other ways; but if he has the root of the matter in him he will surmount all obstacles and eventually emerge on top. I assume, of course, that he has some capital, sufficient to tide him over the inevitable period of probation. In most cases, however, he should secure—at any rate, until he is able to assume the full control himself—the services of a first-class foreman, thoroughly accustomed to market-garden work. The business details he may keep in his own hands, and should be under his direct supervision, but the horticultural details he must, for a time, leave to others. That is the only safe way for an amateur to proceed, unless he prefers to begin more gently, paying for his experience as he goes along. The latter is also sound in principle, but slow; the former is quicker, but requires more capital. A really good foreman is not easy to find. Besides possessing the necessary knowledge, he must be thoroughly honest, intelligent, and energetic, able to utilise every inch of ground, and ready to put in a second crop the moment the first is cleared off. It is seldom out of main crops that profits are made—these are generally grown to cover expenses; it is out of what may be called by-products—catch-crops and subsidiary crops of various kinds—that the successful cultivator usually reaps his reward.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 143.—MR. EDWARD BURRELL, AT CLAREMONT PALACE GARDENS.

WITH the permission of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany, I had the opportunity, at the beginning of June, of visiting the gardens at Claremont Palace, one of the loveliest places within a radius of thirty miles from London.

For more than half a century the King of the Belgians was the owner, and for nearly twenty years before the late Duke of Albany entered into possession it was unoccupied. Therefore, as may be imagined, a great deal required to be done when Mr. Edward Burrell, whose service at Claremont dates from 1882, was appointed head gardener.

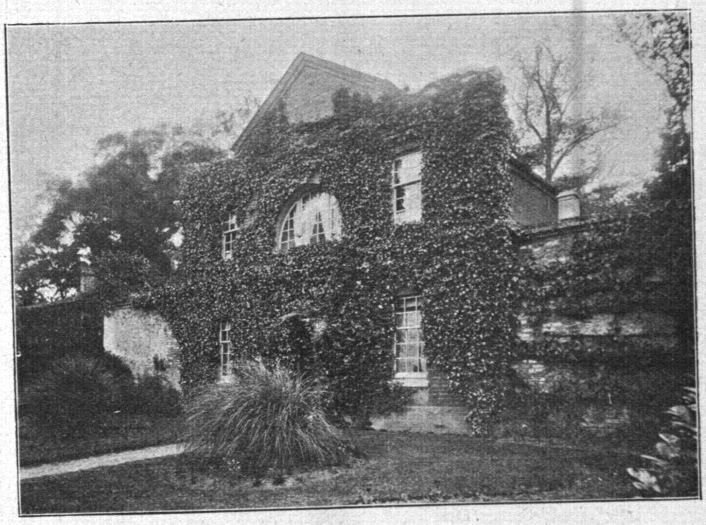
The glass has never been a feature, and the houses and pits are much the same as they were half a century ago. As, however, little forcing is done, they answer the purpose. Fruit and vegetables seem to be grown in the most admirable manner, but the great charm of the gardens at Claremont lies in the long, grassy glades, the American plants and Rhododendrons, the rare trees, shrubs, and old-fashioned flowers, in all of which the Duchess of Albany takes the keenest interest. One of the most remarkable of the trees faces Mr. Burrell's pretty house, and at once attracted my attention.

"That Pterocarya," said Mr. Burrell, in reply to my inquiries, "is much the finest in England, and, in comparison, the specimen at Kew is an infant to it. In circumference the tree is one hundred and ten yards, and this year it has a splendid show of catkins. The worst of it is that it is a gross feeder, goes into the Vine border and under the bottom of the wall into the kitchen garden, necessitating the frequent digging of trenches to keep it within bounds."

Having observed a fine Maidenhair tree, I asked the age of another extraordinary specimen close by.

"I have no idea as to the age of that tree," rejoined Mr. Burrell, "but it is a Laurus sassafras, and is extremely rare."

"What other rare trees are there here?"



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT CLAREMONT.

"There is the Kentucky Coffee tree (which is the latest to come out, and the earliest to shed its leaves), the Cucumber tree, and the North American Custard Apple, which is very rare. The latter has a dark brown flower with an objectionable scent, which I think is poisonous, as we often

find dead flies on the flowers. The Magnolia flourishes here, and the Wistaria covers the whole wall, some fifteen hundred feet square."

"Can you tell me the diameter of the plant of Aimée Vibert Rose filling the large bed?"

"Between fifteen and twenty feet. Another Rose bed is devoted to Papa Gontier. We follow the principle of one variety in each bed. Crimson Ramblers grown over an old tree-stump fill one."

As the houses adjoin the flower garden, we went into the two houses containing Peaches and Nectarines, the varieties being similar to those grown on the walls. Royal Sovereign and Leader Strawberries are forced, fruit being picked from about the middle of April. Near the houses is an intermediate house with seedling Gloxinias and Begonias, and facing this is a long stretch of Border Carnations.

"How many varieties?" I inquired.

"About two dozen, of which Countess of Paris, Diamond, Hayes Scarlet, Boadicea, Miss Audrey Campbell, and some seedlings of my own, do the best."

"What do you grow in the pits and frames?"

"Cucumbers, of which Rochford's Market is the favourite; Melons, Blenheim Orange and Ganton Orange; French Beans, and Potatoes. Also Violets in season. Here, too, are about five hundred Chrysanthemums in pots, chiefly the Japanese varieties."

"The frame Potato," continued Mr. Burrell, "is worth mentioning. It is Sutton's May Queen, and we have been digging since the 3rd of May. We only grow this variety in frames."

"Have you had it for many seasons?"

"For three. The crop is heavy, and the Potato itself is large, and of a very nice flavour. I do not know a better."

In the kitchen garden itself, which is about five acres in extent, Gooseberries, grown on the trellis system, first claimed notice.

"How long have you had that system in operation?" I inquired.

"I started it about two years after I came to Claremont. The bushes are cut as hard as we can cut them, and the success of that principle here is a practical reply to the contention that Gooseberry bushes must be extended, and not cut hard. The varieties are all old, but good, and of the dessert kind. A great advantage of the system is that the fruit is so handy to pick."

"What varieties of dessert Cherries do you grow on the walls?"

"Frogmore, Napoleon Bigarreau, Black Eagle, and Elton."

"I should like the names of a few of the plants in the effective herbaceous border which runs through the kitchen garden?"

"They include Aquilegias, Michaelmas Daisies, Phloxes, Hemerocallis, Gaillardias, Coreopsis, Campanulas, Pinks, Violas, Pyrethrums, and Delphiniums."

"You seem to go in considerably for Onions?"

"We grow about a ton. The varieties are Giant Zittau, White Spanish, and Bonne Globe."

"I see that Raspberries are also grown on the trellis system?"

"Yes, they were started about the same time as the Gooseberries. They are all Superlatives, and face the north-east wall."

"Have you had a large quantity of Polyanthas?"

"About five hundred plants of different colours, mostly the dark shade. I am sowing some seed this year."

"I suppose that the garden itself was laid out a great many years ago?"

"In 1704. From that date, I believe, the south-east wall has been always devoted to Peaches. The principal varieties are Waterloo, Hale's Early, Noblesse, Royal George, Dymond, and Barrington. The flower border at this point consists chiefly of Sweet Williams, of which the Duchess is very fond."

"The season appears to suit your Cauliflowers?"

"There has happily been no break this year between the late Broccoli and the early Cauliflowers. Peas of the latest sowing are just beginning to show. We keep them cropping as long as we can. There are not many varieties, but I think everybody should grow Carter's Daisy. It is a splendid Pea, and does not require much staking."

"Your cordon Pear wall could not look better."

"A very fine crop is, I think, assured. As you see, we have cordons on the left and old fan-trained trees on the right. Among the best of the varieties are Williams's Bon Chrétien, Doyenné du Comice, Thompson's, Beurré Alexander Lucas, Marie Louise, and Glou Morceau. There is a tree of Marie Louise with a stem nearly a foot round. The old Bergamotte, which is rarely seen on a wall, also flourishes here."

"Which do you consider the most satisfactory system of growing Pears?"

"The cordon, because you get a greater variety of fruit in a given space."

In addition to the kitchen garden there is a slip garden. The wall, one hundred and fifty yards long, is covered with Plums. Here, too, are a quantity of herbs. We have some sixteen varieties," said Mr. Burrell, "and find them useful. For instance, one cook may prefer Chervil and Basil, while another wants Chives and Tarragon. Brown Turkey Figs, dessert and cooking Apples are grown here. For once I hope to have a fine crop of Gravenstein."

"Have you many trees of Gravenstein?"

"No, only two. It is an Apple very little known, a second-early dessert variety. The fruit is of fair size, juicy, and very digestible."

Between the flower and kitchen gardens, and the Palace and pleasure grounds, which are some distance apart, is an orchard which also contains a quantity of Apple trees with fruit well set. In the pleasure grounds and close to the Palace is a fine specimen of Cedrus atlantica glaucus. The late Queen Victoria and the late Prince Consort planted three trees, a Wellingtonia, an Araucaria, and a Cupressus. Reaching the perfectly-kept sloping lawn in front of the Palace, where are more Cedars and a venerable Ash tree, the full glory of the Rhododendrons began to dawn upon me. Huge masses of Ponticums were all the more beautiful because of their differing tints. The banks of the ascent to the Observatory, clothed at an earlier period with Hyacinths and Hypericums, are very pretty, and from the top of the tower (which was erected in the time of the Duke of Newcastle, in 1714), seventy feet high, may be seen the whole of the Surrey hills. But the prospect from the Camellia house caught my fancy more than that from the Observatory tower. In the distance is the lake, and the Rhododendrons and Azaleas in flower on the afternoon of my visit were a feast for the eye.

Turning into the Camellia house, which was put up a century ago, I asked about the varieties.

"They are all old," replied Mr. Burrell, "and one is a veteran nearly a foot in diameter through the stem. The names of the varieties are alba plena, Marchioness of Exeter, Lady Hume's Blush, Donckelarii, and conspicua. We get the Camellias in flower from the end of November until the middle of May. One of the conspicua trees was brought from the garden in Corsica, the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Magnolia fuscata in this house, with dark chocolate flowers, is very remarkable for its perfume."

"How do you warm the house?"

"It is heated by the oldest boiler in England, Sylvester's Cog, which is still in excellent working order. We only just keep the frost out of the house—nothing more is necessary."

As we proceeded to the Mausoleum, put up in memory of Princess Charlotte nearly a hundred years ago, and containing her bust in the interior, I noticed a magnificent isolated specimen of a Rhododendron; and then, before we arrived at the lake, of four acres in dimension, we paused to look at the little gardens in which the young Duke of Saxe-Coburg and the Princess Alice used to amuse themselves as children.

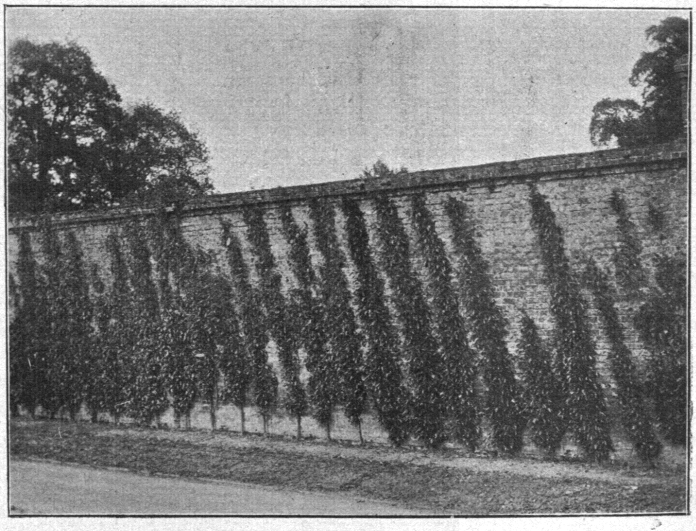
"Have the Rhododendrons and Azaleas always been such a feature?" I inquired.

"The Rhododendrons have. The pleasure grounds were formed about one hundred and fifty years ago as they now are by Lord Clive, and the Rhododendrons date from between fifty and one hundred years. The Azaleas have been planted much more recently—many in my time. In the season we have several big Daffodil colonies. There were ten thousand in one place, mostly of the Incomparabilis sections."

"You have two fine specimens of Silver Firs. Do you know their height?"

"They are upwards of a hundred feet high. I think that the Abies brachyphylla, planted by Princess Beatrice in 1883, will make a very fine specimen."

"Do the beds of Roses, and Roses on poles close to the lake and boat-house, consist of the old varieties?"



PART OF THE CORDON PEAR WALL AT CLAREMONT.

"Mainly. They thrive by the water. So do the Bamboos, especially the Metake variety. Some of the newer varieties of Bamboo flourish under an interesting tree, the Sugar Maple, from Canada. The Rhododendrons covering the banks along the waterside are generally admired."

Returning to the Palace, Mr. Burrell mentioned that in front are used for decoration Japanese Honeysuckles, Sweet Peas (in boxes), Hydrangeas, and Zonal Pelargoniums.

We had still to explore the Rosery, near the kitchen garden. It is a house of considerable size, with one tree of Reve d'Or very conspicuous.

"How long does it flower?" I asked.

"About three weeks. It is at its best the latter end of April. That tree was planted over twenty years ago, and also one of Homere. In those days climbing Roses were not so plentiful as they are now. On the shelves are some seedling Begonias."

"You have Cannas in the show-house, with the back wall covered by a Cobæa?"

"The summer bedding is almost limited to Cannas, Hydrangeas, and Fuchsias."

"What varieties of Grapes do you grow in the three Vineries?"

"In the early house, Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling; in the second, all Hamburgh; and in the third, Mrs. Pince, Gros Colmar, and Alicante."

"Lastly, will you give me a few details of your own career?"

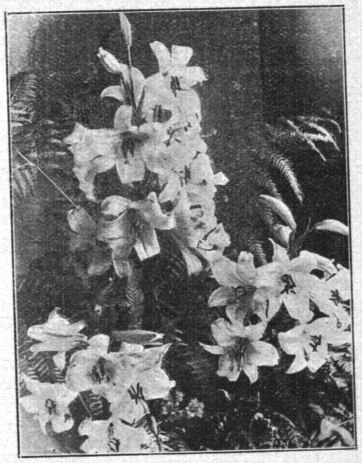
"I commenced rather over forty years ago, in the gardens of Stopham House, in Sussex, continuing my experiences at Coate's Castle, Coolhurst, and Petworth, in the same county. Two years in the plant and Orchid houses of Messrs. Veitch and Co. followed. I was then for a short time at Caldwell Hall, in Derbyshire; for four years at Castle Ashby; and after that for a couple of years in a large market place, where Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Grapes, and Melons were extensively grown. In the spring of 1882 I came to Claremont, and have spent twenty-two very happy years here." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 100.—MADONNA LILIES, HALF-HARDY CLIMBERS, AND POT ROSES.

DEAR KATE,—The Madonna Lilies are very fine just now, forming stately groups, which should be more often seen in our gardens than they are, for they only need to be left alone (except for a mulch of rich stuff in March) to do well. Unfortunately, it is one of the crazes of the jobbing gardener to dig things up, and divide them every year or so; in the case of this Lily this is disastrous, for it does nothing for at least a year after replanting, and likes to be left severely alone for about ten years, after which the clump of bulbs will be so close together that they should be divided, putting in five or six together, however. Another difficulty which afflicts this, the loveliest of our hardy Lilies, is the fungoid disease which in some parts of the country attacks its roots, and, being highly infectious, soon ruins a whole group of bulbs. Where this is present, it is better to burn the plants, every scrap of them, and to get fresh bulbs from a pure source, planting these in a different part of the garden, with special precautions. This horrid disease was probably set up, in the first place, by the plan of forcing these hardy things for early work, which they specially hate, and the bulbs, weakened and made sickly by being forced to bloom when they didn't want to, soon fall a prey to any horrid little microbe that comes along. Another cause of disease in Lily bulbs is the fact that the bulbs sent from abroad are generally deprived of their thick, fleshy roots, a barbarous practice, which weakens them seriously, especially in the case of the Madonna Lily (L. candidum), which has no fibrous roots springing from its stem as some others have. These wrongly-treated bulbs may recover in a few years, however, if carefully planted. You should choose a well-drained, raised border, or, failing that, make a hole two feet deep, and drain six inches of it with broken crocks, then cover these with ashes, and lay on the top of them lumps of dried turves or peat, quite in the rough, roots upwards. Over these turves you should place a little fine soil (good loam, with sand and crushed charcoal), and in this you may plant your bulbs, covering them with two inches of soil above the bulbs. But Madonna Lilies always have green growths on them, for they form leaves directly after flowering; they should be transplanted, therefore, in July, as soon as the flowering stem (which must not be cut down until it has become brown) has ripened. Light, sandy or gravel soil suits Liliums much better than a heavy clay. If your soil is heavy, you must add plenty of gravel and burnt material (prunings of shrubs or any garden rubbish) to the soil for Lilies, and be sure to have plenty of drainage. If you have had diseased bulbs in the garden, it will be best to dust the new ones with powdered sulphur before planting them.

The fine flowers of the Crown Imperials are usually reckoned amongst our garden Lilies, although they are Fritillarias (Fritillaria imperialis); they bloom in April, their red and yellow bell-shaped flowers making a fine show at that time. They only need good garden loam to do well, and no Lilies should have fresh manure added to the soil in planting them, though they all like a mulch of old hotbed stuff, mixed with



LILIUM CANDIDUM AND BRAKE FERNS.

soot, above their roots in spring. The other Fritillarias, I am sorry to say, I don't like. They have flowers so hideously like a snake's head, in dull colours, marbled exactly like the skin of the special enemy of women, that they look horribly uncanny to me, and I won't have them in my garden. I suppose we ought to admire all the flowers, but one must be allowed a few cranks in this direction, and we all have our favourites, as well as our special aversions—so Fritillaria meleagris is mine.

This is a good time to sow biennial half-hardy climbers, such as Lophospermum scandens (with handsome pink trumpet-shaped flowers), Maurandya Barclayana and alba (purple and white flowers like a Snapdragon in shape, with delicate trails of foliage), Eccremocarpus scaber (a small fire-coloured Bignonia which climbs all over the pergola here, but, perhaps, is not hardy enough for the open air in winter in colder districts), Cobæa scandens (with bell-shaped blossoms, in dull purple, a very rapid climber), Tropæolum Lobbi, and some of the more delicate Ipomæas. The seeds of these plants can, of course, be put in during the early spring, but the plants thus raised do not make much growth after planting them out in the garden, until the frost comes and cuts them off, which is disappointing; so we find it the best way to sow them without fire heat, in the Vinery, now, and pot up as many of the seedlings as we want before the winter sets in, keeping them free from frost, but as cool as possible, until the spring, when they have a shift in February or March, and then start into growth, which is covered with buds when we plant them out at the end of May; and they are very useful for the sides of window-boxes, for sunny walls, and for climbing (in the case of the Cobæa and Eccremocarpus) all over the arches, etc. Of course, they can also be grown under glass very well; in fact, they are usually treated as greenhouse climbers, and they do well in a cool porch, or conservatory, where their lives are longer than in the garden, for the winter usually kills them, unless you pot up their roots in autumn, and replant them in May. When grown under glass, they need to be pruned back rather severely in spring, top-dressing them at the same time with rich soil, if in a border, when they will make clean, strong growths. They can be grown in well-drained boxes of rich soil, and can then be either top-dressed, or (if the box be small) replanted, but they should then have a little fire-heat to start them into growth. In pots they do not make much headway, needing more room; in your balcony-boxes they would be charming, climbing in and out of the ironwork, and draping it so prettily, for they will climb up, or hang down, as they are trained.

The pot Roses are now over, and as they go out of bloom they are placed in the open air, in a position where they get the sunshine of the morning hours, but are not too much burned up by the hot afternoon sun. They are now repotted, too, only removing a little of the soil, and giving them each a shift into a pot two inches broader at the top than the last, with good, strong, turfy loam, a little leaf-mould, soot, and Clay's fertiliser or bonemeal, but no fresh stable manure, as the roots of Roses object to any impurity, and are apt to become cankered if placed in such material. They should have wire crocks below their drainage, to prevent worms from getting in and destroying their roots, and the soil should be made very firm. After you have repotted your Roses, place them in the shade of a north wall for a few days, until they have got over the shock; they must not be allowed to droop, nor yet be soaked with water whilst already wet, but you should syringe them every evening, when the weather is dry, so as to refresh their foliage, and prevent green-fly from attacking them. Some growers do not repot their Roses until January, just before they start them into growth; but in this case no soil must be shaken off the roots, and the ball of these must be kept intact, or the result will be weak growths and poor blossoms. If you try the late-potting plan, you must only remove the drainage, and the inch of surface soil, and surround the ball of roots (in a clean pot, well drained) with the compost mentioned above, packed firmly round them in the larger pot. In either way you may succeed, if you carry out the operation carefully.

Your friend,

I.L.R.

Two printer's errors crept into the interview with Mr. H. R. Saunders, of Rendcomb Park, recently. In reference to the Oaks, Mr. Saunders said the soil is too "stony," not too "strong"; and with reference to the Strawberries he said we get as good "flavour" out of doors, not "flowers."

with seedlings. Migration in this manner is a comparatively slow process. In the Botanic Garden at Singapore there is a specimen of another tree with winged seeds, Shorea leprosula, and though it is a hundred feet in height, and in an open situation, its seeds are never found at a greater distance than a hundred yards, and seldom more than fifty. Mr. Ridley, who made this observation, calculated that, under the most favourable circumstances, the species would only migrate three hundred yards in a hundred years. Plants with plumed seeds extend much more rapidly, but even they are checked by belts of forest. But those that rely on birds for the dissemination of their seeds are in the best position of all, for there are few obstacles which can stop their progress.

A Garden of Spices.

July 25th.—Most enthusiastic gardeners are perpetually on the alert for some good idea to carry out in their grounds. Here is one which I have just come across in the pages of "Flora." "One of the loveliest garden fancies I have met was what its author called a Garden of Spices, in which every plant was grown for its perfume, massed in great clusters, among which the bees held carnival—clusters the odour of which often greeted one at a distance of yards. The sweetest plants, both in flower and leaf, from the whole temperate world, were gathered into a small area. Clusters of sweet Roses, Jasmine, Honeysuckle, or Lemon Verbena, stretched forward each from its own place, while bunches of blue Wistaria, fragrant Bignonia, and other less-known climbers, swung down in profusion from overhead. The whole was so beautifully graded that one passed by unseen stages from tender exotics, through a long array of plants becoming increasingly hardy, until one wandered out at last among fragrant Pines and Myrtles, with a natural carpet of Wild Thyme, Rosemary, Lavender, and native herbs, with nothing foreign intermixed but seemed as much at home as the wildest of them. True, the spot was in itself unique—a long strip of undulating shore overhanging the Mediterranean, in a climate famed for its perfumes; but the idea might be adapted nearer home with plants that enjoy our clime, and any scheme which gets us away from the stereotyped garden and wearisome monotony of the ordinary bedding and shrubbery is worth attempting." The name, a Garden of Spices, is perhaps rather too suggestive of the herb garden of old English days, but the idea is charming. If it were well carried out, such a garden would, indeed, be an ideal place in summer.

Rock Gardening.

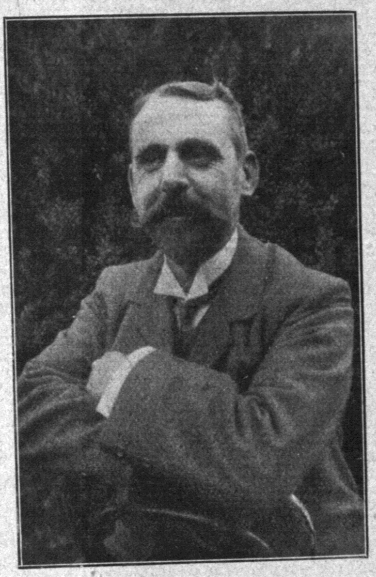
In a recently-published book on "Rock and Alpine Gardening," I find the following passage, which will explain many failures in rock gardening: "If we were to examine the roots of most of the plants flourishing in the rocky uplands, we should find that they have not much soil in which to grow, but that they are so firmly embedded between the stones that they keep striking deeper and deeper, sometimes to the depth of several feet, which has, over and over again, been proved by removing the debris from them. One would think that plants with such remarkable root action would inevitably give a larger amount of surface growth, seeing that most of the plants under our consideration only grow two or three inches above the ground at most. Of course, it is their nature not to be tall. Climatic conditions account for this, the plants not being allowed a long growing period; they have, in fact, only a few hours given them during the day for two or three months of the year in which to grow and bloom, and are, in most instances, frozen up every night all the year round. It will be seen, then, that the roots penetrating such a distance down is one of the chief reasons why they are able to withstand the rays of a scorching sun or a dying wind; their roots are out of harm's way, being always kept moist, and the drainage is so perfect that there is not the least fear of their perishing through the accumulation of too much water." If, then, a rockery is to be a success, these are the conditions which are essential. The roots must be able to penetrate deep, and the drainage must be perfect. Shallow pockets, from which the roots cannot escape, and in which the water accumulates, are death-traps to these Alpine plants. Many, of course, have their special requirements; but these things are common to all.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 265.—Mr. George Burrows, at the Gardens, Shendish, Hemel Hempstead.

Among the most notable and charming gardens in Hertfordshire, those at Shendish are entitled to a first place. Shendish was built, between sixty and seventy years ago, by the late Mr. Charles Longman, father of the present owner. The estate covers between fifteen and sixteen hundred acres, the greater part of it being farmed by Mr. A. H. Longman, who for many years was a famous breeder of pedigree Shorthorns and master of the old Berkeley Hunt. The gardens are about thirty acres in extent, and Mr. Longman, who is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, naturally takes the utmost interest in them. Mrs. Longman is herself a practical authority on gardening, and, when I visited Shendish on the 6th of July, Mr. George Burrows, the head gardener, spoke in the warmest terms of the kindly help and encouragement afforded to him by his employers. He enjoys the advantage of residing in a charming house in the fine Elm avenue, and his own garden, with its pretty summer-house and flower beds, designed by Mrs. Burrows, is admirably kept. Proceeding along the Elm avenue, we came first of all to an old Rose garden, made half a century ago, and still practically unaltered, containing twenty-four beds filled with Hybrid Perpetuals and some of the stronger Teas. Surrounding it are some nice shrubs, including a good specimen of Garrya elliptica. At the extreme west end of the pleasure gardens is a Sweet Brier hedge, in which every variety of the section is represented. But at this point we turned aside, in order to inspect The Dell, which Mr. Burrows only remodelled last winter.



Mr. George Burrows.

The Dell.

"It was originally," he said, "a disused chalk pit, and I thought that the natural beauty of the spot might be made even more attractive by a judicious arrangement of walks and banks, and when my ideas are completed it will be an ideal spot for a summer retreat. As you see, there is an octagon summer-house, with a look-out on to it, and the view from it is charming. Mr. Longman has kindly given me permission to use this dell for an *al fresco* concert on behalf of the Hemel Hempstead Horticultural Society on August 14th, when I hope to illuminate the various banks with fairy lights. We have many hundreds of Ferns here, and I planted last winter fourteen thousand Primroses. I hope in the future to introduce many of the rougher kinds of herbaceous plants. The banks right and left of the serpentine grass walks are planted with Berberis, and I am utilising the space at the top of the banks for Cactus Dahlias and ornamental gourds. Of Dahlias, by the way, we grow Pink Pearl, Sweetheart, Mermaid, Reballe, Princess, Sweet Nell, Perle de la Tete d'Or, Eva, Nelson, Lancaster, Mont Blanc, Miss Grace Ash, and W. Seagrave."

"I think that the position is an ideal one for a rockery."

"Yes, I agree with you. But, meanwhile, we have above a number of what I may call rock beds—that is to say, the plants are growing on Derbyshire stone."

"What varieties do you use for this purpose?"

"The larger quantities include five hundred each of Alyssum saxatile, Aubrietias (græca, purpurea and Leichtlini), and double white Arabis; and one hundred Heuchera sanguinea. These are used for massing, and we have also many plants of Saxifrages in variety, Primula denticulata, Ramondias, Lithospermums, Trollius, Campanulas, Phlox divaricata, P. Nelsoni, P. amœna, P. lilacina, Sedums in variety, Gentiana acaulis, G. asclepiadea, Veronicas, Alliums, Epimediums, Androsace, Ajuga reptans, Polygonum Brunoni, Achillea tomentosa, Hutchinsia, Silenes, Sempervivums, Arenarias, Waldsteinias, Cheiranthus, Ericas, and other plants of great interest and beauty."

Eighty Flower Beds.

"These beds," continued Mr. Burrows, "and all the beds in the rough garden, of which the rock beds form a part, were made and planted since last year—many since Christmas."

"You have a large number of fine beds and combinations?"

"About eighty. The principle is to have a succession of flowers from spring until October. Everything is raised from seed or from cuttings."

"Can you tell me how the whole of the beds in the rough garden are made up?"

"Some of them contain a single variety, and others a combination. There is one bed of Erigeron speciosum, and one each of Heuchera brizoides, Sweet William, Bocconia, Chelone barbata, Helianthus rigidus, early-flowering Kniphofia Tuckii, Lobelia cardinalis, Nicotiana

affinis, and Pæonies. Of combinations there is a bed of Helenium pumilum and Tropæolum; a bed of Phlox Etna, with a groundwork of Dianthus laciniata; a bed of Phygelius and dark Violas; a bed of Scilla siberica, Sweet Williams and Hyacinthus candicans; and a bed of Roses Cramoisie Superieure, and dark blue Violas. There are two beds of Clematis of sorts, with a groundwork of Tropæolum; four of Delphiniums and white Violas; two of hardy Azaleas, Darwin Tulips, Lilium melpomene, and Montbretias; two of Pyrethrums and Pentstemons; two of Lilacs and Heuchera sanguinea, with Van Thol Tulips; and two of Sweet Peas, Nepetu, and Geranium Andrewsii. The others are three beds containing only Chrysanthemum maximum; two of Pentstemons only; two of Lavender; two of Roses; two of Himalayan Roses; and two of Lupins. The intention is to have the whole length of the west end made into flower beds."

The System with Sweet Peas.

"Your Sweet Peas are so exceptionally good that I should like to know more about them."

"We sow the earliest batch in November in 3-in. pots. They are kept in frames, afterwards potted on until they get into 8-in. pots, in which they flower. We then use what we require for the conservatory, and plant out the remainder, so that we get them in flower in the open by the middle of May. More are sown in the spring, to flower later on."

"Which varieties do you specially recommend?"

"King Edward VII., Lady Nina Balfour, Picotee edge, Duke of York, Princess May, Prima Donna, Mrs. J. Chamberlain, Countess of Powis, Countess of Paris, Venus, Countess of Cadogan, Black Knight, Princess Beatrice, Dorothy Tennant, Sadie Burpee, Countess of Radnor, Scarlet Gem, Butterfly, Duchess of Westminster, Henry Eckford, Miss Willmott, and Mrs. W. Wright. But we have many others. We generally plant a clump of one variety, using three pots for a clump, and six seeds in a pot."

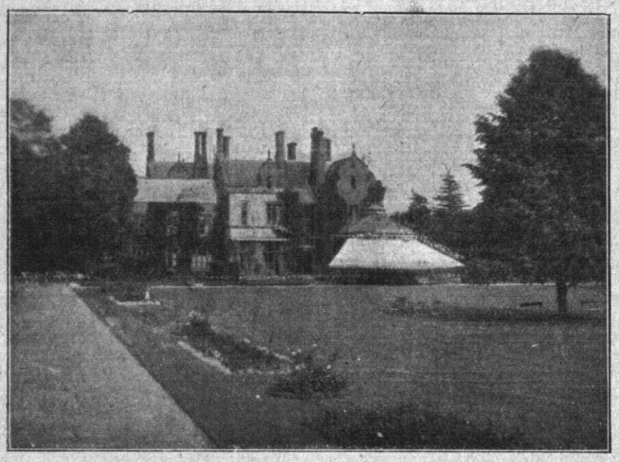
In a corner of the rough garden is a little pond, with a peninsula projecting into it, which is planted with Bamboos, Kniphofia, Eremurus, and Sweet Brier Roses, while along the sides of the water are six Gunneras, Iris germanica, and Funkias.

"In the spring," said Mr. Burrows, "the grass was a mass of Daffodils. I planted five barrow-loads. The varieties which do best here are Emperor, Golden Spur, Empress, Grandis, Horsfieldii, Victoria, Cynosure, Princess Mary, Sir Watkin, Barrii conspicuus, Campernelle, Jonquils, and ornatus."

Passing some Roses grown on stones and stumps of trees, including Maharajah, one of the newest varieties, and a striking collection of Rhododendrons, we made our way on to the glorious croquet lawn, which is two acres in extent. This is exclusive of the other lawns.

"You must devote a great deal of attention to this lawn, to keep it in such splendid order?"

"Yes, during the winter we gave it, in the earlier part, three hundredweight of muriate of potash, three hundredweight of bonemeal, and one ton of sifted wood ashes. Subsequently, this year, we put on five hundredweight of soot, one ton of slaked lime, two tons of wood ashes, and twelve hundredweight of basic slag. In April the lawn has a good hard raking, and we continue rolling every week until the surface gets hard. All weeds are taken out by hand, and spaces are filled in with silver sand. Shendish has a noted croquet club, and the members meet here every Monday during the season. While we are speaking of the croquet lawn, I may mention that the fine specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea was produced from seed taken from the famous tree at the Crystal Palace, now destroyed."



Shendish Park, West Front.

"I notice that in the handsome conservatory Schizanthus occupies a prominent place."

"We grow four batches of sixty pots, which are sown in September for early spring flowering, and in February, April, and June for succession. They are flowered in 6-in., 7-in., and 8-in. pots. The centre just now contains chiefly Pelargoniums of ten varieties, intermixed with Ferns and Grasses. Of course, the contents of the conservatory change according to the season."

"Can you tell me what plants you use for conservatory decoration?"

"Yes, according to their order, we use 100 Cineraria stellata; 100 Primulas; 60 Calceolarias, usually two feet through; 100 Pelargoniums, often more than two feet through: 100 tuberous Begonias, named sorts; 100 Fuchsias, Mrs. Marshall and Charming; 100 Gloxinias; 150 Zonal Pelargoniums, best named sorts; 100 Petunias; 100 Salvia splendens; 50 Tropæolum Lobbianum; 50 fancy Coleus, of sorts; 25 Streptosolen Jamesonii; 100 pots of Lachenalias; 50 pots of Gesneras; 50 pots of Achimenes; 150 Poinsettias; 25 Eulalia japonicas; 20 Genistas; 25 Swainsonia alba; 10 Arum Lilies; 50 Carex variegata; 30 Coleus thyrsoides; 50 Asparagus Sprengerii; 50 Libonias; 150 Begonias, Gloire de Lorraine; 50 Eupatoriums; 50 Marguerites; 100 Campanula pyramidalis; 50 Linum tigrinum; 20 Imantophyllums; 50 Cyperus alternifolia; 20 Hibiscus Cooperii; and last, but not least, 350 Chrysanthemums, chiefly Japanese singles and for cutting."

"Which varieties of Chrysanthemums do you specially recommend?"

"For August and September, Horace Martin, Goacher's Crimson, Market White, Ryecroft Glory, Sœur Melaine, Madame Desgrange, George Wermig, Comtesse and Foucher Carel. For October and November, The Lion, Pride of Madford, W. R. Church, F. W. Vallis, Godfrey's King, Madame Paola Radaelli, Edith Smith, George Carpenter, George Penford, George Lawrence, Lady Hopetoun, G. Davis, Hooper Pearson, Sunstone, and Guy Hamilton. The best singles include Ladysmith, Edith Pagram, Annie Farina, Earlswood Beauty, Jessie Dean, Elsie Neville, G. W. Forbes, Star of Honour, A. Holden, Kate Williams, Rosalind, Mary Anderson, and Eureka. Of late varieties I prefer Niveus, W. H. Lincoln, Princess Victoria, White Thompsoni, Yellow Thompsoni, Latest of All, and Filkins for table decoration.

"Speaking of table decorations," continued Mr. Burrows, "we make up a great many button-holes. Perhaps it might interest you to know the flowers we use?"

"I shall be very pleased to have the names."

"Euphorbia jacquinæflora, Manettia bicolor, Strobilanthus Dyeriana, Tabina montana, Gardenias, Orchids, Dendrobiums of sorts, Epidendrums, Odontoglossums, Cœlogyne cristata, Stephanotis, Browallia speciosa, Ixora Fraserii, Bouvardia (especially scarlet), Pæonies, Hoya carnosa, Sparmannia africana, Salvia Henryi, Roses in bud, Carnations (Tree, Border, and Malmaison), Violets (Marie Louise and Princess of Wales), and small interesting rock flowers."

The Formal Bedding.

Just outside the conservatory, and west of the mansion, is the Dutch garden, which contains upwards of four thousand plants, made up of Coleus, Lobelia, and Pelargoniums (chiefly those with variegated leaves, and the scarlet-flowering varieties), the whole, when planted, representing a carpet. It is very effective in the spring, with Wallflowers, scarlet Tulips, white and blue Hyacinths, with Myosotis, Aubrietias, and double Arabis for groundwork.

"This," said Mr. Burrows, "we call Mr. Longman's garden, while the twenty beds on the other side of the conservatory, and facing Mrs. Longman's rooms, are planted as follows:—The centre bed, which is a round one, contains in the middle a plant of Solanum laciniatum, surrounded with the red-leaved Ricinus, Zea japonica variegata, Tropæolum Lobbiana, Nicotiana affinis, Salvia patens, the bed being edged with Dactylis glomerata. The two diamond beds have in the centre plants of Ivy-leaved Geranium Madame Crousse, filled up with Souvenir de Charles Turner, dotted with standard Heliotropes and Zea japonica. Four of the round beds contain Geranium Henry Jacoby, edged with Lobelias, and the centre planted with Fuchsia Mrs. Marshall; two other round beds are filled with Geranium Vesuvius, edged with Lobelias, and dotted with Grevillea robusta; and the remaining two consist of the double scarlet Geranium Raspail, edged with Lobelias."

"Then there are the horseshoe beds."

"Two of these have in the centre scarlet tuberous Begonias, with a groundwork of white Violas, edged with yellow Violas, and dotted with standard Heliotropes and Grevillea robusta. The centre horseshoe bed contains mixed Verbenas, edged with Centaurea candidissima, dotted with standard Heliotropes and Swainsonia alba. In the two large oval beds there are cream and rose-flowered Stocks, and golden-leaf Pelargoniums Palace Gem, edged with Pyrethrum, and dotted with standard Heliotropes and Swainsonia. The two other oval beds consist of standard and dwarf dark Heliotropes, and double, pink-flowered, silver-leaved Pelargoniums

Mrs. Parker, edged with Cerastium tomentosum. The two small round beds are filled with Verbena Miss Willmott, edged with Dactylis glomerata, and dotted with Agave americana."

The Rose Beds.

"Now we come to the Rose beds."

"These were made last Christmas twelve months. Each of the large beds contains fifty-six plants of one individual variety. The varieties used are La France, Gruss an Teplitz (which in my opinion has yet to be beaten for massing), Caroline Testout (a good companion to La France), and Madame Abel Chatenay, an ideal Rose for cutting purposes. Another bed contains young plants of Marquis of Salisbury. This bed previously was filled with Mrs. W. Byass, but it proved to be such a poor companion to Gruss an Teplitz that we have now discarded it."

"What are the varieties in the round beds?"

"They are half-standards and dwarfs, the varieties being Frau Karl Druschki, which grows to an enormous size, and is the best and purest of whites, although very liable to mildew; Antoine Rivoire, a Rose I always recommend for its graceful beauty, and form, and scent; Viscountess Folkestone, another charming variety; and Madame Hoste, also one of the very best for any purpose."

"Do you grow many climbing varieties?"

"Yes, you will see them on the pergola in the kitchen garden. Both yellow Banksian and the white variety have flowered this season; Crimson Rambler, which is literally smothered with blossom; Carmine Pillar, The Garland, Dorothy Perkins, Longworth Rambler, Waltham Climber, and Psyche. Other climbing Roses in the gardens are Fortune's Yellow, which made a lovely picture in May and June; Rosa macrantha, which was brought here from Mentone; Madame Bérard, Climbing Pet, Pink Rover, Gardenia, Lady Gay, Maharajah, and Aglaia.

"Roses elsewhere in the gardens," continued Mr. Burrows, "are Victor Hugo, Liberty, Countess Roberts, Bridesmaid, The Bride, Reynolds Hole, Ulrich Brunner, L'Ideal, Rene Andre, Bardou Job, Madame Alfred Carriére, Maman Cochet, Marie Finger, Jersey Beauty, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, Blairii No. 2, Madame Bravy, as well as numerous beds of China and Polyantha Roses, which are a constant joy from early June to well into November. I hope to include in the wild garden in the future, Philadelphia Rambler, Madame Isaac Periere, Liberty, Billiard et Barre, The Lion, Madame George Bruant, Soleil d'Or, Old Tuscany, York and Lancaster, Sancta, Damascena, Cabbage, Burgundian, Una, Arvensis, Irish Glory, Grace Molyneaux, Paul Lede, and Duc Adolph de Luxemburg. All these are lovely varieties for such a spot, and well adapted for isolated treatment."

A Fine Border.

At the end of the Rose beds is the "Temple of the Wind," and facing the former, under the south wall, is a remarkably fine border, its effectiveness being enhanced by the spacious gravel walks, which are fourteen feet wide, while the whole of the walks are two miles in extent. The climbers on the wall are Ampelopsis quinquefolia, Pyrus japonica, Rose Fortune's Yellow, Jasminum nudiflorum, Escallonias, Honeysuckles, Chimonanthus fragrans, Berberis nepalensis, Pomegranates, Euonymus radicans variegata, Magnolias, Choisya ternata, Kerria japonica, Hedera helix arboreanus, H. h. digitalis, H. h. canariensis, and H. h. Rægneriana.

"How many annuals and biennials," I asked, "are planted in front of the border?"

"Between three and four thousand. The varieties include Stocks, Asters, Coreopsis in variety, Gaillardias, Zinnias, Sweet Sultans, Scabious, Petunias, Nemesias, Pentstemons, Antirrhinums, Phlox Drummondii, Heliotropes, Tropæolums, Nicotianas, Centaureas, Chrysanthemums, Agathæas, Pansies, and Violas. At the back are many choice Irises, Spanish, Japanese, English, and German."

"And the herbaceous varieties?"

"They include Anchusa italica, Delphiniums, Phlox Coquelicot, P. William Robinson, P. Captain Whiteman, Camassia esculenta, C. Fraseri, Aquilegia cœrulea, Acanthus latifolia, Mallows, Geranium tuberosa, Pæony, Pyrethrums, Daphnes, Ajuga, Incarvillea, Verbascums, Hepaticas, Achillea, Campanulas, Eryngiums, Erigerons, Lupins, Montbretias, Bergamot, and Anemone japonica. We also plant the front each autumn with two thousand bulbs, which is carpeted with Myosotis alpestris, Aubrietias, and double white Arabis."

"You must use, altogether, a vast number of bedding plants?"

"This year we have bedded 1,000 Antirrhinums, 500 Asters, 1,000 Coleus, 3,000 Pelargoniums, 250 Calceolarias, 500 Dianthus, 200 Delphiniums, 1,000 Pyrethrums, 1,000 Violas, 1,500 Lobelias, 300 Heliotrope, 150 Cineraria maritima, 50 Cannas, 200 Begonias, 100 Beet, 50 Hollyhocks, 200 Nicotiana, 300 Nemesia, 500

The Gardener's House at Shendish Park.

Phlox Drummondii, 400 Pentstemons, 500 Scabious, 300 Sweet Sultans, 400 Stocks, 200 Coreopsis, 200 Verbenas, 150 Gaillardias, 1,000 Pansies, 200 Tropæolums, 50 Zea japonica variegata, 50 Ricinus, 30 Swainsonias, 50 Plumbago capensis, 100 Petunias, 250 Zinnias, 50 Fuchsias, 50 Gladioli, 100 Lobelia cardinalis, 150 Centaureas, 200 Cornflowers, 150 Chrysanthemums, 150 Cheloné barbata, 50 Chamæpeuce, 300 Agera tum, 500 Sweet Williams, etc. We also planted in the winter, 6,000 Wallflowers, 2,000 Myosotis, 1,000 Aubrietia, 1,000 Polyanthus, 500 Daisies, 4,000 Tulips, and 2,000 Hyacinths, as well as the five barrow-loads of Daffodils and 14,000 Primroses I mentioned just now."

The Houses.

The kitchen gardens run parallel with the pleasure grounds, and after noticing at the entrance to the mansion Daturas and Agapanthus in the tubs, as well as a number of fine trees and Conifers, we went into the greenhouse, from which the conservatory is fed. Here were Malmaisons, and Mr. Burrows said:—"We grow Iolanthe, Calypso, Nautilus, Lady Rose, Princess of Wales, Lady Ulrica, Margot, Mrs. Martin Smith, Lord Welby, Nora, and Madame de Satge. In the same house as the Carnations are Azalea mollis, of which the best to grow are Hugo Koster, Aida, Apollos, Vergile, Fanny, Meteor, Unique, Antony Koster, Betsy de Bruin, and J. C. van Thol. With regard to other houses, we only grow the useful varieties of Orchids, several of which I have mentioned; in the stove are a number of Acalypha hispida, Dracænas in variety, Pandanus Veitchii, Caladiums, and a nice collection of Crotons, the roof being covered with Gloriosa superba, and Allamandas at the back."

"You go in considerably for Melons."

"Yes, the varieties are Superlative, Invicta, Royal George, Latest of All, Eastnor Castle, Windsor Castle, Cantaloupe, and one of my own raising. The last is a cross between Blenheim Orange and Buscott Park Hero. The features of it are that it carries the flavour of Blenheim Orange, and only takes between eight and nine weeks to grow, instead of the twelve or thirteen required by some varieties. Of Tomatoes we grow Winter Beauty, The Cropper, Up-to-Date, Abundance, and Red Currant; and of Cucumbers, Rochford's Improved and Lockie's Perfection."

"What about Peaches?"

"All the Peaches are grown out of doors, and we have only two Vineries—very good of their kind, but rather old."

"Yes, the glass department strikes me as rather small, considering the extraordinary quantity of plants you have to supply for conservatory work and bedding outside. How many varieties of Grapes do you grow in the Vineries?"

"Six, Black Hamburgh, Muscat of Alexandria, Muscat Hamburgh, Alicante, Buckland's Sweetwater, and Shendish Seedling. Most of the Vines are upwards of fifty years old, but, by careful treatment, I hope to get much superior fruit from them yet. At present we have about two hundred and sixty bunches, and the flavour this year is considered superior to what it has been for fifteen years. Unfortunately, we have to use the Vineries all the year round for plant culture, which makes it impossible to do as we would wish for the welfare of the Vines. For instance, Strawberries are forced in them; and there are also Tomatoes, Ferns, and bedding Geraniums, while the back wall is utilised for growing Smilax for table decoration."

"I notice you have a large bed of Christmas Roses."

"We have two very good varieties, each with long stems; if the weather is open, they begin flowering before Christmas, and continue until the end of February. Near the pergola, with its rockery and pond, is a fine Yew hedge, bordered with many herbaceous plants, the inner circle being filled with Border Carnations. To the left, and at the east end of the garden, is another fine Yew hedge, twenty feet high, and, at the foot of it, a border of golden Calceolarias."

Hardy Fruits.

"How about fruit outside?"

"Strawberries are our weakest this season. The plants were laden with fruit, but the constant cold weather, and the cold, retentive nature of the soil, hindered the fruit from swelling, and consequently damping and rot have been the result. Raspberries, Gooseberries, and Currants are a heavy crop, also Cherries, Pears, Apples, Peaches, and Plums. The best of the Pears are Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Superfin, Marie Louise, Jargonelle, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Beurré d'Aremberg, Pitmaston Duchess, Uvedale's St. Germain, Beurré Diel, Beurré Bosc, Beurré Easter, and Winter Nelis. The best Plums include Transparent Gage, Coe's Golden Drop, Czar, Greengage, Jefferson's, McLaughlin, The Sultan, Reine Claud de Bavay, Magnum Bonum, Victoria, Late Gage, Purple Gage, Monarch, Late Rivers, Comte de Athens, and Culvert's Gage."

"Which Apples do you recommend?"

"Cox's Orange Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, King of the Pippins, Mannington's Pearmain,

Beauty of Bath, Blenheim Orange, Scarlet Pearmain, Cellini Pippin, Mère de Menage, Lane's Prince Albert, Keswick Codlin, Northern Greening, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lord Burghley, and Court Pendu Plat."

"Do you grow many Peaches on the walls?"

"Less than a dozen varieties, namely: Walburton Admirable, Royal George, Noblesse, Early Rivers, Late Admiral, Barrington, Bellegarde, Louise, Grosse Mignonne, Lady Alexander and Violet Hative. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Early Rivers, Pineapple, Dryden, and Elruge."

"Would you like to mention any special vegetables?"

"Potatoes, the rougher kind, are grown on an outside piece of land. We cut Asparagus before Easter, and have just finished. About fifteen hundred head of Celery are grown, about one thousand Cauliflowers, and the same number of Broccoli. The varieties of Peas are Earliest of All, William I., Gradus, Daisy, Stratagem, Duke of Albany, and Ne Plus Ultra. We grow Giant Rocca Onions for autumn sowing, and Ailsa Craig and James's Keeping for spring. Lettuces are grown all the year round, and the salads include fifteen hundred Endive."

Then, having looked into the comfortable bothy, and the new potting room, we strolled towards the little model village, which has recently been planned and laid out under the auspices of Mr. Burrows. It forms an object-lesson for the locality. The houses, built on park land and old allotments, vary in style, and are of a very up-to-date appearance, being, in fact, quite handsome modern villas. Twelve poles of garden are attached to each, and the inside accommodation is excellent. The occupants are men working on the estate, or pensioners, and the rent charged is only half a crown a week. Finally, I inquired of Mr. Burrows where he started his career.

"I served in the gardens at Shipley Hall, Derbyshire, for nearly four years, and at Clumber for the same period. I then went in succession to Thoresby Gardens, where I had a good insight into fruit cultivation; to Otterspool Gardens, Liverpool, where I had a good deal to do with Orchids; to Fetcham Park, Leatherhead, where Chrysanthemums are always a success; to Nash Court, Faversham, famous for its magnificent conservatories and Ferneries; and to Canford Manor, Wimborne, where I was floral decorator, fulfilling the same duties at Wimborne House, Piccadilly. I was then head gardener at Berwick House, Shrewsbury, where I was successful as an exhibitor, winning many prizes and three silver medals. On the death of my employer, I became gardener and bailiff at The Dell, Birmingham, where I remodelled the gardens. At the end of five years I accepted a similar post at Avon Castle, Ringwood, where I entirely made the gardens. Two years ago I came to Shendish as head gardener. I have a genuine interest in horticulture, and my work is my greatest pleasure. When I was in the Midlands, I often lectured on Carnations, Orchids, kitchen and flower gardening, and I acted as judge at many of the leading horticultural shows, particularly at Bournville. I am now honorary secretary to the Hemel Hempstead Horticultural Society. There is an old saying that a sitting hen never gets fat, and I advise young gardeners never to remain in one place too long. Every garden has different subjects, and every gardener different modes of culture. The man has yet to be born who knows everything respecting horticulture; indeed, the older one grows, the less one seems to know, so extensive are the details." ALFRED WILCOX.

COLEUS CORDELIA is a very vigorous variety, with large, wrinkled leaves, of which the groundwork is red, with a shading of orange, but as the leaves become aged they assume more of a yellow hue.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 260.—BOG TUBS, AND FREESIAS

DEAR KATE,—At this time of year, bog tubs and water-gardening have decidedly the pull over the rest of the garden, especially during a spell of hot weather. The Water Lilies growing in tubs (of which I wrote to you on April 20th) are in full bloom, each tub containing lovely flowers in pink, white, crimson or yellow; and the Japanese Irises (Kæmpferi) are in bloom, making a grand show with their great flat blossoms in white and gold, or in various shades of purple.

Then other tubs contain masses of scarlet Lobelia (fulgens), or of the brilliant pink herbaceous Spiræas, palmata and venusta, which grow to the height of a yard or more, each spike being crowned with fluffy bloom in metallic-pink, quite a different tint from that of the shrubby Spiræas (bumalda, Antony Waterer, etc.), which are not nearly so bright or effective. All the Spiræas revel in a bog-tub, especially those of the herbaceous varieties. They generally look sick and miserable in the dry border, but with their feet in water they are quite at home, and happy.

A PICTURESQUE APPROACH TO A BOG GARDEN.

Canna Indica.

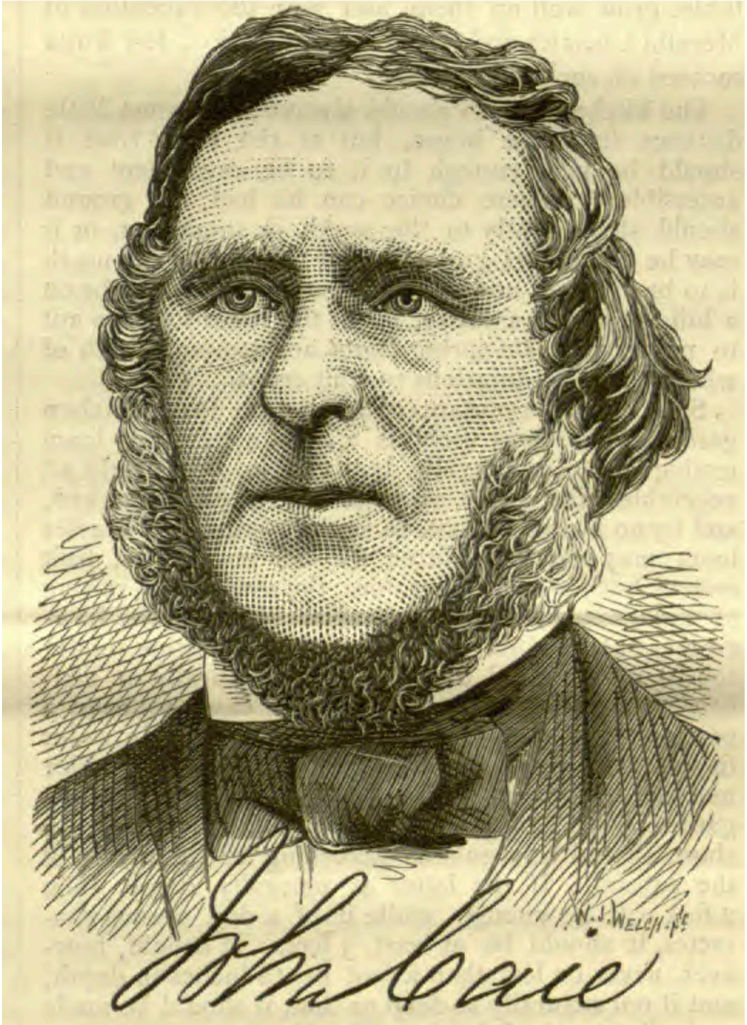
The same may be said of the Indian Shot (Canna indica), for, unless it is given extremely rich soil, and a moist corner, it fails to do well in the border, and the only alternative to planting it in a tub is to shift the plant in May into a larger pot (about nine inches), with very rich soil (half of which may be well-decayed manure), and sink the pot in the border; but then it must be thoroughly supplied with water every day in warm weather, and never allowed to get very dry.

The beauty of a bog-tub of Cannas, edged with silvery foliage plants, is remarkable. In the centre of the Cannas you can plant a bronze Castor-oil (Ricinus Gibsoni), if it be a good large tub, and keep the whole thoroughly moist by filling up the tub once a week in dry weather. During this season the rain has done all that was necessary to keep them right up to the middle of July; but, since that, the heat and consequent evaporation make it desirable to add more water occasionally to all the bog-tubs, which should, as a rule, be half-full of water.

In the spring we had a grand show of golden Marsh Marigolds, both the double variety (Caltha palustris flore pleno), and the large one (grandiflora), both of which are much more effective than the typical plant, though that is beautiful, too. In the centre of the Calthas there grows a Ghent Azalea, in pale shades of creamy-yellow and white, and these masses of double flowers toned down the brilliant Marigolds charmingly, making a beautiful group at the end of the lawn. The great scarlet Mimulus (coccinea), and a new yellow one (Mimulus luteus Tillingii), edge another tub, in which grows the lovely flowering Fern, Osmunda gracilis. Both these plants like a little shade, and the Siberian Irises, with Iris Monnieri, do well in the same tub.

When we go up to the boggy parts of Dartmoor (which are within a walk), we bring back all sorts of treasures for the bog-tubs, the tiny Bog Pimpernel, covered with a mass of starry pink flowers; the queer little Sundew, with its cruel leaves trying to catch unwary flies; the Bog Bean (Menyanthes trifoliata); the handsome yellow Villarsia (Limnanthemum peltatum); and the turquoise Water Forget-me-not (Myosotis palustris); whilst the long, golden fringe of the Creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia), hangs low over the edge of the Japanese Iris tubs, and makes a delightful contrast with their purple flowers.

Some of our tubs are set in rockwork, and surrounded by rock plants; others are covered with wire netting, on which grow various climbers, such as Tropæolums, the Azure Pea (Lathyrus azureus), etc.; and some are sunk



John Caie

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875 new series 4

Some forty years ago, or thereabouts, the name and person of Mr. John Caie were familiar to the horticulturists of the metropolis. About that time, when residing at Bedford Lodge, Campden Hill, Kensington, he was one of the foremost, if not actually the first, to carry out to successful results the "bedding system" of flower gardening, which, by a revolution of the wheel of fashion, it has now, in some quarters, become the wont to decry. Whatever may be advanced in opposition to this system, and the heaviest charge against it appears to be that of creating monotony by producing its effects with comparatively few subjects, there can be no question that it has had an immense influence in brightening up and improving the flower gardens throughout the country, the toning-down and other modifications we are now introducing being, in fact, merely the outgrowths of lengthened experience in working out the system. For much, at least, of this improved flower-gardening, the gardeners and employers of gardeners of the present day have to thank Mr. Caie, whose portrait we now introduce, and who has obligingly sent us the following sketch of his horticultural career.

"I was born, April 15, 1811, in Renton, a small village in Dumbartonshire, but I was soon removed from this place to Dowanhill, near Glasgow, my father having taken the management of the garden and farm there. The property belonged to James Buchanan, Esq., one of those merchants who, having made a large fortune, are anxious to have a well cultivated garden and farm. The garden was enclosed with brick walls and covered with fruit trees, such as Peaches, Plums, and Pears. Melons and Cucumbers were successfully grown. My father lived here forty-six years, and died very much respected by the family. It was here that I received my first lessons in gardening, I was educated in the parish school at Partick, and also in Glasgow. About this time I had the privilege of attending a course of private lectures on botany in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and the progress I made was such that Mr. Daniel Ferguson, afterwards Curator of the Belfast Botanic Gardens, made mention of me to Mr. Stewart Murray, the highly esteemed and accomplished Curator of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, who kindly made an opening for me at the Martinmas term, 1827. At this time the gardens had attained great celebrity for their extensive collections of plants, and for the indefatigable exertions made by Sir W. J. Hooker and Mr. Murray to uphold their character. Such being the case it was no mean advantage for young men to get into the gardens, for the rules were such as any man anxious to distinguish himself could not but approve of. I set to work in earnest, gathering specimens of plants at one time, learning their names with their culture at another, and attending the lectures delivered at intervals by Sir W. J. Hooker in the garden-hall; and I also had the privilege of accompanying him in his botanical excursions to the Highlands.

Mr. Murray was proud of his men, and when he found them worthy of his support he considered no trouble too great to advance their interest. In 1829 I went to Buchanan House gardens, the seat of the Duke of Montrose. Mr. Duncan Montgomrie, the gardener, placed me in the frame-ground, to look after succession Vines, Melons, Cucumbers, and other things belonging to this department, with occasional work in pruning bush fruit, and nailing on the wall?. Everything was done according to method and system. On entering my second year here I was put in charge of the forcing- houses, which were known at that period to carry good crops of fruit, and not less good in quality. Pines, Grapes, Peaches, and Apricots were grown, and I carried through the forcing to Mr. Montgomrie's satisfaction.

0n March 7, 1831, I started for London, and after a three week's sail I reached Chiswick House gardens, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, where I was found employment by Mr. Lindsay, the Duke's gardener, who very kindly said to me that in the event of a more suitable situation turning up I should be at liberty to leave him; which I did soon after this for Woburn Abbey, Here the new kitchen garden and forcing-houses were finished and in good working order, as was afterwards shown in the fine fruit produced by Mr.

Forbes, both for family use and for exhibition purposes. The plant-houses in the pleasure ground were being filled with collections of plants, such as Cacti and Orchids. Ericas held a very prominent place here, and these were placed under my care, with a degree of liberty to exercise my own judgment in their cultivation which seldom falls to the lot of one in such a situation. That success attended our efforts will be obvious from a remark made by the late Mr. McNab, of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, in reference to the growth of Heaths, that "our method was worth knowing."

In 1835 I left Woburn Abbey gardens for Bedford Lodge, a small place near Kensington, belonging to the Duke of Bedford, for the purpose of carrying out the bedding system of planting flower gardens, which was not much practised at that time, but which has become, as the late Sir Joseph Paxton remarked, strictly speaking the gardener's art. About this time the West London Gardeners' Association for Mutual Improvement was commenced, under the direction of the late Mr. Robert Fish, whose character and abilities attracted young men from all parts of the country. I connected myself with them, greatly to my own advantage; and the interests of horticulture in genera were not a little advanced by the Association.

March 10, 1856, I came to Inverary Castle garden; and, considering that the garden is not very favourably placed for high cultivation, owing to local peculiarities, inseparably bound up with such a mountainous country as this is, where the rainfall for 1874 measured 6 feet, still our bush fruit and wall trees, consisting of Pears, Plums, Cherries, and Apricots, with boards projecting 23 inches from the top of the wall, seldom fail to produce good crops. The soil taken from the low ground here is very suitable for all kinds of fruit trees, but especially so for Vines and Peaches. Our lean-to Peach-houses have a back wall, 17 feet high, and without any artificial heat; these houses, and our old vineries, carry good fruit. The flower garden and pleasure grounds have been very much extended, and many of the Conifers and hybrid Rhododendrons succeed well here. But anything which has been done in the way of ornamental gardening, when compared with the bold conception of the original design of this place, and the grandeur of the sylvan scenery which lies beyond, is but small indeed; still, the great variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, in close connection with the Castle, have an interest in themselves as a home scene."

Mr. Caie intimates that at some future time he may discuss more fully some of the modes of culture adopted at Inverary, with reference to climate and other peculiarities, and we feel sure our readers would derive some useful hints should he find leisure to do so.

In connection with the gardens at Inverary Castle it may be mentioned that on the occasion of her recent visit to the Duke of Argyll, Her Majesty the Queen planted some trees as memorials of the auspicious event.

GC 1879

Obituary.

We regret to record the death, at his brother's house, Ivy Cottage, Clyde Street, Dunoon, on the night of September 22, of Mr. John Caie, for many years gardener at Inverary Castle. An autobiographical notice and portrait of this representative gardener was given in our number for October 9, 1875. Mr. Caie graduated, as it were, in the Glasgow Botanic Garden, then under the management of Mr. Stewart Murray, and had the advantage of studying botany under the late Sir William Hooker (then Dr. Hooker), whose zeal and influence did so much for the Glasgow garden in those days. Caie filled various situations, always with credit to himself and advantage to his employers, and in 1835 initiated, or, at any rate, was one of the first to carry out, the bedding-out system. He had been at Inverary in the service of the Duke of Argyle since 1856.

2. Ceará Rubber.—At the end of August of last year consignments of plants of the Ceará rubber, consisting in each instance of two Wardian cases containing eighty plants, and one dry box containing forty plants, were sent to Lieut.-Colonel Beddome, Conservator of Forests, Madras, and Dr. King, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta. Dr. King now writes :—"Ceará rubber is going to be a success here."

At Ceylon in April one of the plants first sent out had already made an attempt to flower, and by the end of the year Dr. Thwaites was distributing copious supplies of seed to Calcutta, Burmah, Madras, and Singapore (where, however, it seems unable to stand the wet season).

I regard, therefore, the work of Kew completed as regards the Ceará rubber. Living plants of it have been distributed during the past year to Dominica, Fiji, Jamaica, Java, Sydney, Trinidad, Queensland, and Zanzibar.

New Garden Plants.

Miltonia Bluntii, *n. sp.**

A fresh novelty—a lovely and elegant thing. The flower is equal to that of Miltonia spectabilis, but the sepals and petals have another shape, and are smaller. They are whitish-yellow, and they have some great purple-cinnamon blotches chiefly in their centre.. The sepals are lanceolate acute, the petals oblong-lanceolate, less acute. The lip has exactly the form of that of M. spectabilis, but there are two different naked abrupt keels at the base ; its colour is white, and there is a purple area at the base. The column is thick and very short, with narrow, great darkish purple-violet wings. The whole aspect must be uncommonly pretty. If you take sepals and petals of a Clowesii, wash all the bars from base and top, and add the column and lip of a spectabilis, you will have rather a good idea of Miltonia Bluntii : only remember there are no bars at all, but blotches.

Mr. Richard Bullen informs me the plant is like Miltonia spectabilis in growth and habit.

I entertain no doubt of the plant being a mule between Miltonia spectabilis and M. Clowesii. It is a great satisfaction to dedicate the plant to its discoverer, Mr. Henry Blunt, who once more devotes his zeal to Orchids. Materials have been kindly sent by Mr. Richard Bullen, Woodlands Nursery, Hither Green, Lewisham, S.E. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

Cypripedium porphyrospilum, *n. hybr.*†

This is a fresh mule between Cypripedium Lowei and Hookeræ. It has the leaves of Cypripedium Lowei, but shorter and not so shining, also somewhat broader in the middle. The peduncle is two-flowered, with distant flowers, and very short bracts. The peduncle and ovary have velvet-like pubescence. The flower is nearly that of C. Lowei ; it has the twisted spatulate petals, but with very thick, callous, dark blotches, making one think of those of C. Hookeræ. The purple violet of the tip is confined to a small area. The staminode is quite that of C. Hookeræ, transverse, with two introrse forcipate, anterior horns, and a small tooth between in the sinus. The whole flower arrived very faded. It appeared to be brown with purple tips of petals, dark blotches on the upper part of them, and the staminode no doubt had been suffused with green. To be short, it is a reduced Cypripedium Lowei, with shorter leaves, thick calli on the sepals, and the staminode of Cypripedium Hookeræ. I have no doubt it is of Sedenian origin, since it was sent by Messrs. Veitch. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

Lælia pumila spectabilis.

A two-flowered peduncle is at hand, the flower nearly equalling those of Lælia majalis or L. Jongheana. Amongst the twenty-six flowers of my herbarium there is but one flower coming near those. The broad dark purple border of the lip is just as warm in colour as in Cattleya superba, while the interior is of a certain white with a hue of lightest purple and the very base orange with some small red spots. The seven median nerves are very obscurely keeled, the median ones running out in a triangular petaloid elevation at the base of the middle lacinia. This I have seen several times before, though not in such a prominent manner. The sepals, petals, and column are as in the common plant as to colour. I have no doubt this is the Cattleya spectabilis of the *Florist*, iii , p. 23, though I have seen no type.

I have to thank for the satisfaction of admiring, sketching, and describing this beauty Mr. William B. Boyd, Ormiston House, Kelso. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

Oncidium glossomystax, *Rchb. f.*

When I proposed this little gem as a species in 1852, I did not hope to see it one day alive in Europe. The other day it came in its full glory, a minute dwarf with little short leaves of an Iris, and an almost sessile, relatively large flower, light yellow, with a few brown blotches, and a white tabula infra-stigmatica under a green stigma. The grand feature are two pairs of keels on the basilar disk of the lip. Each keel is covered with very many white hairs. We have two pairs of senile whiskers on the lip. When in full vigour the flower is developed on a thin capillar peduncle. My numerous herbarium specimens come from Loxa, v. Warscewicz ! Ocaña, Wagener ! Bogota, Karsten ! Caracas, Wagener ! The plant at hand was brought from New Granada by M. Kalbreyer to the establishment of Messrs. Veitch. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

* *Miltonia Bluntii* (Clowesii-spectabilis).—Flore florem Miltoniæ spectabilis æquante ; sepalis ligulatis acutis ; tepalis oblongo-ligulatis brevis acutis ; labello subpandurato antice valde dilatato obtuso, ante basin utrinque obtusangulo, carinis angulatis geminis calvis in basi ; columna brevissima crassa, alis magnis angustiusculis.—Sepala et tepala albido flavida medio maculis conspicuis atro-purpureis. Labellum album disco ante columna violaceo-purpureo. Columnæ alæ obscurissime atroviolaceæ. Oncidium Bluntii (Clowesii-spectabilis). Brasilia. Blunt. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

† *Cypripedium porphyrospilum*, n. hyb. (Lowei × Hookeræ.)—Foliis Cypripedii Lowei ; sed brevioribus majis opacis ; pedunculo puberulo bifloro ; bracteis spathaceis abbreviatis porrectis ovario pedicellato velutino multo brevioribus ; sepalo dorsali ovato obtuse acuto ; sepalo binato angustiori apice simpliciter acuto ; tepalis ligulato dilatatis obtuse acutis tortis maculis in parte superiori incrassatis ; labelli ungue limbis involutis ; sacco antice retuso medio obsoletissime emarginato, lateribus breve angulatis ; staminodio semilunato antice utrinque incurvo forcipato ; angulo minutissimo in sinu.—Ex col. cl. Veitch. *H. G. Rchb. f.*

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN CAIE.

In the death of Mr. Caie horticulture has lost one of its oldest and most distinguished practitioners. As an old friend, perhaps you will permit me to add a few sentences to your brief obituary at p. 442, for Mr. Caie was no ordinary man. He was nothing less than a genius, and one of the most original thinkers and cleverest gardeners it has ever been my happiness to know. His natural diffidence, and also his depth of thought and difficulty of pleasing himself, fettered his pen, and deprived horticultural literature of much of the information he was so well fitted to impart. But a night with Caie, twenty-five or thirty years ago, was an intellectual and horticultural treat of the highest order. When "Johnny," as we used to call him, got excited and warmed up to his theme, and talked himself into a "fog" on the "sublimities," then was the time for ordinary mortals to grasp the germs of truth in the rough, and mould them into the highest practical wisdom. His tendency was to think out everything so thoroughly in all its relations that he never seemed to have got to the bottom of it. Always learning, never coming to the full knowledge of the truth, was the normal attitude of his mind. Truth to him seemed in so deep a well that he could never draw up enough with his own cord and bucket. Hence I never found a man of such ability so grateful for the help of others in the discovery, elucidation, and establishment of truth. Take, for example, the bedding-out system, of which in its best form he was undoubtedly the originator. He was literally possessed with, lost in it, for years. He would talk for hours of the proper proportion of green to grey, of light and shade, the contrasts and harmonies of colour, the relative breadths of flower-beds and shrubberies to open spaces, of gravel to grass, of life and repose in landscape, of cold colours and warm, of the proportion of tall trees to dwarf bushes and flowers, &c., until the Dowager Duchess of Bedford's garden at Campden House, Kensington, became a lesson-book of decorative landscape art for all England.

But good as the garden was, the man was even more, and far better than his works. He saw infinitely more in his garden than others could see, and he was for ever striving to let all of us see the bedding-out system with his eyes. No one, indeed, was more grateful for help in the search for and elucidation of truth. He used to call my late brother, Robert Fish, his interpreter. "Show Robert half a truth," he said to me at my first interview with him, "he will make a whole one, a family, out of it directly." They were great friends for years, and my brother always said that Mr. Caie knew more about the proper disposition and arrangement of floral landscapes than any other man. They also worked together for the establishment and prosperity of the West London Gardeners' Association for Mutual Instruction, a Society which did great good in its day. Such societies are less needed now, as their mission is almost superseded by the popularity and ability of the horticultural Press ; but thirty years ago such societies were invaluable centres of intellectual life, and formed almost the only bond of union, friendship, and strength among practical gardeners. It was one of my highest privileges on my entry into Knight & Perry's nursery, to be introduced to the West London Association by Mr. John Caie, and on my leaving for my first situation Mr. Caie and the leading members accompanied me to the "World's End," to bid me good-bye for Robert's sake—and also for my own, as Mr. Caie put it. That act of kindness to a young and comparatively unknown man was just like Mr. Caie, whose goodness of heart and kindness to gardeners through a long and useful life were even more conspicuous than his intellectual force and ability.

His removal to Inverary was a loss to metropolitan and general horticulture. He wrote comparatively little from the far North, though to the end he continued a careful gleaner and recorder of facts, as your columns testify. I had hoped, as one of the greatest pleasures of my life, to see the beauties of Inverary under the guidance of Caie's inspiring genius, but instead I have only the privilege of thus chronicling a mere tithe of his sterling worth and rare ability. May this brief record inspire some young rising gardener to tread in the footsteps and follow the example of Mr. John Caie—one of the ablest men that ever advanced practical horticulture. Peace be to his memory. *D. T. Fish.*

THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TRADE OF LONDON.

A most interesting subject is now being discussed in your pages—interesting as affecting not only the millions inhabiting London and its suburbs, but also those in every county in the United Kingdom engaged in providing these "millions" with their "daily bread"—whatever shape that may take, from pure milk to the pure white Lily : for eye and brain demand food as much as do the digestive organs ; and happy they who can have all their wants supplied just as they ought to be.

So far as the discussion has gone, it seems to me that only the fringe of the subject has been touched ; and as probably not only the proper production of fruit, vegetables, and flowers, but also their profitable disposal, interests the readers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, I may be allowed to have a little to say in the matter. In most cases there are not only the now historical three, but four profits, to be derived from most of the produce sent to London markets ere the actual consumer is reached ; and it would appear that not the least important vendor and profit gatherer is the much-talked-of "spirited and enterprising coster." When this spirited individual is placed in the forefront it is time to say something about the ways of his life, so far as experience goes. My experience (of a very large number of the class) is that, like his "betters" (?), he is much given on occasion to what is termed "besting." He will purchase anything and everything ; he will assist in clearing the market ; paying rent he cannot always avoid, but taxes are quite out of the question in a free country—except, say, a hawker's license on occasion ; he will saddle shopkeepers and ratepayers with the expenses of educating, and occasionally of clothing, his children ; he will often give much trouble to the police, obstructing the traffic wherever he possibly can ; he will spend, occasionally in company with his better half, a great deal of his substance in riotous living ; and in "the family circle" and the nearest "public" he is, upon occasion, about as fine a specimen of a foul-mouthed man as can be found in any part of the world. If evidence is required, probably Scotland Yard, or any minor centre of police "vigilance committees," will be able to supply it. Remember, I do not condemn all the class, for they do a wonderful amount of good ; but surely this is not quite the sort of "tradesman" to encourage in the disposal of fruits, flowers, and vegetables. I am quite aware that there are very many virtuous and cleanly costers, as there are many virtuous and civil cabmen, and the affirmation of the Earl of Shaftesbury and "H.R.H." may be accepted

The Late Mr. John Caie.—Mr. Fish is in error in regard to the name of the house where Mr. Caie was gardener for twenty-four years. There is a residence in Kensington called Campden House, and also one called Little Campden House, but they are some distance from the one of whose grounds the late Mr. Caie had charge. In the early part of his career it was named Bedford Lodge, and was then occupied by the Duchess of Bedford, but on the Duke of Argyll taking possession of it, the name was changed to Argyll Lodge, which it still retains, at Campden Hill. The spot is somewhat retired from the bustle of the metropolis, and the grounds remain unaltered in the number and formation of the flower-beds and other interesting designs. It is the same now as in the days when the massing system commenced here that has now become so universal in its adoption. *J. F. McElroy.*

a very extensive collection of products from Rhodesia, and it is marvellous to see what has been attempted in this colony, which but a few years since was in a state of savagery. Now it is peacefully occupied with the raising of cotton, Sanseveria for its valuable fibre, rubber, cereals, tobacco, etc., samples of all of which were displayed.

The very large consignments of fresh fruits, which are now reaching our home markets from the Cape, show what is being done in this direction in the South African Colonies. Picked samples of these various fruits—Plums, Pears, Apples, Peaches, Nectarines, Grapes, etc., were freely displayed. The Rhode Island Fruit Farms Co., Ltd., had one of the best exhibits of fresh fruits, for which they received a Gold Medal, the same award being also granted to the Cape Orchard Fruit Company, and to Mr. H. Orton, Cape Colony, for similar groups.

We noticed that many of the softer-fleshed Apples from the Cape, including Warner's King, were badly affected with "black spot." Plums and Pears were the finest of the fresh fruits shown, but they might all have been staged to much better effect. Arranged on the walls of the hall and at other parts of the building were excellent photographic views and paintings of South African scenery, notably some splendid views of the Victoria Falls. Paintings of indigenous plants of Cape Colony were also displayed.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

March 15.—A letter from Dr. Chr. Aurivillius, Secretary of the Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapsakademien, Stockholm, was read, in which presentation was made of copies by Jean Haagen of the portraits of Carl von Linné by Per Krafft the elder, and Alexander Roslin, in possession of the Academy, sent in acknowledgment of the loan of Linné's "Philosophia Botanica" interleaved and annotated by the author, which had been returned a few weeks ago through the Swedish Legation. A special vote of thanks for this most acceptable gift was moved from the Chair, and carried unanimously.

Prof. F. W. Oliver, F.R.S., F.L.S., then opened the announced discussion on "The Origin of Gymnosperms." He stated that in recent times the balance of opinion has been in favour of descent from the Ferns, the point of closest contact being found in the Cycads, this view gaining material support through the discovery of multiciliate spermatozoids in the last-named group and in Ginkgo, as well as from the recognition of Palæozoic forms (the Cycadofilices) which, whilst retaining the habit and many of the structural peculiarities of Ferns, show a distinct advance in the direction of the Cycads. Now that it is known that many of the forms there included were seed-bearing plants, a new class, the Pteridospermeæ, has been judged expedient for these Spermophytes which have so much in common with the Ferns.

It would appear that a preponderating number of so-called Palæozoic "Ferns" are in reality Pteridosperms which have been hitherto confounded with true Ferns in view of their frond-like habit and lack of distinguishing organs of reproduction. But if the Palæozoic is in reality the "age of Pteridosperms" rather than the "age of Vascular Cryptogams," the Hofmeisterian position becomes altered, and the question is one that should engage the attention of Botanists.

Palæobotanical work has shown that in the Lycopod phylum, seed-like structures were occasionally produced, and this discovery no doubt seems to strengthen what has always been a possibility, namely, that a portion of the Gymnosperms may have had its origin along this line.

Mr. E. A. Newell Arber, F.L.S., followed, on the "Earlier Geological Record of the True Ferns." He pointed out that the Palæozoic Pteridosperms exhibit marked characters in common with the true Ferns, and it is therefore more than probable that they sprang from a Fern-like stock. Thus the Fern-line of descent must be geologically older than the Pteridosperms.

There is, however, every reason to believe that true Ferns did exist in Carboniferous and Permian times. The Botryopterideæ were among the chief representatives. In the fossil state we have naturally no evidence as to the development of the sporangia, and further, the biseriate or multiseriate annulus of Palæozoic sporangia does not agree with that of modern Leptosporangiate spore-bearing organs. It would thus seem better to regard the Palæozoic Ferns as a separate class, from which both the Leptosporangiatæ and Eusporangiatæ were eventually derived. The name Primofilices is suggested to denote this race; since the preferable terms, Archæopterideæ and Palæopterideæ, are not available.

The question may well be asked, Is there any trustworthy evidence of the existence of the Eusporangiatæ in either the Palæozoic or truly Mesozoic floras? In neither is there any evidence at all of the Ophioglossaceæ, and the only instances of possible Mesozoic Marattiaceous fronds, with which he was acquainted, are three in number, and all of Rhætic age. In two species of Tæniopteris, sporangia, resembling those of the modern Marattia, have been found on certain fronds, while in Danæopsis, another related genus, the synangia more closely resemble those of Danæa.

In the Palæozoic rocks we find a plexus of fronds of the Sphenopterid and Pecopterid type, bearing exannulate sporangia, arranged independently in the sorus, or united to form synangia. The great difficulty, at the present moment, is to decide as to the true nature of these fronds. Did they belong to true homosporous Ferns, or were they the male fronds of Pteridosperms? On the present evidence he was inclined to think that a large number will eventually prove to fall under the latter category. We already know that one Pecopteris (P. Plukeneti) belonged to a Pteridosperm. Also the male frond of the Bennettiteæ, a group descended from the Pteridosperms, is known to have borne sporangia not unlike those of the Palæozoic Pecopterids and the modern Marattiaceæ.

The anatomy of the tree-fern, Psaronius, affords the most trustworthy evidence, at present, of the existence of the Eusporangiatæ in Palæozoic times; though there would appear to be little to indicate that this group ever attained to the position of a dominant or ruling type in either the Palæozoic or truly Mesozoic floras.

Mr. A. C. Seward, F.R.S., F.L.S., then spoke on "The Evolution of Gymnosperms: the Position and Ancestry of the Araucarieæ." The genera Araucaria and Agathis may be regarded as surviving members of an ancient group of Gymnosperms distinguished by several well-marked characters from other Coniferales. During the Mesozoic era the Araucarieæ were widely distributed; they are now confined to restricted areas in the Southern hemisphere. His object was to enquire into the statement as to the antiquity of the Araucarieæ, and to ascertain whether the records of the rocks lend support to the view that they represent the oldest section of the Coniferales. A further question suggested by the examination of palæontological data was the possession of characters by Agathis and Araucaria which may be designated primitive.

In view of the widely accepted conclusion that Cycads and Ferns were descended from common ancestors, it is important to consider whether the contention that Conifers, as well as Cycads, are derived from a Filicinean stock is supported by satisfactory evidence. While accepting Cycads as descendants of Filicinean ancestors, the author is led to the conclusion that Conifers, or at least the Araucarieæ, should be referred to a Lycopodiaceous origin.

The proceedings were then adjourned to a subsequent meeting, fixed for May 3, 1906, when Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., Sec. L.S., will resume the discussion.

ROYALE SOCIETE DE FLORE.

March 18.—The meeting of this society was held on the above date in the Botanic Garden, Brussels. The awards made included four Diplomas of Honour, 35 Certificates of Merit of all classes, and two Botanical Certificates. Some of the best plants exhibited were Odontoglossum ardentissimum "Perle de Wolmoe," O. a. Lambeauanum from M. Lambeau, O. crispum var. "Th. Pauwels' Perfection" from M. Pauwels, and Cypripedium Talisman (C. ciliolare × C. Gallieri Hyeanum) from M. Hye de Crom. Listrostachys pellucida, a Congolese Orchid, was exhibited by the Botanic Garden authorities, with an exceptionally well-grown plant of Medinilla magnifica in full bloom. M. de Bievre showed a collection of 75 flowers of Carnation in 30 varieties, and M. Paras, fruit grower to King Leopold, exhibited a set of wonderful Lettuces.

NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM.

March 26.—On this date the executive committee of the above society held a meeting at Carr's Restaurant, Strand. Mr. Thomas Bevan presided. The schedule for the three shows to be held in 1906 was presented in its amended form, and included an additional sum of £20 in value. The amounts offered are: for the October show, £64 8s. 6d.; November show, £248 15s. 6d.; and December show, £50 4s. 0d.

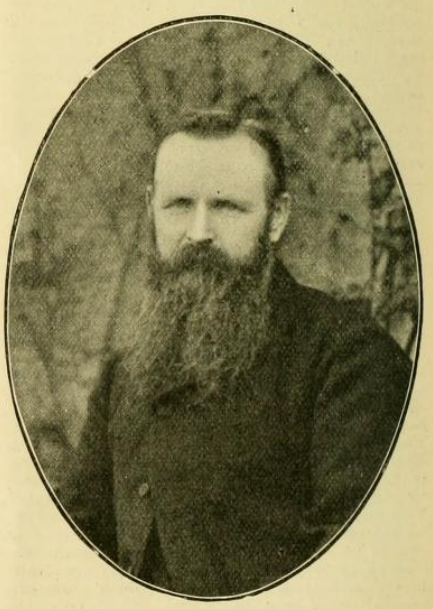
Mr. C. H. Curtis reported on the work of the publication sub-committee, who recommended the issue of a Year Book for 1907 as a means of interesting members, and with the view of obtaining new members. The proposition was carried. The report of the "Early-Flowering" Conference will shortly be distributed to members.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ROSE.

March 27.—The annual general meeting of the Gloucestershire Rose Society was held on the above date at the Guildhall, Gloucester. It was reported that there was a deficit of £16 17s. 2d. on the last show—when the National Society's exhibition was held in conjunction with that of the local society—which would be met out of the reserve fund. The payments included £65 10s. 6d. to the National Society and £52 10s. for the band. Mrs. Elwes, of Colesborne, was elected president, and Col. the Hon. C. Dutton was appointed chairman in succession to Canon Maddy, resigned. The secretary, Mr. Sidney S. Starr, also resigned, and Mr. S. Gibbins was appointed his successor.

Obituary.

Mr. John Cairns.—We regret to record the death of this well-known Scottish gardener, which took place with startling suddenness, from heart failure, on March 15. Mr. Cairns was a native of the west of Scotland, having been born in the Colquhoun country, on the banks of Loch Lomond, about 67 years ago. He commenced his gardening career with the well-known Glasgow firm of Austin & McAslan;



THE LATE JOHN CAIRNS.

thence he entered the service of the late Earl of Home at his Lordship's Bothwell Castle establishment, where he was a favourite pupil of the late Mr. Andrew Turnbull. Mr. Cairns was later at Dalkeith Palace gardens, where he remained a number of years under the late Mr. Thomson. Subsequently, and while still a young man, Mr. Cairns was entrusted with the management of the gardens at the Hirsel, which position he occupied until last year with distinguished success, and with

marked approval of his employers, the late Earl and Countess of Home, and the present heads of the house, as well as of the various members of their respective families. Altogether Mr. Cairns was in the service of the house of the "Homes" for nearly forty years.

Mr. Cairns was a successful exhibitor, and the finest Leeks ever exhibited in Scotland were shown by Mr. Cairns in Edinburgh. His services were also in frequent request as a judge at the more important metropolitan shows. In particular his knowledge of fruit and of fruit culture was extensive and minute.

Less than twelve months ago Mr. Cairns relinquished his post at the Hirsel, when his employer indicated his appreciation of his services and character by bestowing upon him a generous pension.

Mr. Cairns has contributed to our annual report on the condition of the fruit crops for a quarter of a century at least.

The funeral took place on Monday, 19th inst., in the presence of a very numerous gathering of mourners.

MR. H. M. POLLETT.—The death is announced of this gentleman on the 20th inst., at his residence, Bickley, in his 78th year. Mr. Pollett was well known in horticultural circles, and till lately was a member of the Orchid Committee. He was well known as a printer of horticultural documents.

MR. THOMAS BARTON.—News has reached us of the death of Mr. Thomas Barton, head gardener and land steward at Dunsany Castle, Co. Meath, the seat of Lord Dunsany. Mr. Barton, who had reached the age of 70 years, was an Englishman who went to Ireland 45 years ago, and for the long period of 40 years occupied the responsible position of head gardener and land steward to the Dunsany family, by whom, and by all with whom he came in contact, he was held in the highest esteem and regard.

GEORGE CLINGING.—The death occurred at Catford, on March 20, of Mr. George Clinging, who at one time was a successful exhibitor of Grapes at Regent's Park, Richmond, and the Crystal Palace. Deceased, we are informed, was a Scotsman, and was employed in his early days in Broxmouth Park gardens. On coming to England he served at Marden Park, Sanderstead Court, Ammerdown Park, and Aston Rowant. *Correspondent.*

PLANT PORTRAITS.

APPLE, DER BRITZER DAUERAPFEL.—*Garten Flora*, March 15.

IMPATIENS HOLTZII.—*Revue Horticole*, March 16. See *Gardeners' Chronicle.*

LOGAN BERRY.—*Garden*, March 7.

ROSE, BESSIE BROWN.—*Rosen Zeitung*, February.

THE WEATHER.

THE WEATHER IN WEST HERTS.

Eight days of frequent snow. The past week has been a bitterly cold one. The temperature in the thermometer screen at no time rose higher than 43°, which is about 7° colder than is seasonable. On the two coldest nights the thermometer exposed on the lawn showed 16° of frost, which is only 1° higher than the lowest reading for the three previous winter months. The ground has become very cold, and is now 2° colder at two feet deep, and 4° colder at one foot deep, than is seasonable. Rain or snow fell on all but two of the 17 days ending the 26th, and on eight consecutive days during that period there occurred frequent falls of snow, sleet, and soft hail. On several occasions the ground was nearly covered with snow, but in each case it soon disappeared after it had fallen. The total quantity of rain and melted snow deposited in the rain-gauge during the eight days in question measured nearly an inch. The percolation through both the soil gauges, which had very nearly ceased on the 19th, re-started on the following day. During the week the sun shone on an average for four hours a day, which is slightly in excess of the mean duration for the time of year. Moderate winds and light airs have mostly prevailed, and the direction has been almost entirely some northerly point of the compass. The average amount of moisture in the air at 3 o'clock in the afternoon exceeded a seasonable quantity for that hour by as much as 14 per cent. *E.M., Berkhamsted, March 28, 1906.*

MARKETS.

COVENT GARDEN, March 28.

We cannot accept any responsibility for the subjoined reports. They are furnished to us regularly every Wednesday, by the kindness of several of the principal salesmen, who are responsible for the quotations. It must be remembered that these quotations do not represent the prices on any particular day, but only the general averages for the week preceding the date of our report. The prices depend upon the quality of the samples, the way in which they are packed, the supply in the market, and the demand, and they may fluctuate, not only from day to day, but occasionally several times in one day.—ED.]

Cut Flowers, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d. s.d.
Anemones (pink) doz. bunches...	1 6– 3 0
— fulgens... ...	2 0– 2 6
— cardinalis ..	2 0– 3 0
Azalea indica., per doz. bunches	3 0– 4 0
Azalea mollis, doz. bunches ...	6 0– 9 0
Calla æthiopica, per dozen	3 0– 5 0
Camellias, doz. ...	1 6– 2 0
Carnations, per dozen blooms, best American various ...	2 0– 4 0
— smaller do. ...	1 0– 2 6
Cattleyas, per doz. blooms	9 0–12 0
Cœlogyne cristata, per dz. blooms	1 6– 2 0
Cypripediums, doz.	2 0– 2 6
Dendrobium Wardianum and nobile, per doz. blooms ...	2 0– 3 0
Eucharis grandiflora, per doz. blooms... ...	2 6– 3 0
Euphorbia jacquiniæflora, per doz. sprays	4 0– 6 0
Freesias, per doz. bunches ...	2 0– 3 0
Gardenias, per doz. blooms... ...	1 6– 2 0
Hyacinth, dozen bunches ...	4 0– 8 0
Lilac, per bunch ...	2 0– 3 0
Lilium auratum ...	2 6– 3 0
— candidum, per bunch	1 6– 2 0
— lancifolium, rubrum and album	2 0– 3 0
— longiflorum ...	3 0– 5 0
Lily of the Valley, p. doz. bunches	6 0– 9 0
— extra quality ...	9 0–12 0
Marguerites, white, p. doz. bunches	2 0– 3 0
— yellow, dozen bunches ...	2 0– 3 0
"Mimosa," dozen bunches ...	6 0– 9 0
Mignonette, dozen bunches ...	3 0– 4 0
Narcissus, "Paper White," doz. bunches ...	1 0– 2 0
Narcissus, Soleil d'Or	1 0– 1 6
— Golden Spur, per doz. bnchs.	3 0– 5 0
— Horsfieldi ...	3 0– 5 0
— Incomparabilis varieties ...	2 0– 4 0
— Ornatus ...	1 0– 2 0
— Sir Watkin, per doz. bunches...	5 0– 6 0
— Telemonius plenus, per doz. bunches...	2 0– 3 0
Odontoglossum crispum, per dozen blooms	2 6– 3 0
— grande, per dozen blooms	4 0– 5 0
Ornithogalum (Star of Bethlehem) per doz. bchs.	1 6– 2 0
Pancratiums, doz.	3 0– 4 0
Pelargoniums, show, doz. bun.	3 0– 5 0
— Zonal, double scarlet... ...	6 0– 9 0
Primula, double white, per doz. bunches ...	5 0– 6 0
Ranunculus, doz. bunches ...	8 0–12 0
Roses, 12 blooms, Niphetos ...	2 0– 3 0
— Bridesmaid ...	2 0– 5 0
— Kaiserin A. Victoria ...	3 0– 5 0
— Caroline Testout	3 0– 5 0
— C. Mermet ...	2 0– 4 0
— General Jacqueminot	2 0– 3 0
— Liberty ...	2 0– 4 0
— Mad. Chatenay	3 0– 6 0
— Mrs. J. Laing	3 0– 5 0
Stephanotis, per dozen trusses	4 0– 6 0
Stocks (double white) per doz. bunches ...	2 0– 3 0
Sweet Peas, per doz. bunches ..	3 0– 5 0
Tuberoses, per dz. blooms ...	0 4– 0 6
Tulips, per dz. bun.	6 0–10 0
— special quality	12 0–18 0
Violets, 12 bunches	1 0– 2 0
— special qual....	2 0– 3 0
— Parma, French, large bunches	2 0– 4 0

Cut Foliage, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d. s.d.
Asparagus plumosus, long trails, per doz.	6 0–12 0
— — medium, bunch ...	1 6– 2 0
— — short sprays per bunch...	0 6– 0 9
— Sprengeri ...	0 6– 1 0
Adiantum cuneatum, doz. bun.	6 0– 9 0
Berberis, per bunch	2 6– 3 0
Croton leaves, per bunch	1 0– 1 6
Cycas leaves, each	1 6– 2 0
Fern, English, p. dozen bunches	2 0– 3 0
Fern, French, doz. bunches ...	3 0– 4 0
Galax leaves, per doz. bunches...	1 6– 2 0
Hardy foliage (various), per dozen bunches	2 6– 4 0
Ivy-leaves, bronze	1 6– 2 0
— long trails per bundle	1 0– 2 0
— short green, doz. bunches...	2 0– 3 0
Moss, per gross ...	5 0– 6 0
Myrtle, per dozen bunches ...	3 0– 6 0
Smilax, per dozen trails	2 0– 5 0

Plants in Pots, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d. s.d.
Acacia Drummondi, per dz.	18 0–24 0
Ampelopsis Veitchii, per dozen	6 0– 8 0
Aralia Sieboldi, per dozen ...	4 0– 6 0
— larger	12 0–15 0
Araucaria excelsa, per dozen ...	12 0–30 0
Aspidistras, green, per dozen ...	18 0–30 0
— variegated, per dozen	24 0–36 0
Asparagus plumosus nanus, doz.	9 0–12 0
— Sprengeri, doz.	9 0–10 0
— tenuissimus per dozen ...	9 0–12 0
Azaleas, per doz. .	18 0–30 0
Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, doz.	8 0–12 0
— Turnford Hall,	9 0–15 0
Boronia megastigma, per doz	18 0–24 0
Callas, per dozen ...	6 0– 9 0
Cinerarias, per dz.	5 0– 8 0
Clematis, per doz.	8 0– 9 0
— in flower ...	18 0–24 0
Crotons, per dozen	12 0–30 0
Cocos Weddelliana, per dozen	12 0–30 0
Cyclamen, per doz.	5 0– 9 0
— extra quality...	18 0–21 0
Cyperus alternifolius, dozen ...	4 0– 5 0
— laxus, per doz	4 0– 5 0
Deutzias, per doz.	8 0–10 0
Dracænas, per doz.	9 0–24 0
Erica, Cavendishi, per dozen ...	24 0–26 0
— gracilis, per dozen	12 0–18 0
— melanthera ...	12 0–18 0
— persoluta ...	24 0–30 0
— Wilmoreana ...	12 0–18 0
Euonymus, per doz.	4 0– 9 0

Plants in Pots, &c.: Average Wholesale Prices *(Contd.)*

	s.d. s.d
Ferns, in thumbs, per 100... ...	7 0–10 0
— in 48's, per doz.	4 0–10 0
— in 32's, per doz.	10 0–18 0
Ficus elastica, per dozen	9 0–18 0
— repens, per doz.	5 0– 8 0
Genistas, per doz.	6 0– 9 0
Hyacinths (3 in pot), per doz. ...	6 0– 9 0
Hydrangea Hortensia, per dozen	9 0–15 0
— Thos. Hogg ...	12 0–18 0
Kentia Belmoreana, per dozen	12 0–18 0
— Forsteriana, per dozen ...	12 0–21 0
Latania borbonica, per dozen ...	9 0–18 0
Lilium longiflorum, per dozen ...	24 0–36 0
— lancifolium, per dozen ...	18 0–24 0
Lily of the Valley, per dozen ...	18 0–30 0
Marguerites, white, per dozen ...	5 0– 8 0
Mignonette, per dozen	6 0– 8 0
Narcissus, per doz.	4 0– 6 0
Privet, golden, per dozen	5 0–12 0
Pelargoniums (Zonals), per dozen	5 0– 8 0
Rhododendrons, per doz. ...	18 0–30 0
Roses, per dozen ..	12 0–18 0
Selaginella, dozen	4 0– 6 0
Spiræa japonica, per dozen ...	6 0– 9 0
Stocks (Intermediate), per dozen	6 0– 8 0
Tulips in boxes, per doz. bulbs ...	5 0– 9 0

Fruit: Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d. s.d.
Apples :— English, per bush. ...	6 0– 9 0
— Californian Newtown Pippin, per ½ barrel	16 0–18 0
per case ...	10 0–21 0
Nova Scotians, per barrel :	
— Starks	18 0–24 0
— Spys	25 0–30 0
— Fallawaters ...	26 0–27 0
— Wagners ...	18 0–19 0
— Russets ...	26 0–28 0
— Baldwins ...	21 0–25 0
— Ribston Pippin	19 0 —
— Blenheim Pip'n	18 6–21 0
— Greening ...	25 0–26 0
— King of Tompkin's County ...	25 0 —
Canadian, per barrel :	
— New York Imperials	25 0–28 0
— Russets ...	22 0–30 0
— Greening ...	22 0–30 0
— Baldwins ...	18 0–25 0
Bananas, bunch ...	
— No. 1 quality...	7 0– 8 6
— No. 2 quality...	5 6– 6 6
— Extra quality...	8 6– 9 0
— Giants, per bunch	10 0–12 0
— Jamaica ...	4 6– 6 0
— Loose, per doz.	0 8– 1 3
Cranberries, case...	13 0–14 0
Dates, Tunis, per box	0 4 —
— Egyptian, cwt.	19 6 —
Figs, per dozen ...	10 0–18 0
Grape Fruit, p. box	16 0–25 0
Grapes, Alicante, per lb.	2 6– 3 6
— Gros Colmar, per lb.	2 3– 4 0
— (Cape), small cases	2 0– 4 0
— large cases ...	5 0– 8 0
Grapes, Almeria, per barrel ...	7 0–21 0
Lemons :	
— Messina, case	8 0–12 6
Lychees, per box...	0 10– 1 0
Melons, each ...	12 6–20 0
Nuts, Cobnuts, per doz. lb... ...	9 0 —
— Brazils, new, per cwt. ...	45 0–55 0
— Spanish, p. bag	42 0–43 0
— Barcelona, per bag	24 6 —
— Almonds, per cwt.	36 0 —
— Monkey Nuts, per bag ...	18 0 —
— Walnuts, dried, cwt.	35 0 —
— Chestnuts, Italian per bag ...	13 6–15 0
— Cocoanuts, 100	10 6–13 6
Oranges, Valentia, per case ...	9 0–35 0
— Murcia ...	6 0– 7 0
— Seville, p. box (200)	8 0– 8 9
— Navel	11 0–13 0
— Jaffa	9 6–10 6
— Jamaica ...	10 0 —
— Blood	9 0–11 0
— Mandarines, per box (25) ...	0 9 —
,, (50) ...	1 0– 1 2
,, (96) ...	3 9 —
— Palermo, per 100	3 0– 4 6
Pears (Cape), per box	4 0– 6 0
— Californian, box	4 6–12 0
— stewing varieties, per ½ bush.	2 6– 3 0
— stewing, crate	10 6 —
Pineapples, each ...	2 6– 7 0
Plums (Cape), per box	3 6– 6 0
Strawberries, p. lb.	3 0– 8 0

Vegetables : Average Wholesale Prices.

	s.d. s.d.
Artichokes, Green French, p. doz.	2 0– 3 9
— Ground, ½ bush.	1 3– 1 6
Asparagus, per bundle :—	
— Dijon	3 0 —
— Giants	8 0–16 0
— Spanish ...	1 9– 2 6
— Paris Green ...	5 6– 6 3
— Sprue	0 9– 1 0
Beans, French, p. lb.	0 4– 0 7
— Broad, per pkt.	0 6 —
— Broad, per pad (loose)	2 6– 4 0
— Flageolet, box	0 9 —
— Home grown, per lb	0 9– 0 10
— Channel Island	0 9– 0 10
— Madeira, bask.	2 6– 3 0
— Niggers ...	4 0– 5 0
Beetroot, bushel ...	1 0– 1 3
Broccoli, per doz.	1 6– 2 0
Cabbages, per tally	3 0– 4 0
— red, per bushel	2 0 —
Carrots, French pad	2 6– 3 0
— cwt., unwashed ...	1 3– 1 6
— bag, washed ...	2 0– 2 6
— new, per dozen bunches ...	4 0– 8 0
Cauliflowers, doz.	2 0 —
— Italian Heads, per basket ...	2 6 —
— Cornish, per crate	6 0 —
Celeriac, per doz.	2 6 —
Celery, per dozen bundles	6 0–12 0
Chicory, per lb. ...	0 1½–0 2
Chow Chow, per dozen	1 6– 2 0
Cucumbers, dozen	2 6– 4 0
Endive, per dozen	1 8– 2 0
Horseradish, foreign, per dozen bundles ...	10 0–12 0
Kale, Scotch, bush.	0 9– 1 0
Leeks, 12 bundles	2 0– 3 0
Lettuces, Cos, per dozen	4 0– 6 0
Lettuces, French, per doz. ...	0 8– 1 4
Mint, per dozen ...	4 0– 6 0
Mushrooms (house) per lb.	0 8–0 10
— Buttons, per lb.	0 10 —
Mustard and Cress, per dozen pun.	1 0– 1 6
Onions, Valencia, per case ...	6 6– 7 0
— Dutch, bag ...	3 0– 3 6
— pickling, per bushel	2 0– 2 6
— French, ½ bag..	2 3 —
— Spring, dozen bunches ...	2 0– 3 0
Parsley, 12 bunches	2 0– 3 0
Parsnips, per bag...	2 0– 2 6
Peas (French flats)	3 0– 5 6
— per packet ...	0 3– 0 4
Potatos (new) :—	
Canary, cwt....	12 0–14 0
— French (new), per lb	0 2½ —
— Channel Island Kidneys ...	0 5 —
— Algerian, cwt.	18 0 —
— ,, barrel	18 0 —
Radishes, French breakfast, p. dz.	1 3– 1 6
Rhubarb, per doz.	0 9– 1 0
Salsafy, per dozen bundles	4 —
Savoys, per tally ...	5 0– 7 0
Sea Kale, p. punnet	1 0– 1 3
Spinach, French crate	2 0 —
— French, pad ...	4 0– 5 3
Sprouts, ½ bushel ...	1 3 —
Tomatos :—	
— foreign, bundle of 4 boxes ...	8 0–11 0
Turnips, per doz. bun.	1 0– 1 6
— bags	2 0– 2 3
— new, per dozen bunches ...	9 0 —
Turnip Tops, bush.	1 0– 1 3
Watercress, per doz. bunches ..	0 4 —

1906.

CAINS Elizabeth of "Trentham" 6 Little Anglesey Alverstoke Hants widow died 30 August 1906 Administration **London** 15 September to Henry Palmer labourer Effects £1045 17*s.* 11*d.* Resworn £1422 9*s.* 5*d.*

CAINS George of "Trentham" 6 Little Anglesey Alverstoke Hants died 18 March 1906 Probate **London** 19 April to Elizabeth Cains widow Effects £244 5*s.* 9*d.*

CAINS William of Rossiter's-lane St. George's Bristol quarryman died 2 August 1905 Administration **Bristol** 22 January to Samuel Cains stonemason Effects £285.

CAIRD William of East Dereham Norfolk died 19 August 1906 Probate **London** 10 October to Jane Caird widow Effects £1643 5*s.* 3*d.*

CAIRNS Elizabeth of 44 Albion-row Byker Newcastle-upon-Tyne widow died 11 January 1906 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 1 February to William Best millers'-foreman Effects £81 5*s.* 10*d.*

CAIRNS John of High-street Coldstream Berwickshire died 15 March 1906 Confirmation of Robert Cairns grocer Dugald Mc Farlane seaman John Smith publisher and John Bell game-keeper Sealed **London** 12 July.

CAIRNS John of Thropton Northumberland labourer died 6 July 1906 Administration **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 17 September to Ann Mordue widow Effects £312 13*s.* 8*d.*

CAIRNS Margaret Ann of 56 Normanton-terrace Newcastle-upon-Tyne widow died 24 November 1903 Administration **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 20 September to Henry Ernest Cairns cattle-salesman Effects £351 17*s.* 2*d.*

CAIRNS Mary Ann of 40 Marlow-street Waterloo Blyth Northumberland spinster died 22 May 1906 Administration **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 6 July to John Henderson engine-driver Effects £237.

CAIRNS Thomas Stewart of Cairnsmore-cottage Ayr died 23 July 1906 Confirmation of Jane Mac Naughton Cairns spinster Sealed **London** 12 November.

CAIRNS William of the "Board" inn Middle Herrington county Durham died 26 October 1906 Probate **Durham** 16 November to Mary Cairns widow and Robert Cairns mason Effects £334 13*s.* 6*d.*

CAISE Hester of Pilning Gloucestershire widow died 2 December 1905 Probate **Gloucester** 19 April to Charles Luton Hunt farmer and Edward Newman cabman's-missionary Effects £381 3*s.* 3*d.*

CAISLEY Isabella of 24 Fourth-row Ashington Northumberland widow died 31 July 1906 at Hall's-buildings Annitsford Northumberland Administration **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 27 August to George Caisley miner Effects £253 10*s.* 3*d.*

CAITHNESS the right honorable Janet countess of, of 59 Inverness-terrace Middlesex widow died 5 February 1906 Confirmation of the honourable George Arthur Sinclair Sealed **London** 25 April.

CAKEBREAD William of Eydon-house 30 Albert-street Banbury Oxfordshire decorative-painter died 3 June 1906 Probate **Oxford** 28 June to Elizabeth Cakebread widow Effects £191 18*s.* 6*d.*

CALDECOTT Amy of "Holmacre" Fallowfield Manchester spinster died 30 December 1905 Probate **Manchester** 15 May to Herbert Furnival, Sydney Furnival and Fred Salisbury Furnival printers'-engineers Effects £811 11*s.* 3*d.*

CALDECUTT Arthur Edward of St. Mary-street Southampton died 14 May 1889 Administration **London** 18 June to Eva List Sleet (wife of Charles Sleet) Effects £73 19*s.*

CALDECUTT William of 18 West Bank-street Hindsford Atherton Lancashire died 24 November 1902 Administration **London** 25 July to Mary Ann Caldecutt widow Effects £92 3*s.* 6*d.*

CALDER James Alexander Haldane of Helensburgh Dumbartonshire died 3 March 1906 Probate **London** 12 June to William Alexander Skeen Calder chemical-works-manager Effects £2195 4*s.*

CALDER Jessie Taylor of Raber-cottages Portdinorwic Carnarvonshire widow died 12 January 1906 Probate **Bangor** 15 February to Vincent Philip Lort gentleman and John Turnbull head-forester Effects £819 17*s.* 7*d.*

CALDER Robert of Stathe Stoke St. Gregory Somersetshire died 26 July 1905 Probate **London** 24 January to Eliza Jeanes (wife of Henry Jeanes) and Louisa Sellwood (wife of William Sellwood) Effects £29.

CALDERBANK Margaret of 17 Nelson-terrace Preston Lancashire spinster died 11 January 1906 Administration **London** 8 February to Joseph Calderbank joiner Effects £340 7*s.*

CALDERBANK Mary Ann of Guild-cottage Ashton-upon-Ribble Preston Lancashire widow died 21 November 1905 Probate **Lancaster** 11 September to James Wilkinson company's-secretary Effects £105 10*s.* 9*d.*

CALDERBANK Thomas of 34 Canon-street Bolton Lancashire retired coal-agent died 12 March 1906 Probate **Manchester** 21 April to Thomas Calderbank fitter and James Calderbank coal-agent Effects £323 3*s.* 10*d.*

CALDERONI Juan Teodoro of Lima Peru died 1 January 1893 Administration (with Will) (Limited) **London** 8 December to Ernest Thorndike gentleman the attorney of Isabel Calderoni de Majé Effects £50.

We have to mention, with much regret, the decease of our valued correspondent, Mr. David Cameron, which occurred on Sunday last. Mr. Cameron was an excellent British Botanist, had an extensive knowledge of exotic plants, was a good gardener, and a very worthy man. His notes and hints upon cultivation, which have occasionally appeared in our columns, showed the intimate knowledge he possessed of the habits of hardy plants, and the skill with which he knew how to turn that knowledge to account. For many years he filled the office of Curator to the Botanic Garden, Birmingham, with much credit to himself and advantage to the establishment; he was also a corresponding member of the Horticultural Society of London. He died at the age of 61.

GC 1848, p. 435

Medicinalpflanzen des Östreischen Pharmacopöe, Vienna, 1842.

Grundzüge der Botanik, Vienna, 1843, in conjunction with Unger.

He also continued, after Spenner's death, in conjunction with Putterlick, T. F. Nees von Esenbeck's 'Genera Plantarum Floræ Germanicæ;' and contributed largely to C. G. Nees von Esenbeck's edition of Mr. Brown's 'Vermischte Schriften;' to Pöppig's 'Nova Genera et Species Plantarum;' to the 'Annalen des Wiener Museums der Naturgeschichte;' to the 'Enumeratio Plantarum quas in Novâ Hollandiâ collegit Car. L. B. de Hügel;' and to the 'Flora Brasiliensis,' which he edited in common with Von Martius.

Of these numerous and important works the 'Genera Plantarum' is that on which his fame will chiefly rest, as a work of immense labour, great research and profound botanical science. It will long continue to be a book of standard reference to the systematic botanist, of whose labours it is a constant and indispensable companion.

In private life Professor Endlicher was a most excellent and amiable man. He died at Vienna on the 28th of March of an apoplectic attack, caused as some physicians presumed by an effusion of pus from the *pars petrosa* of the left side into the brain, as he had suffered for many years from a polypus in the ear. On the previous Monday he had received his friends with his usual calmness and serenity, complaining only of a slight headache; but at midday on Wednesday he lost his speech and became insensible, and about seven o'clock in the evening he ceased to exist, leaving a large circle of warmly attached friends to deplore his premature loss.

Two of our *Associates* are also to be added to the list of deaths.

Mr. David Cameron was elected an Associate of the Society on the 20th November 1827. He was then resident as head gardener at Bury Hill near Dorking, Surrey, the seat of the late Robert Barclay, Esq., F.L.S. &c., in whose service he remained until the early part of 1831, when he was appointed Curator of the recently founded Botanic Garden at Birmingham. During his stay at Bury Hill he communicated to the 'Gardener's Magazine' (to which Journal he was for many years an active contributor), two articles upon the Flowering Plants and Ferns introduced into this country by Mr. Barclay, or then growing at Bury Hill, with remarks on their culture, and woodcuts of many of them; also a paper on the mode of destroying the Red Spider in hothouses.

Among the numerous communications made by Mr. Cameron to the editor of the 'Gardener's Magazine' while he continued in charge of the Birmingham Garden, the principal are—

1. On protecting the Blossoms of Fruit-trees on Walls from Frost, vol. viii.

2. Account of the effects of the last winter (1837–38) on the Trees and Shrubs of the Botanic Garden, Birmingham, vol. xiv.

3. Account of the preparatory operations made in the Birmingham Botanic Garden previously to planting the Arboretum there; with the dimensions which some of the trees have attained in seven years, vol. xv.

Besides the above, he continued to forward from time to time for insertion in the same Magazine, notices of the new, rare, or otherwise interesting additions which were continually being made to the valuable collection under his care; and of the effects produced by hail-storms, unusually severe frosts, &c. &c. After the death of Mr. Loudon and consequent termination of the 'Gardener's Magazine,' Mr. Cameron became an occasional correspondent of the 'Phytologist,' to which he was one of the earliest contributors.

His communications to the 1st vol. are—

1. Note on (the culture of) British Orchideæ, p. 62.

2. Notes on the cultivation of *Lycopodium clavatum* and *L. Selago*, p. 63.

3. Note on *Dianthus plumarius* and *D. Caryophyllus*, p. 63.

4. Note on *Cibotium Barometz*, p. 427.

5. Note on *Anagallis arvensis* and *A. cærulea*.

6. Note on the Irish Furze (*Ulex strictus*).

7. Warwickshire locality for *Equisetum fluviatile*, p. 555.

The 3rd vol. of the Journal of the Horticultural Society (of which he was a Corresponding Member) also contains two papers by him:

1. On the cultivation of British Orchids, and

2. On the cultivation of Hardy Heaths.

Mr. Cameron appears to have been unusually successful in cultivating at Birmingham our terrestrial *Orchideæ*; owing, probably, to the excellent opportunities which he must have possessed of becoming acquainted with their habits, during the time of his residence among the chalk hills of Surrey. He never communicated any paper to the Linnean Society; but he frequently contributed to give additional interest to our Meetings by forwarding for exhibition fresh specimens of plants likely to attract attention, either from their rarity or beauty; many of which, proving new to our herbarium, have been dried and preserved. He continued to hold the office of Curator to the Birmingham Botanic Garden until the end of 1847 or beginning of 1848, when he removed to Shrawley in Worcestershire, where he

resided till the date of his death, which took place after an illness of a few hours' duration, on the 25th June last, at the age of 61.

Mr. William M'Nab, for many years Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, and a most skilful and successful horticulturist, was born in the year 1780, in the parish of Dailly in Ayrshire, where his father was a small farmer. When quite a lad he had a strong predilection for the occupation of a gardener, and was accordingly apprenticed at the age of sixteen to the gardener of Mr. Kennedy of Dunure, who after three years' service recommended him to Mr. Walter Dickson, a well-known nurseryman at Edinburgh. From thence he passed into the garden of the Earl of Haddington at Tyningham in East Lothian; and was subsequently admitted into the Royal Garden at Kew, where his diligence and intelligence recommended him to the special notice of Mr. Aiton, by whom he was appointed Foreman. Here he also attracted the attention of Sir Joseph Banks, who in 1810 recommended him to Dr. Rutherford, the Professor of Botany in Edinburgh, and he became Superintendent of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, an office which he filled for nearly forty years. Some years after his appointment, the removal of the Botanic Garden to its present site was effected; and the laying out and planting of the new Garden, as well as the successful removal of large and valuable specimens from the old to the new establishment, afford striking testimonials of his industry and skill. He was the author of 'Hints on the Planting and General Treatment of Hardy Evergreens in the Climate of Scotland,' Edinb. 8vo, 1831; and of 'A Treatise on the Propagation, Cultivation and General Treatment of Cape Heaths, in a Climate where they require Protection during the Winter Months,' Edinb. 8vo, 1832. In the latter branch of cultivation he was indeed peculiarly successful, and his directions for the management of that beautiful tribe of plants are regarded as the most valuable practical suggestions that have yet been offered. As an assistant to the Professors of Botany, both in the garden and in the botanical excursions of the pupils, Mr. M'Nab acquired universal respect and esteem. He died on the 1st of December last, and was succeeded in the Curatorship of the garden by his son James, who inherits his father's skill as a gardener and devotion to botanical pursuits.

The Secretary also announced that twelve Fellows and three Associates had been elected since the last Anniversary.

At the election which subsequently took place, the Lord Bishop of Norwich was re-elected President; William Yarrell, Esq., was

is entirely absent, while in others it is small and temporary. In some members of the last class, such as the ordinary Zonal Pelargonium, it seems to act as a nurse to the dormant bud. I have often noticed that such plants break much more readily in early spring, when the withered stipules are allowed to remain on, than when they are removed, the obvious reason being that the stipules hold a certain amount of moisture in their axils where the buds are, and thus, by softening the skin, help them to start into growth.

June 9th.—It would not be easy to plant Rhododendrons where they would not look well. They are beautiful on a hillside or a steep bank, but perhaps they are most beautiful in a glade (as shown in the photograph reproduced last week), where they can be looked down upon. When they are massed thus, the colour effects are magnificent.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 238.—MR. JAMES CANTLE, AT THE GARDENS, MOUNTFIELD COURT, ROBERTSBRIDGE.

THERE are two special points of interest in connection with the gardens at Mountfield Court, which I visited the last week in April. One is that Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. C. A. Egerton, the owners, are just taking up their residence; and the other, that Mr. James Cantle, the young head gardener, was, for upwards of three years, foreman at Normanhurst, the seat of Lord Brassey (Mrs. Egerton's father), and had previously been on the gardening staff at Ammerdown Park, Lord Hylton's seat in Somersetshire. It will be seen that a great deal of Mr. Cantle's time, since he came to Mountfield Court last July, has been occupied in making alterations and transplanting. Nature has been very kind in this instance. The Court itself stands on a great eminence, almost the highest point in Sussex, and the views of the surrounding country from the lawns are superb. On my arrival, Mr. Cantle suggested that we should stroll up Church Walk, a portion of the gardens which is in process of improvement, and, though already pretty, may easily be made extremely beautiful. There are fine trees on either side, including some evergreen Oaks, and the Deutzias and Alstrœmerias planted here for the time being are thriving. Proceeding to the front of the house, a huge clump of Rhododendrons near the entrance almost dazzle the eye owing to the mass of colour. Others face the kitchen corner, where the beds were gay with spring flowers. Here, too, as Mr. Cantle pointed out, are Rose beds, standards and bush.

Roses and Rhododendrons.

"Which varieties do best?" I inquired.

"Jean Ducher, Marie van Houtte, Homere, Safrano, Viscountess Folkestone, Papa Gontier, Anna Ollivier, The Bride, and Souvenir de Therese Levet—Tea and Hybrid Tea varieties. The creepers on the Court itself are Jasminum, Wistaria, Ampelopsis Veitchii, and two varieties of Magnolias, as well as a Fig tree."

"I suppose that the Rhododendrons are named?"

"Many of them, among the best and newest being Norfolk Whitworth, Marchioness of Headford, and Duchess of Connaught."

"A feature on the principal lawn is, I suppose, the large herbaceous bed?"

"It is a great feature. The varieties comprise Papavers, Delphiniums, Iris of sorts, Aquilegias, Fritillarias, Hemerocallis, and Phloxes, with Sweet Williams in front, the whole at present being filled with spring bedding plants."

"Why do you put wire round?"

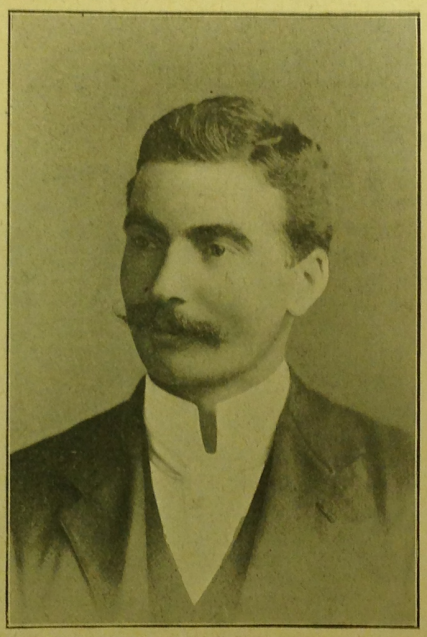
"Because of the rabbits. They are a great nuisance here, and we have to take all sorts of measures to protect things from them. The smaller herbaceous bed includes Solomon's Seal, Campanulas, Gaillardias, and Doronicums, edged with Myosotis."

"And the Rose bed of standards?"

"Dr. Andry, Maman Cochet, Captain Hayward, Duke of Edinburgh, La Rosiere, and Mrs. B. R. Cant. There are two beds of Azalea mollis, and one with Lilium candidum growing underneath, and Montbretias round the outside."

"How are the two egg-shaped beds nearer the Court made up?"

"With Wallflowers and Myosotis, now; and last summer they consisted of Geraniums, Begonias, and Heliotropes. Probably, they will be the same this year. Two beds for spring have been made up of Polyanthus and double white Arabis. Other beds include one devoted to Carnations (Crimson Clove), and two to Pansies, with mixed edging. The Pansies are



MR. JAMES CANTLE.

in six shades of colour—black, blue, yellow, white, purple-shaded, and brown."

"You have more Pansies on the north side?"

"Yes, but the same varieties in rows, and mixed with Carnations (Raby Castle). Further on, there is a bed with Pansies and Carnations of mixed varieties, including Duchess of Rothesay, Henry Faulkener, Miss Audrey Campbell, and Richmond. There are also two more Rose beds at the corner."

An Aged Chestnut.

Noticing a number of Irish Yews round one side of the lawns, and several masses of Rhododendrons, we proceeded to the Long Walk, which leads to Temple Wood, passing a rough lawn, bright with Heather and flowering shrubs, capable, also, of great developments. Quite a feature of the front drive are the Chestnuts, one being of such great age that some of the branches would themselves make fine trees. A little distance away is the orchard, where Apples and Potatoes divide the interest.

"In addition to this," continued Mr. Cantle, "we have half an acre of ground for growing Potatoes for selection. I suppose there are twenty varieties. Then there is a quarter of an acre utilised for Broccoli and winter greens. The varieties of Potatoes grown in the orchard, with rows on each side, are Lincolnshire Kidney, Satisfaction, Up-to-Date, Toogood's Tremendous, and Harbinger. About midsummer, we put in Peas on each side."

"There is a fine old tree of Northern Greening, and the best of the other varieties are Peach Apple, Blenheim Orange, King of Pippins, Cox's Orange, Annie Elizabeth, and Duchbill (a rather large cooking Apple)."

Recent Changes.

"Your kitchen garden stands remarkably well."

"It is quite one of our features, and a good many changes have been made since I came. The pergola at the entrance consists of Carmine Pillar, Crimson Rambler, and Wichuriana Roses, Clematis flammula and Ampelopsis Veitchii. The beds right along the east wall are planted chiefly with herbaceous varieties, including Michaelmas Daisies in large number, Pæonies, Pentstemons, and Hepaticas, with a few annuals to fill up. The Wallflowers, Pansies, and Anemones pulsatilla are just over."

"I see that you have Sweet Peas in rows across, and wire put over them."

"The Pea-guards are necessary to keep the birds out. We only grow five of the very best varieties, viz., Gladys Unwin, Dorothy Eckford, Miss Willmott, Black Knight, and Lady Grisel Hamilton."

Plantation of Fruit Trees.

"You have a Fig tree of great age on a corner of the wall?"

"Yes, and it is rather in contrast to a number of fruit trees which I planted last autumn. Here, for instance, is one of Hemskirk Apricot, and a Cherry tree (Governor Wood), while, again by way of contrast, there is also a grand specimen of Marie Louise."

"You might mention some more of the trees which you recently planted in this part of the garden."

"Amongst them is an espalier Apple tree (Newtown Pippin), Humboldt Nectarine, and Apricot D'Alsace. There are a number of old varieties of Apricots not named, which bear indifferently, but the fruit, though small, is of good flavour. All along the north wall are Guigne de Winckler Cherries, a bright red berry, which hangs late. At the bottom entrance are plantations of Currants and Gooseberries, with a row of mixed Sweet Peas facing them."

Cordon Pears.

"Did you put in the cordon Pears?"

"They were all planted at the same time as the others, and the varieties are Clapp's Favourite, Doyenné du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, Winter Nelis, Marie Benoist, Le Lectier, Nouvelle Fulvie, Comte de Lamy, Emile d'Heyst, Beurré Superfin, Glou Morceau, Durondeau, Passe Crassane, Charles Ernest, and Conseiller de la Cour. The system, as you perceive, is to plant the new trees close to the old ones, and, by degrees, we shall doubtless get rid of the latter. I may say that, wherever new trees are planted, I have dug out a good depth of soil, and put in drainage at the bottom. Before we go into the kitchen garden itself, I may call your attention to two Quinces, and a small plantation of Blackberries. The latter do well."

Varieties of Fruit.

"In the kitchen garden I see you have the Japanese Wineberry, which look as if they would also do well."

"There are four trees, which were planted in the autumn, but the Loganberry, which is trained on wires, has been grown for some time. The trees fruited well last year."

"Do you treat them the same as Raspberries."

"Practically the same. The Raspberries are grown on stakes, and then run up wires."

"What are the principal Peaches on the walls?"

"Alexandra, Dymond, and Sea Eagle. We also grow, on the inside walls, Moor Park and Powell's Late Apricots, and Spencer Nectarines. Plums are grown on the north wall, which will be planted underneath with winter greens and Violets for the frames. The latter are Marie Louise, Princess of Wales, and a few of the Czar. In the beds facing are Sir Joseph Paxton, Latest of All, and Royal Sovereign Strawberries. Another bed under this wall consists of Lilies of the Valley, which are just showing, and near here are the later Peas, including Sutton's May Queen, Early Giant, Invincible, Marrowfat, and Eureka."

Some of the Vegetables.

"Did you select these varieties?"

"Yes, all the vegetables and all the fruit planted since last autumn are of my selection. For instance, I sowed, in the Onion bed, James's Long-keeping and Exhibition; in the Carrot bed, Sutton's Favourite, a new red intermediate; and, in the Parsnip bed, Tender and True and The Student."

"Is there any more fruit which you would like to mention?"

"Among trees I have planted or shifted inside the garden are Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bismarck, and Red Astrachan Apples. I have also planted six young Apple trees, the varieties being Adams' Pearmain, Duke of Devonshire, Cockle's Pippin, Lord Burleigh, Court Pendu Plat, and Old Nonpareil. There are some old Bigarreau Cherries on the wall, which fruit at the end of July, and I have recently planted a Bigarreau Napoleon. Among the Pears shifted are Fondante de Thirriot and Duchess d'Angouleme. I might, of course, give you many more names of trees newly planted or transplanted, but I think that those mentioned will suffice to show the kind of work I have been largely engaged in doing."

The Houses and Frames.

Then we left the kitchen garden, which is diamond-shaped, and about an acre in extent, and looked round the houses and frames.

"We make the most of our space here," said Mr. Cantle, "growing what is most useful. Cucumbers are raised in boxes, the variety being Sutton's Improved Telegraph. The Tomato plants are called Little Hastings, and here are a few of our earliest Potatoes (Duke of York)."

"What about flowers?"

"They are chiefly Salvias splendens and Glory of Stuttgart, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Miss Willmott Verbenas, and Heliotropes. We are just making a start with Malmaison Carnations."

"How many are you commencing with?"

"Just over a hundred. The varieties are Trumpeter, Princess of Wales, Old Blush, H. J. Cutbush, Lady Hermione, Uriah Pike, and Cecilia. The Pelargoniums on the stage are mixed varieties."

"And the principal bedding plants?"

"Dianthus, Verbenas, Giant Park, Antirrhinums (white, yellow, and red), and Salpiglossis. A few Orchids are grown in this house, also a few Palms, and a batch of Gloxinias."

Winter-Flowering Carnations.

Having observed the pretty pink Cactus, I inquired the varieties of Grapes in the little Vinery.

"Muscats and Alicantes. We use the Vinery also for Fuchsias and Hydrangeas, which, later on, are placed outside the dining-room windows. Here, also, are Cannas for bedding, Stocks (Mauve Beauty and Intermediate), Larkspur, and a few winter-flowering Carnations, including Governor Wolcott, Lady Wright, Royalty, and Lady Henry Somerset."

"The cool house, I conclude, you use chiefly for bedding?"

"We are rather proud of the fine Aloysia citriodora in this house, but, as you infer, it is mainly devoted to bedding plants, such as Tagetes pumila, Gypsophila elegans, Gaillardias, Nasturtiums (Ruby King and The King), Geraniums (Souvenir de Charles Turner and Madame Crousse), Agapanthus, and Lobelias (Queen Victoria). Finally, there are the Chrysanthemums in the frames, of which the best varieties are King of Plumes, Madame Carnot, Mrs. Mears, Queen of the Exe, Lady Selborne, Vicar of Leatherhead, Mrs. Barkley, Mr. J. Thompson, Mr. T. Carrington, and Madame Paola Radaelli.

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 201.—IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Dear Kate,—Now that the flower garden is arranged for the summer, it will be well to turn our attention to the vegetable garden. Asparagus is a vegetable which we do not all grow as much or as successfully as we might, and yet there is nothing to equal it during the spring, until the early Peas come in.

Asparagus for Amateurs.

We find the Early Purple Argenteuil Asparagus the best of all, but Sutton's Giant and Connover's Colossal varieties are also fine, but not quite so early as the first-named kind. In too many gardens the Asparagus bed is a very old one, with sad gaps in it; and if yours is like that, it is not too late to sow seed at once, in drills, for planting out next April, by which you will save a year's time. You can, of course, buy plants of two years' growth then, and so save two years' time; but if you want plenty of this delicious vegetable, it is much more economical to sow seed, although it is a good plan to do both.

I believe the old delusion that Asparagus needs extraordinary amounts of manure, with faggots below it, and all sorts of things, prevents many gardeners from undertaking the work of making an Asparagus bed, but the truth of the matter is that it may be grown quite as easily as Cabbages in any ordinary soil, although in a heavy clay it is desirable to drain it with a layer of broken crocks, two feet down, and to lighten the soil with sea sand, burnt materials, and stable manure, for Asparagus is a seashore plant, which grows well on some of our coasts, and it prefers a light soil to a heavy one. In the gravelly soil of our garden it flourishes amazingly, and I will tell you exactly how we manage it.

The beds are not made up any higher than usual, and are double trenched and well manured before planting, which is best done early in April, just as growth begins. The young plants are watered and shaded, for they must not be allowed to droop—and, for this reason, seedlings taken as we want them from our own garden are easier to manage than bought ones, which must be put in directly they arrive—and are planted in three rows on long beds forty inches wide, at intervals of one foot, and the same distance between the rows. Broad beds are not desirable, because no foot should tread on the surface in cutting Asparagus, or the sprouting growths just below will be spoiled.

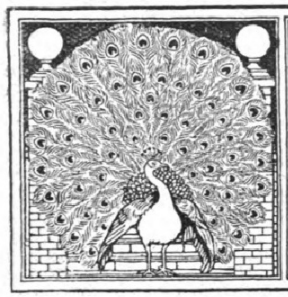
We do not cut the heads before the third year, and then only sparingly, but the fourth season it is very fine and abundant. We never heap up manure on the beds in autumn, as the old practice used to be, for this proceeding, which is often carried out with a mistaken idea that it keeps the plants warm, in reality makes them very cold, for the sun's rays cannot penetrate the thick mass, the soil below which is soaked with foul stuff, which the dormant roots cannot assimilate, and, consequently, they are apt to rot, hence the aforesaid gaps.

No, let the purifying and fructifying effects of the frost and snow penetrate the soil; the plants are hardy, and the sunshine will also do them good in winter. It is in the spring and summer that they should be highly fed, when they are growing fast, and making crowns for the following season. Early in March the beds are lightly forked over—never must a spade go near them—and then sprinkled with salt at the rate of two ounces to each square yard, or, if the soil be poor and hungry, any other suitable chemical manure may be given at that time.

A Salt Dressing.

Salt checks the weeds, and helps to keep the soil moist, so that it is a good plan to give the beds a light dressing of it just before the heads are expected to appear, but you should never exceed the quantity mentioned (*i.e.*, two ounces to the square yard) at one time, though the

The North Side of Mountfield Court.



THE GARDENS AT CHARTERS, ASCOT.

Interview with Mr. F. W. Capp.

THE prolonged thunderstorm which broke out over the Sunninghill district soon after my arrival did not prevent me from looking round the gardens at Charters, and fully appreciating their numerous beauties. The owner of Charters, Mr. Edward Iveson, and his daughters, take the keenest interest in the estate, and as Mr. Capp, who has the oversight of the estate as well as of the gardens, was quick to tell me, they are extremely solicitous for the comfort of all who are employed on it. For example, Mr. Iveson has erected and equipped a model bothy for the young gardeners, with a separate room for the foreman; and when Mr. Capp took up his present appointment, five years and a half ago, his employer rebuilt his house, and made important additions. The two great features in the gardens at Charters are the pleasure grounds and the fruit; and as soon as the weather allowed, we proceeded to the former, approaching by way of the kitchen garden.

Herbaceous Plants for Massing.

"What is the width of your fine herbaceous border, with grass in front?" I asked.

"About fourteen feet. Some of the most useful plants, arranged in groups for massing, are Delphiniums, Webbs' hybrids; Chelone barbata; Coreopsis grandiflora and lanceolata; Crambe cordifolia, Dictamnus caucasicus and fraxinella; Digitalis grandiflora; Doronicums austriacum, Clusii, and Harpur Crewe; Echinops bannaticus; Erigeron amethystinum; Euphorbia pilosa major; Gentiana acaulis; Gypsophila paniculata and elegans; Lupins in variety; Œnothera fruticosa major; Papaver orientale; Pentstemons mixed; Irises in variety; Pyrethrums, double and single; Potentillas Gloire de Nancy and purpurea; Trollius giganteus; Phloxes in variety; Asters Brumalis roseus and amellus; Statice tatarica; and Thalictrum adiantifolium. Large masses of all the leading tall varieties of Helianthus are used at the back of this and other borders for colour."

The Best Flowering Shrubs.

"Then there are the shrubs behind this border?"

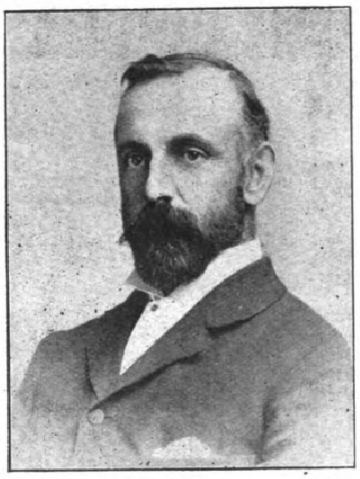
"They are chiefly Euonymus radicans alba marginata, Olearia Haasti, Skimmia japonica, Cassinia chrysophylla, Cistus obtusifolius, Forsythia suspensa, Berberis Thunbergii, Retinospora plumosus aurea, Viburnum plicatum, Taxus elegantissima, Biota orientalis elegantissima, Cupressus Lawsoniana Wisselii and Stewartii, Thujopsis borealis aurea, Garrya elliptica, Prunus Pissardi, Acer negundo argenteum, Euonymus europæus variegatum, Pyrus spectabilis, Buddleia variabilis and globosa."

"You have further herbaceous borders under a fruit wall beyond?"

"Those are what we call 'The Young Ladies' Borders.' They are filled at each end with herbaceous plants, and the two beds in the middle are occupied with hardy Fuchsias in groups, the varieties being gracilis, virgata, pumila, gracilis variegata, and Riccartoni. You will see that fruit trees are largely used to adorn the pleasure grounds, but the wall behind 'The Young Ladies' Borders,' which are edged with Eulalias, is limited to Plums, Kirk's, Paul's Seedling, and Jefferson."

"How do you manage to get such a splendid display of Marigolds?" I asked, as we passed on to the lawns, and a dazzling mass of colour confronted us.

"They only require simple treatment. It is the arrangement which renders them effective. As you see, there are five rows; at the back African lemon, then gold striped, and in succession a row of African Orange Prince, a row of Webbs' French Marigolds, and a row of Silver Star, the edging in front being entirely composed of double Lobelias. Perhaps, before we go up the lawns, you would like to see the Rose garden."



Mr. Fredk. W. Capp.

How Roses are Grown.

"What is your principal arrangement in it?"

"The Hybrid Perpetuals are grown in beds by themselves in good, rich loam and manure. In September we give a heavy top-dressing of nine inches of cow manure, which is renewed in February. At pruning time, the last week in March, when the Roses have been pruned back to two or three eyes, we fork in the manure for the season, making everything neat and tidy. The Hybrid Teas, which are grown in mixed beds, are treated in the same way, only I find that they do better in a rather lighter soil. Where Roses are grown on a large scale, I recommend the massing of colours, with trees planted in groups of six to twelve of one variety."

"Now, as to the combinations on the lawn of charming fruit trees, with a groundwork of annuals?"

"The standard fruit trees are top-dressed with manure, and in the spring we sow the annuals at the base. Some of the Apple trees bore no fruit until the ground was broken up, but, as you can judge for yourself, they are thriving now."

Bedding Combinations.

In the centre of the pleasure grounds, which all slope more or less, are many admirable combinations of bedding, such as Cupressus, with Hybrid Tea Roses; a large bed of Montbretias, backed with Bamboos and Hollies; a long border with Portugal Laurels at intervals, a groundwork of dwarf bedding Nasturtiums, and an edging of Ageratum; a circular bed of Pentstemons, mixed with Hydrangeas paniculata; a fine bed of flowering shrubs, faced up with Roses, Sweet Williams, Campanulas, and Calceolarias; a large bed of mixed Azaleas, which are kept trimmed every season. Turning my attention to trees, I noticed some striking specimens of Sweet Chestnuts, Limes, Oaks, Acacias, Cedars, and Beeches, on the lawns, while specimens of variegated Hollies abound. I asked for the names of the best of these.

"Golden Queen, Moonlight, Waterer, Handsworth, Shepherdii, laurifolia, marginata, rotundifolia, myrtifolia, crenata, and latifolia. The Asters, to which an entire corner of the lawns is devoted, are planted to colour. Other bedding combinations are Violas mixed, dotted with Nicotiana affinis and Sanderæ; Kalmia latifolia, filled in with groups of Nicotiana; Francoa ramosa, and Gladiolus Brenchleyensis, bordered by Tagetes Silver Star."

"You are remarkably rich in Rhododendrons?"

"Yes; we have a choice collection, some in large beds by themselves, and many others in the borders, including numerous unnamed hybrids. In the two sub-tropical beds facing the large beds of Rhododendrons are a specimen of Pittosporum Tobira, with Abutilon Thomsoni, and scarlet and white Geraniums, edged with Lobelias. But the principal sub-tropical beds are in the East Garden, below the terrace."

"How are they made up?"

"Two with Fuchsias, standards and bushes, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Salvia splendens, and a groundwork of Lobelia Barnard's Blue and Geranium Bijou, which is allowed to flower for effect, the edging being Lobelia Blue Beard. Of the circular beds, two are composed of Streptosolens as standards, intermixed with Lobelia cardinalis and Zinnias, the groundwork of dwarf Tropæolums, with an edging of Lobelia Blue Beard and Geranium Little Dandy. There is also a bed with Fuchsias Mrs. Marshall as standards, Abutilon Thomsoni, and a groundwork of dark Zinnias, edged by Geraniums Madame Crousse; and the bed at the corner consists of golden Cupressus, filled in with Berberis Darwini, and edged by white Ericas."

"The tubs show up well on the terrace."

"They are all filled with Hydrangea Hortensis and Agapanthus umbellatus. On the mansion the chief creepers are French Honeysuckle, Ivy, Clematis montana, and Cotoneaster."

The Terrace Scheme.

"And the bedding on the side where the carriage entrance is?"

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"That is the north side, and the features are the three herbaceous borders backing the extensive croquet lawn, with more large beds of Rhododendrons."

"All your lawns seem to resemble a lovely carpet."

SOUTH FRONT, CHARTERS, ASCOT.

"I attribute their appearance chiefly to the fact that in October they are always top-dressed with wood-ashes, lime, soot, and bonemeal.

"On the east side of the terrace," continued Mr. Capp, "are four beds of Geraniums, edged with Pyrethrum Golden Feather; a centre bed of standard Fuchsias, silver Abutilons, and Plumbago capensis, with a groundwork of Geraniums Charles Turner, edged with Lobelias Blue Beard; and two beds of Geranium Madame Crousse, also edged with Lobelias Blue Beard."

"Then, there is the great display of bedding facing south, with the sloping lawn and tennis-courts beyond?"

"Four of the beds consist of tuberous-rooted Begonias, rose and pink, edged with Lobelias Blue Beard. Four more, larger, are composed of Geranium Henry Jacoby, edged with Pyrethrum Golden Feather. The two circular beds are standard Fuchsias, and a groundwork of Geraniums Madame Crousse, with Heliotrope President Garfield, edged by Geraniums Little Dandy, and a front line of double Lobelias. A centre bed contains Abutilon Thomsoni, and Geraniums Henry Jacoby, edged with Pyrethrums Golden Feather. There are two beds with Geraniums Charles Turner, intermixed with Lobelias Blue Beard; and two of larger sizes composed of silver Abutilons and Plumbago capensis, with a groundwork of Geranium Madame Crousse, edged by Lobelias Blue Beard. The vases, dotted about on the south front, are filled with Geraniums double Raspail and Queen of the Whites, intermixed with Marguerites, with a groundwork of double Lobelias and Geraniums Madame Crousse."

"Do you plant all these beds in spring?"

"Yes, with May-flowering Tulips, Wallflowers, Polyanthus, and Myosotis, all massed to colour. This is the principle which we carry out in all the bedding."

As it continued fine, we next inspected, in the excellently arranged kitchen garden, the hardy fruit, with which the name of Mr. Capp is associated as a most successful cultivator.

"First of all," I said, as we looked at the finely-grown fruit, "as to the pyramids and standards now laden with Apples?"

"The varieties grown are Lane's Prince Albert, Cox's Pomona, Lord Derby, Sandringham, Ecklinville Seedling, Annie Elizabeth, Bismarck, Stirling Castle, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bramley's Seedling, Blenheim Orange, Pott's Seedling, Keswick Codlin, Byford Wonder, New Hawthornden, Lord Suffield, Alfriston, Cellini Pippin, Warner's King, King of Pippins, Sturmer's Pippin, Early Transparent, Ribston Pippin, and Cox's Orange Pippin, which is very scarce this season. These, with the last exception, are bearing the best year."

Culture of Hardy Fruit.

"I should like to know how you succeed in securing such chains of well-developed fruit on the single cordon system."

"All trees showing the least signs of running to wood are lifted in the early autumn. I consider it is essential to the successful culture of hardy fruit that young trees should be frequently lifted, that the older ones should be root-pruned, and that all roots should be raised to the surface, and periodically top-dressed. Four times in the year I use good raw cow manure for top-dressing, and at stated times I apply other manures which I mix myself. When I apply these, I give the trees a thorough soaking, so that everything is washed through to the roots."

"Your Pear crops appear to be equally successful."

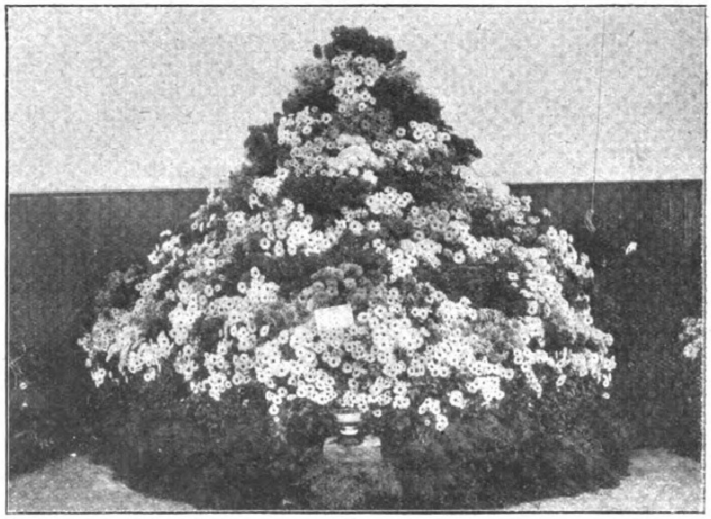
"The varieties bearing good crops, mostly on the walls, are Pitmaston Duchess, Marie Louise, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Bosc, Glou Morceau, Beurre Superfin, Winter Nelis, Beurre de Joliche, Duchess d'Angouleme, Marechal de la Cour, Josephine de Malines, Beurre Rance, Clapp's Favourite, Brown Beurre, Beurre Diel, Louise Bonne of Jersey, and Williams's Bon Chretien. The last, however, is not bearing so well on the pyramids, owing to the number of frosts and quantity of rain at setting time. The system of cultivation I have mentioned in respect to Apples, applies to every class of hardy fruit."

Fruit Storage.

"Do you care to say anything on the subject of storing?"

"It is one of vital importance. I have two very good fruit rooms, but I always place a thin layer of the best wood-wool procurable on the fruit racks. This admits air to the fruit and prevents it from being damaged in contact with the racks. I might say, with reference to pruning, that I prefer to leave Pears until the last week in July, and Apples till the second week in August. Then, there is no danger, or very little, of the buds coming into growth again, which, of course, is highly detrimental to the future cropping of any kind of fruit."

"When do you commence picking Strawberries?"



A GROUP OF DECORATIVE CHRYSANTHEMUMS, WITH WHICH MR. CAPP SECURED FIRST PRIZE AT ASCOT.

"The first week in June, beginning with Vicomtesse de Thury. The other varieties are Royal Sovereign—of which we force about five hundred, ripening the 1st of April—Noble, Leader, Sir Joseph Paxton, Fillbasket, Latest of All, Trafalgar, Givon's Late Prolific, St. Antoine de Padoue, and St. Joseph. As to cultivation, I

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prepare the ground for new beds, which I plant in September, at two feet apart between the rows, and from one foot to eighteen inches, according to the variety, from plant to plant. I use none but cow manure on our light soil. This is dug in in trenches, eighteen inches deep, about nine inches of manure being used all through the ground. We never fail by this system to have an abundant crop. The beds are cleared and renewed every three years."

"What was your yield of fruit last year?"

"Four and a half hundredweights. This year it was much the same, but we lost about three-quarters of a hundredweight owing to the wet weather. There are two thousand two hundred Strawberry plants in full crop."

THE STAFF, AND BOTHY AT CHARTERS, ASCOT.

Cordon Currants.

"I observe that your Raspberries and Currants are bearing heavy crops, and that you have a number of Currants and Gooseberries on pillars of a wall, both on cordons and fan-trained."

"I am a strong believer in growing both Currants and Gooseberries in this manner. The flavour is better, and we can get fruit a good deal later—right up to the middle of September, in fact."

"As to flowers in the kitchen garden, Sweet Peas are very prominent, and you have some very fine plants."

"They are a special feature here. We sow the named varieties the last week in January, five seeds to a pot, in a mixture of good loam, leaf-mould, and a little sand. These are watered and placed in an intermediate frame. After the seeds have germinated and become hardened, we put the pots close to the glass, either in the frame or on the shelf of a cold house where frost is excluded. I usually plant out the first week in April, in ground previously prepared. I take out the soil to a depth of eighteen inches or more, and place nine inches of cow manure in the bottom, covering it with two to three inches of soil, leaving room for top-dressing. With regard to varieties, we are very careful not to allow colours to clash, keeping two feet clear between each space. This season some of the flowers have gone up to the height of eight or nine feet, and the quantity of blooms has been very large and lasting."

A Hint in Chrysanthemum Growing.

"I need not ask if Chrysanthemums are a feature, as they appear to line the whole length of the garden, with every indication of producing fine blooms."

"They extend over a line of one hundred yards. Eight hundred are grown in pots for exhibition in groups at the local shows, both in large-bloomed varieties, and Singles and Decoratives. The last-named are very much to the front here. I have won the challenge cup at the Ascot show for two years in succession, as well as many other first prizes, including Windsor. We keep up a supply of cut flowers for the house from October to February, and have also a number of the early-flowering varieties, which extends the season from July.'

"I do not see any sign of rust on any of your plants. To what do you attribute their healthy condition?"

"Largely to the use of my own manures, with the aid of a little Clay's Fertiliser at intervals. But to go into the question of Chrysanthemum culture would, of course, occupy too much of your space, unless dealt with separately. Violets are grown in large quantities by the Misses Iveson. The varieties outside are Czar, Princess of Wales, and Admiral Avellan. In frames we grow Marie Louise, De Parma, and Lady Hume Campbell. These are lifted and planted in a compost of two parts good loam to one of leaf-mould, six inches from the glass."

Pelargoniums and Carnations.

Entering the range of houses, I noticed a quantity of Pelargoniums making a fine display.

"The best varieties," said Mr Capp, "are Joe, Princess Maude, Resolute, Lady Decies, Marguerite, Malcolm, Magnate, Marie Lemoine, Madame Thibaut, Romeo, Lady of the Lake, Mr. Coombs, Prince Henry, Empress of India, Amethyst, and Candidate."

"Your Malmaison Carnations also appear to be flourishing."

"A few of the varieties are Nell Gwynne, Mrs. Trelawney, Princess of Wales, Maggie Hodgson, and Prime Minister, grown in quantity for cutting. The American varieties are also grown in quantities, the varieties being Mrs. Kennett, Harry Fenn, Lady Bountiful, White and Pink Lawson, Enchantress, Elliott's Queen, Robert Craig, Flamingo, Nelson Fisher, Sir Henry Calcraft, Duchess of Portland, and America. I find that in the cultivation of Carnations it is wise to select the best varieties of the colours which are preferred by the family, and then to grow in large quantities. The best we grow are certainly Lady Bountiful (white), Enchantress, and Mrs. Burnett (pink)."

"Now, as to the Grapes and Peaches?"

"There are four Peach houses, the first containing Royal George; the second Alexander, Noblesse, and Barrington, with Nectarines Stanwick Elruge and Lord Napier. The third has Princess of Wales, and the fourth Nectarines Pineapple and Figs Brown Turkey."

As we looked at a tree of Royal George, covered with fruit from top to bottom, Mr. Capp said,

"We do not force these Peaches, but we take great care of them when we get them, placing on the floor of the house a thick cover-

THE LATE VINERY AT CHARTERS, ASCOT.

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ing of wood-wool. On this the fruit falls, and is never injured. The Peaches on this tree run from four to six ounces each. One of the three Vineries is devoted entirely to pot Vines, propagated by us. The variety is Foster's Seedling. The back wall of this house is covered with Plumbago capensis. In the early Vinery the varieties are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. In the late Vinery there are Gros Colmar, Lady Downe, and Black Alicante."

Stove Plants and Ferns.

"Then there are the plant houses?"

"In the two stoves we have a large quantity of Begonias in variety, with Allamandas on the roof; also Dracænas, Crotons, and Pancratiums in quantity. The Fernery, which has a tiled floor, contains a selection of choice varieties, including Asparagus. In this house, also, are a few Orchids, Dendrobiums in baskets, Cœlogyne cristata, and Oncidiums."

"You devote a great space to vegetables?"

"Yes, as you see; in addition to large breadths of Peas, Asparagus and Beans in the kitchen garden with the fruit, we have another garden where quantities of Potatoes, Celery, Marrows, Beans, Lettuces and Greens are grown. Here, too, are standard fruit trees, Apples, and Plums, while Loganberries are grown on the fences."

Mr. Capp's Career.

"I should like a few details as to your own career, Mr. Capp, which I believe has been very varied."

"I started at Welbeck Abbey, and was next in Worksop Manor Gardens. I was then for two years at Elsham House, Grantham, and thence I proceeded to Plough Hatch, Ashdown Forest, Sussex. My first position as head gardener was at Newport House, Eardisley, where there was a nice range of glass and hardy fruit on a large scale. I was there between five and six years, and was then head gardener for a time at Wexham Park, Slough. After that I became head gardener at Paddockhurst, and, in conjunction with Mr. Milner, remade the gardens. I had charge of the entire staff of men, and got the whole place into order. All the hardy fruit was replanted and root pruned, and the splendid Orchid house was erected among other additions. At the end of four years I went to Caversham Hall, Suffolk, in order to remake the gardens for Mr. H. E. M. Davies. We built new garden walls, and planted a quantity of hardy fruit; the range of houses was also very extensive, and there was a fine collection of foliage plants. My next appointment was at Toddington Manor, where I carried out a series of planting operations, but fruit under glass was the chief feature. As you know already, I have been here between five and six years."

"You have told me about winning the challenge cup at Ascot, but I should like to know more about your showing."

"At Paddockhurst in May, 1896, I was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's silver Banksian medal for a group of Orchids, and in August of the same year for a group of herbaceous plants; but there was no time for showing. Since I came to Charters, I have been showing a good deal, chiefly hardy fruits, Apples and Pears, and Chrysanthemums. For these my collection of prize cards includes many firsts; and I have taken seconds for Grapes, Tomatoes, and other vegetables. Even more than the prize cards, I value the many presents which kind friends gave Mrs. Capp and myself on the occasion of our silver wedding this year."

"They prove that only goodwill is felt towards you," I replied, as Mr. Capp pointed out some of the tokens of esteem which he received, the most treasured being a beautiful set of silver candlesticks, with an appreciative letter from Mr. Iveson and the Misses Iveson.

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE subject for next week will be Exhibition Dahlias, being an interview with the Amateur Champion Grower, Mr. S. H. Cooper, of the Hamlet, Chippenham.

Gardening at Belvoir Castle.

"BELVOIR'S lordly terraces" are known by repute throughout the length and breadth of the land. Here are gathered together some of the choicest and most beautiful members of the floral world—collections which, under the fostering care of generations of ducal owners, assisted always by the highest horticultural skill obtainable, have made the famous gardens not only "the Cynosure of neighb'ring eyes," and the favourite pleasure resort of the teeming population of the Midlands, but a place to which admirers of horticultural art in its highest development gravitate. Favoured in position, with ample space to produce the most telling effects, and beautiful country on all sides forming a suitable setting, the various gardens well deserve all the praise that has been lavished upon them.

The Duke's Garden.

The spring gardening at Belvoir Castle has been described so frequently that it is unnecessary to make more than a passing allusion to it here. It became notable under the late Mr. W. Ingram, and the work thus started has since been ably carried on by the present head gardener, Mr. W. H. Divers. But spring gardening is only a small portion of the attractions, which include miles of walks amid varied scenery, well wooded, and pleasure grounds devoted to different subjects or styles. The illustration shows a corner of the Duke's garden, with a background of Conifers and other evergreens, besides deciduous trees. The central design has Palms occupying the middle bed, while smaller beds of flowers surround it, the whole forming an "island" in the long walk. On the outside of this walk are to be seen other beds, which, like those in the centre, are simple in conception, but unite to make a charming and restful scene. The taller plants on the right and left consist of variegated Maize; while the light-coloured edging to the four beds is made up of the silver-variegated Cock's-foot Grass (Dactylis glomerata elegantissima). It will be observed that the grass is kept beautifully neat and smooth.

Another feature of Belvoir is the Duchess' Garden, named after Elizabeth, wife of the fifth Duke of Rutland. This occupies about eight acres, and lies on the side of a hill, in a natural hollow, where, owing to the shelter provided by its situation, and also by a belt of forest trees surrounding it, many shrubs usually regarded as tender are grown.

The gardens of Belvoir illustrate a point often mentioned, but which cannot be too strongly emphasised—that to produce the highest results in gardening, it is not necessary to employ the rarest and most expensive plants, for here one of the chief charms is the simplicity with which all may be raised, and their comparative inexpensiveness.

Fruit Under Glass.

GRAPES.

GRAPE-GROWING has again been a hard, uphill fight with adverse climatic conditions. The summer months have been abnormally dull and sunless, making recourse to artificial heat necessary to an unusual extent. At the time of writing, the weather certainly shows signs of a welcome improvement; we may, therefore, hope that the autumn will make such amends as are now possible for the shortcomings of the summer.

One great danger the grower has to fear in a season like the present is immaturity of wood and buds. Well-ripened buds, fully stored with nutriment for the development of the embryo fruits, are of the first importance in the production of the ensuing year's crop; and, for the attainment of this maturity, the Grape Vine delights in bright sunshine, a clear sky, and a warm circulation of air. As this summer has not been too lavish with these benefits, we must do all in our power to supply the deficiency.

Artificial Heat Necessary.

Early Vineries that are cleared of their crops should be very freely ventilated at all points during fine days, and, in present circumstances, we would also recommend a slight warmth in the pipes. At night, artificial heating is a matter of considerable importance in counteracting the chilly air and mists so prevalent at this time of year. Towards evening the ventilators should be considerably lowered, but not quite closed, either at the top or front. Then, if the fire is roused so as to produce a comfortable heat in the pipes by nine o'clock, to be maintained till morning, a gentle current of warm air will be continually circulating amongst the rods—conditions from which they will receive great benefit. On dull, rainy days, it is specially advisable to keep the fire going, maintaining a temperature not less than sixty-five degrees, and, on the other hand, not much higher than seventy degrees. In aiming at the production of a warm, dry atmosphere, we must avoid the arid conditions arising from excess of artificial heat. It should always be possible to retain the hand upon the pipes without inconvenience or pain.

All sub-lateral growths should be cut clean away in gradual stages, until eventually the straight brown canes which form the main central growths from the spurs are clear of everything except their large and valuable leaves. Every care must be taken that these remain uninjured and healthy until the time for their natural fall.

Avoid too Much Moisture.

The border at this time of year should be allowed to get slightly dry on the surface, but water must on no account be withheld until the roots suffer from drought. When water is necessary, give a sufficient quantity to penetrate the whole bulk of soil on a bright morning under ample ventilation, but recollect that the roots are becoming less active, and, therefore, do not need so much moisture as they did earlier in the season. Too frequent applications at this period will render the border sour, and unhealthy as a rooting medium.

Houses containing hanging Grapes of the later varieties, such as Black Alicante, Gros Colmar, Lady Downe's Seedling, Muscat of Alexandria, etc., will need strict attention as regards heating and ventilation. A warm, dry air is here most essential at all times, and, as the season advances, these conditions will become increasingly difficult of maintenance. Ventilate with a reasonable freedom on sunny days, but close the fronts in good time, before the air gets cold and fog-laden. With reference to top ventilation, we make a point of leaving a slight aperture through the night if the air is relatively clear, but this is always in conjunction with a comfortable artificial heat of about sixty-five degrees. Muscats like a night temperature of seventy degrees.

It is undoubtedly the cold and humid atmosphere of early morning, from two or three a.m. until the sun rises, that often plays such havoc with Grapes in unheated or imperfectly heated houses. Little practical value attaches to the mere lighting of a fire, unless we take pains to ascertain that it is doing its work, and is capable of keeping the pipes warm until the stoker arrives in the morning. Dampness and a stagnant air will cause ripe Grapes to decay wholesale; accordingly, where growing plants are accommodated in the Vinery, take care that they are only watered when necessary, and always early in the forenoon. If water is inadvertently spilled upon the stone floor, especially in dull weather, it should be wiped up at once. Gradually trim off all sub-laterals, as advised for the early houses, and closely examine the bunches periodically, for the purpose of extracting decayed berries with a pair of Grape scissors.

J. E. S.

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OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM CARMICHAEL.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. William Carmichael, for nearly ten years gardener at Sandringham, which took place at 14, Pitt Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, the 6th inst. Mr. Carmichael, who had reached the advanced age of eighty-eight, was a native of Comrie, Perthshire, and, after gradually working his way up in the ranks of gardeners, he was eventually appointed gardener to his present Majesty King Edward, then Prince of Wales, at Sandringham, for whom he laid out the grounds there, and in whose service he remained for nearly ten years until his retirement several years ago. Mr. Carmichael was perhaps the last of the men who were under the late Mr. William McNab, of the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, and at one time occupied the position of foreman there. He afterwards went to Bath, and thence to Drummore, Stirling, where he had charge of both the garden and farm, from where he went to Sandringham. Mr. Carmichael was an able gardener, who cultivated particularly successfully many plants of various kinds. Fruit was one of his favourite departments, and in latter years he devoted much attention to the raising of new Strawberries, some of which have been put into commerce. He is also credited with having been the first to cross Azalea amœna and A. indica, from which cross he raised some good hybrids. Although for a long time in a feeble state of health, Mr. Carmichael retained to the last his interest in horticulture, and only a few years ago exhibited a new Godetia of his own raising at one of the Royal Caledonian Society's shows. His remains were interred in Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh, on the 9th inst., the funeral being a private one.

plants are merely the old stools from which cuttings have been taken. Instead of being thrown away, as is often done, they are planted in the borders and in sheltered corners, and, beyond thinning them out slightly, very little attention is paid to them. Occasionally they are all

Mr. George Carpenter.

ruined by frost, but that seldoms happens. They nearly always give us some flowers at a time when flowers are most welcome.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 71.—MR. GEORGE CARPENTER, AT THE GARDENS, WEST HALL, BYFLEET.

LONDON has not yet extended to Byfleet, and, although there are some very modern houses near the railway station, there is nothing suggestive of the proximity of "Town" when you stand on the bridge over the Wey, in the tastefully-arranged gardens of West Hall, the pleasant residence of Mr. F. C. Stoop. These gardens again illustrate in a marked degree the excellent account to which a limited space can be turned by skilful management, reflect great credit on Mr. Carpenter and his staff, and afford encouragement to all amateurs who, like Mr. Stoop, delight in seeing the beauties of Nature made the most of. Mr. Carpenter, in showing me round, emphasised the fact that his employer, who owns the West Hall estate, is exceedingly fond of flowers, and is always willing to sanction any expenditure likely to render the garden more attractive, or more productive. He is also equally ready to concur in any proposals for improvements on the estate, the management of which, as well as that of the garden, largely devolves upon Mr. Carpenter. When we had finished our look round, including an inspection of the glasshouse and the conservatory, I was surprised to learn that less than nine acres are under cultivation for garden purposes. How much pleasure and satisfaction may be obtained from a small acreage may be gathered from my conversation with Mr. Carpenter.

"To begin with, the soil is unusually good," I remarked to my conductor.

"Nearly everything will grow here," said Mr. Carpenter. "The medium is a dark, sandy loam, with a subsoil of gravel, and, though the land lies low, it is easily drained."

"I suppose, however, that there are some things which do especially well?"

"Yes. As you see, there are Rhododendrons everywhere. We have nearly all the new varieties, as well as some of the old. This is their natural soil, and, if we dig and trench the ground well, we never have any trouble in respect to them."

"Which do you consider the best Rhododendrons?"

"The Pink Pearl, John Waterer, Kate Waterer, The Queen, Cynthia, Everestianum, Brayanum, Mrs. Shuttleworth, and Lady C. Mitford. Although the Rhododendrons are in the greatest profusion, there are many kinds of flowering shrubs, notably Deutzias, Spiræas of different varieties, Lilacs, Hydrangea paniculatas, Weigelas, Laburnums, Pyrus japonica, etc., with others useful for cutting."

"You have a fine avenue of Limes at the entrance."

"It is planted with Crocuses each side underneath the Limes. With regard to trees, we have some very fine specimens, including Chestnuts, several Cedars of Lebanon—two particularly big, Cedrus atlantica on the lawn, and Cedrus deodara at the entrance to the kitchen garden. There is a fine old Mulberry of ancient date, and a fine Spanish Chestnut."

"The river Wey, I observe, runs through the estate?"

"It forms the boundary on one side. In summer there is plenty of boating. The navigable part of the old river Wey runs around about half a mile to the east and south of us. Near the rustic bridge there are Water Lilies and the common Yellow Iris, which, in summer, looks very pretty. As you can judge, we pay a good deal of attention to the lawn. The whole of it was taken up last winter, dug, manured underneath, and every weed taken out of the turf."

"When do you begin to cut from your herbaceous border, which leads through the kitchen garden to the flower garden?"

"Very early in the spring, and we continue cutting from this border, which is a hundred and forty yards long, until late in the autumn. We grow nearly everything, beginning with early bulbs. There is a good collection of Delphiniums, Pentstemons, Michaelmas Daisies, perennial Sunflowers, Violas, Pæonies, Saxifrages, early-flowering Chrysanthemums, and, indeed, nearly any hardy flower you could mention."

"Do you go in much for Roses?"

"Largely. Our favourite climbing Roses, which are planted in the house, the archways, and the bower, are as follows:—Bouquet d'Or, Alister Stella Gray, L'Ideale, William Allen Richardson, Climbing Belle Siebrecht (syn. to Mrs. W. J. Grant), Belle Lyonnaise, Devoniensis, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Niphetos, Dr. Rouges, Duchess d'Auerstadt, Gloire de Dijon, Madame Berard, Maréchal Niel, Aglaia, Aimée Vibert, Crimson Rambler, Jersey Beauty, Leuchstern, Manda's Triumph, Psyche, Thalia, Felicité, Claire Jacquier, and Carmine Pillar."

"The bower is new, I think?"

"It was very recently planted with Roses and Clematis. We have a border of Roses in the kitchen garden, chiefly Hybrid Perpetuals, which are also grown in beds on the lawn."

"Which varieties do you recommend?"

"We grow mainly dwarf kinds, although we have also a few standards. The following, I find, do best with us:—Duke of Edinburgh, General Jacqueminot, Francois Michelon, Earl of Dufferin, E. Y. Teas, Charles Lefebvre, Caroline Testout (one of the best—a great favourite), Captain Hayward, Abel Carriere, Alfred K. Williams, Baroness Rothschild, Captain Christy, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Louis van Houtte, La France (another favourite), Her Majesty, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Mrs. R. C Sharman Crawford, Exquisite, Mrs. John Laing, Merveille de Lyon, Margaret Dickson, Marie Baumann, Xavier Olibo, and Ulrich Brunner."

"Do you also grow a number of Tea varieties?"

"Of Teas, those which do best are:—Catherine Mermet, Bridesmaid, Beryl, Comtesse de Nadaillac, Corallina, Devoniensis, Francisca Kruger, Madame Cusin, Innocente Pirola, Hon. Edith Gifford, Homére (there is a fine specimen on the house), Rubens, Miss Ethel Brownlow, Maman Cochet and White Maman Cochet (both great favourites), Madame Lambard, The Bride, and Souvenir d'un Ami."

"Further," continued Mr. Carpenter, "we grow some of the Austrian Roses, both the yellow and copper varieties. They have a bed to themselves, and look beautiful when they are in bloom. Last year we bedded underneath them some Iceland Poppies (yellow and copper), the same colour as the Roses, and the combination was much admired. We have a number of

West Hall (South Front) Byfleet.

China Roses, which also have a bed to themselves. They are nearly always in flower through the summer. The old Monthly Rose is first favourite. Banksian Roses are grown on the house."

"I admire your Yew hedge, which divides the kitchen garden from the house and the pleasure garden."

"It used to measure six feet through the bottom, but now it is only a foot thick, answering the same purpose as before. Considerable pains have been taken with it. Six years ago it was cut hard back, and I think with success. As to the kitchen garden, we grow most of the Potatoes and Greens on the farm, with Oats and Mangolds in alternate years; and, in the garden proper, chiefly Peas, Celery, Broad and Dwarf Beans, Onions, Beets, Parsnips, and Seakale, so far as vegetables are concerned. We have to keep up a great supply all the year, including two to three tons of Potatoes."

"Do you use sticks or hurdles for the Peas?"

"Sticks; but then we cut them from our woods. Iron hurdles are very useful, and save a lot of time. For our earliest supply of Peas, we sow a few in pots, and grow them and fruit them in pots. Others we grow in pots, and plant out when hardened off; that brings them in a little earlier than those sown outside."

"What varieties do you grow in your Pear archway?"

"All the best early and late varieties, such as Bon Chretien, Beurré Diel, Doyenne du Comice, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Pitmaston Duchesse, Beurré Hardy, Jargonelle, Souvenir de Congres, and Clapp's Favourite, and others. Underneath the Pears are Tulips and St. Brigid Anemones."

"The Apple archway is on the same principle?"

"Yes. It is planted with Bismarck, Blenheim Orange, Lord Suffield, Peasgood's Nonsuch, King of the Pippins, Lane's Prince Albert, Wellington, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, White Juneating, Frogmore Prolific, Keswick Codling, Brownlees' Russet, Beauty of Kent, Lord Burley, Duchess of Oldenburgh, King of Tompkins County, Scarlet Nonpareil, Cellini, Margil, and Worcester Pearmain."

"Do all these flourish?"

"Fairly well, but some better than others. Bismarck, Lord Suffield, Lane's Prince Albert, and Frogmore Prolific are particularly heavy croppers. We have other varieties of Apples in the orchards. One of the orchards consists entirely of young trees just coming into bearing, comprising all the standard varieties. Last year we had a very good crop, according to the season.

"Your wall fruit appears to be a feature?"

"It is, quite. Thus, on the south wall are Peaches of the following varieties:—Alexander, Early Alfred, Hale's Early, Barrington, Royal George, Dr. Hogg, and Walburton Admirable; Nectarines: Lord Napier, Early Rivers, Hardwicke Seedling, Humboldt, Violette Hative, and Elruge; Apricots: Moor Park, Powell's Late, and Dr. Alsac."

"And the west wall?"

"Chiefly Plums, including Jefferson's, Pond's Seedling, The Czar, Kirke's, Braby's Gage, Denniston's Superb Gage, Transparent Gage, Purple Gage, Green Gage, and Coe's Golden Drop. On the north wall are Victoria Plums and Morello Cherries. On the east wall, Pears of the same varieties as on the archway are grown. The walls being very old, Wallflowers flourish on the top of them. I put in two packets of seeds last year. Before we finish with the kitchen garden, I may say that we have a quantity of Asparagus and Globe Artichokes. We also sow Rhubarb seed every year."

"What kinds?"

"Royal Albert and Victoria. When the Rhubarb has been growing for three years, I take up a row for forcing, and put it in the Mushroom house to force; then, after we have had one crop, I throw the roots away."

"I suppose you did not have a good fruit crop last year?"

"No; it was almost a failure, owing to the May frost. The trees until that time were a lovely sight, and full of promise. The fruit on the arches was not so much affected; but, while the Pears were nearly all cut off, the Apples escaped."

"Now, about the houses."

"The Peach house is half planted with Peaches, and half with Nectarines. They are also planted with early and late varieties, so as to keep up the supply as long as possible. We start the house early in February, and gather in May and June, from the earliest varieties, such as Lord Napier and Early Rivers, of Nectarines, and Hale's Early, of Peaches. There are much earlier Peaches, but I do not consider that any which come before Hale's have much flavour. Prince of Wales is our last to be gathered under glass. Then we commence on the outside wall. Altogether, our season of Peaches and Nectarines runs from the end of May to the end of September."

"You have one very old Vine?"

"Yes, it is quite fifty years old. We get one hundred and twenty to one hundred and thirty bunches from it every year. It is a Black Hamburgh, commonly known as Frankenthal. The Muscat house contains only Alexandras and Cannon Hall. The latter is a beautiful Grape, of fine flavour, but it wants a house to itself, and requires a lot of doing. In the early Vinery are Madresfield Court, Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, and Buckland Sweetwater. We grow Asparagus plumosus on the back wall of this house. In the late Vinery are Black Alicantes, Gros Colmars, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Madresfield Court."

"How many houses are there altogether?"

"About ten, besides the pits. In the stove house are Crotons, Dracænas, Anthuricums, Palms, etc., for table and house decoration. In the Orchid house are Cattleyas, Oncidiums, and Cœlogynes, etc. In the greenhouse we have Arum Lilies and winter-flowering Carnations, among other things; the Lapageria rosea and alba on the roof, also Luculia gratissima—a lovely pink flower and sweetly scented. Another house contains some Orchids—Odontoglossums—Cyclamens, and winter-flowering Geraniums. In the summer it is full of Tomatoes. My favourite is All-the-Year-Round for winter. In the middle of the range are Cucumbers and Melons; and in yet another house are several hanging Orchids—Dendrobium Wardianum, etc., Melons are grown all through the summer in this range."

"When were the houses put up?"

"The whole of the glass, except the conservatory and frames, was erected in 1891 by Messrs. T. Burton and Son, of Bexley Heath, and has given every satisfaction. You may like to know that in the pits we have Pines, Cyclamens, Violets, Lettuces, Endive for bleaching, and Strawberries."

"You have not mentioned Chrysanthemums, though you have some fine flowers in the conservatory."

"They are two seedlings—Crimson Market, and a good late bronze. The other contents of the conservatory, which is lighted by electricity, include a good many varieties of Chrysanthemums, such as King of the Plains, Framfield Pink, Mrs. Filkins, Niveus, and other late varieties; Palms, such as Kentias Belmoreana, Fosteriana, etc.; Latania borbonica, Cocos plumosus, Phœnix dactylifera, Seaforthia elegans, good specimens of Dicksonia australis, Euphorbia jacquinæflora, Poinsettia, Cobæa scandens on the roof, with Abutilon, Roses of varieties, Plumbago capensis and alba, Arum Lilies, Begonia Gloire de Lorraine (in baskets and in pots), Begonia Gloire de Sceaux, etc. All plants that are in flower are taken to the conservatory and rearranged every Friday. Also plants for the house, including Orchids, have to take their turn, when in flower, and when plants for vases, etc., are wanted. We force a lot of plants for the house and conservatory, such as Lilac, Viburnum, Roses, Rhododendron, Prunus, Hydrangeas, Deutzias, Azalea, and Spiræa, etc."

"Was the bothy more recently built than the houses?"

"It was built a year ago, and four young men live in it. There is one good mess room, and two bed rooms which can be divided with curtains."

"When did you come here, Mr. Carpenter?"

"Seven years ago. I was apprenticed in 1875 at Dangstein, near Petersfield, Hants, under the late Mr. Vair, head gardener to Lady Dorothy Nevill, for two years. Then I went to Lord Leconfield's, at Petworth, under the late Mr. George Bruce, and afterwards, for a short time, to Veitch's, of Chelsea. Later, I went as second gardener to Ewell Castle; and, before I took my first place as head gardener, to Burhill, Walton-on-Thames, where I had charge of the kitchen garden."

"Has your experience as head gardener been varied?"

"I was first for eight years at Rydens, Walton-on-Thames; secondly, at Broad Oak, Byfleet, for seven years; and then I came to West Hall."

"You have, I believe, done a lot of showing?"

"I used to show a good deal. In fact, from 1884 to the spring of 1895 I exhibited regularly, summer and winter, taking over two hundred first prizes."

"What did you show?"

"Principally Chrysanthemums. I have shown at the Walton, Chertsey, Shepperton, Esher, Kingston, Weybridge, and Wimbledon shows repeatedly, also at the Crystal Palace on several occasions, and at the show of the National Chrysanthemum Society, at the Royal Aquarium, several times. I may mention that we grow about a thousand Chrysanthemums in different ways. Some are grown for large flowers, others for bush plants, which are so very useful for conservatory and house work."

"Do you not show now?"

"Only at Byfleet, and at the monthly meetings of the Woking Cottage Gardeners' Association. At the latter show, the gardening staff here are encouraged to exhibit what they like every month. This is done in order to induce them to take an interest in their work. There is always something to learn from the papers which are read. I think it much more useful, from a horticultural point of view, for the learning of young men, and older ones, too, to go and state each other's experience, and spend the evening together, than to attend a big show, say, once a year."

Alfred Wilcox.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

XXVII.—GESNERACEOUS PLANTS.

Dear Kate,—One of the first things we do, in the greenhouse, after the New Year begins, is to start some Gloxinias, Tydæas, Achimenes, etc. These are all sorts of first-cousins to the Gesneras, which you know have most beautiful, velvet-like leaves, veined with crimson, and spikes of scarlet, yellow, or creamy-white flowers, so that they all belong to the great Gesnera family, of which some of the members (Gloxinias, for instance) are amongst the most strikingly beautiful flowers we have. Besides these four well-known groups, there are many others, such as the Streptocarpus, Saintpaulia ionantha (a lovely little flower, just like a blue enamel tie-pin), and the richly fragrant Dolichodeira tubiflora, which

I hope you don't let the sweep make off with the soot from your chimneys; it is far too valuable, and legally belongs to the person who paid for the coal, of which it is a product. The man may ask for an extra sixpence in lieu of the soot, but it is worth much more than that in the garden.

Your friend,

I.L.R.

A NEGLECTED RACE OF GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

(Continued from Page 297.)

CUPHEAS are very pretty, low-growing plants of an under-shrubby nature, with small, tube-shaped blossoms; they bear a considerable resemblance to the Libonias, which will be treated of presently, and are chiefly natives of Mexico. They are of very easy culture, free in growth, and very floriferous, and, being of a dwarf and bushy character, may be employed for bedding out during the summer, as well as for growing in pots They are increased by means of either cuttings or seeds, the former rooting freely in sandy soil, with a gentle warmth, in the spring, and the latter producing nice flowering plants the same season, if sown early, and in a moderate warmth.

Several species are known, but as some need a higher temperature than that of a greenhouse, and yet are no more ornamental than the others, they are scarcely worth troubling with. Two of the best kinds for greenhouse culture or bedding are C. eminens, with red and yellow blossoms, and C. platycentra, scarlet and white; C. cinnabarina (crimson) is also a desirable kind.

The Cytisus (or Genista, as it is very frequently called) is one of the most charming and easily-grown, as well as fragrant, of all the numerous subjects included in this class, and should find a place in every greenhouse, while it is also a capital subject for a window. The plants grow freely in either loam or peat, and succeed under ordinary cool greenhouse treatment, but a good, loamy compost, of a not too heavy character, with a slight addition of leaf-mould and sand, usually affords the best results, the growth being more floriferous than when grown in peat, while smaller pots, in proportion to the size of the plants, are necessary.

Fine and fragrant as small examples of this plant, in 5-in. or 6-in. pots, are, however, they cannot compare with larger specimens of several years' growth, if healthy and well-flowered, some five or six feet high, and trained in either the pyramid or bush form. Such specimens are extremely ornamental, especially in a large conservatory; and when the flowers are over, and all danger of frost is past, they may be removed to the open air for the summer. They flower naturally during the spring, earlier or later, according to circumstances, but if the wood is well-ripened the plants may be had in bloom very early in the year, by means of a little forcing, especially in country places, where the atmosphere is pure and clear.

Cuttings of the young shoots, taken, if possible, with a "heel" apiece, will usually root without much trouble in sandy soil in the spring, if kept moderately warm, close, and shaded. Those who grow the plants in large numbers, however, usually employ more ripened cuttings, taking them from plants that have stood outside during the summer; these are inserted closely and firmly in 5-in. or 6-in. pots, and kept close in a cool frame or pit till callused, when they are plunged in a gentle hot-bed for a few weeks, and potted off singly when rooted. Any repotting should be done in the spring, after flowering, draining the pots moderately, and pressing the soil quite firmly in the pots. Water should be given rather freely, as a rule, especially during the season of growth and blooming, but keep rather drier in winter; some weak liquid manure is very beneficial when the plants are coming into flower.

The oldest and best-known species is C. racemosus, but there is a decidedly finer form, or variety, of this, known as C. r. superbus. Another fine kind, flowering rather later, is C. Attleanus, and C. filipes is a fine white-flowered species, with a slender, drooping habit of growth; this makes a nice standard plant when grafted on a suitable stock. R.

(To be continued.)

The Gardeners' Bothy at West Hall, Byfleet.

BEGIN preparing ground intended for lawns. It is necessary that the seed-beds should be firm, and free from weeds and stones.

PREPARATIONS FOR A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER GARDEN.

(Continued from Page 294.)

WELL-GROWN annuals are at one and the same time beautiful and useful in the summer garden. Those who have only grown annuals in thickly-sown patches, and left the seedlings more or less unthinned, to grow up weakly, drawn-up plants, half-choking one another, have no idea of the real capacity for beauty and decorative effect of annuals grown under favourable conditions.

As half-hardy and tender annuals need to be sown under glass, and succeed all the better for a lengthy period of growth before flowering, we will consider them before the hardy types, which may be sown where they are to flower.

The treatment advised for the hardy and half-hardy perennials that flower the first summer (see previous articles) is the same as that which these half-hardy and tender annuals require. I would add one word of caution, however, concerning early sowing where there is insufficient accommodation for the growing seedlings. The seeds may be reared in a gentle heat, but afterwards they require protection for some weeks, and if this cannot be secured, it is far better to put off sowing such subjects until March, at any rate, is past. Then, with the accommodation of a couple of frames, many plants may be reared. If, however, there is a greenhouse or conservatory where the seedlings may find room, this early sowing is greatly to be recommended.

Under this useful category of plants—half-hardy annuals—come those effective and long-flowering "bedding" annuals: Ageratums, Lobelia, Phlox Drummondi, Petunias, Stocks, and Asters, and others which are equally well-known. But my thought to-day was not so much to speak of these familiar subjects, as to draw attention to some of the less well-known varieties that are of easy culture, and far too little known, even among those who have the beauty of their gardens much at heart. I do not think the majority of people sufficiently realise that it is by growing some of the less well-known plants that they may achieve a really interesting garden. We often lose sight of the "interest" in the garden, and fail to recognise it as the important factor it is, only second to the "beauty" of the garden. Does one garden owner out of twenty know by name, much less by sight, that charming half-hardy annual—Cosmos? It is one of the finest and best types of autumn-blooming annuals that can be grown. C. bipinnatus hybridus gives an effective range of colour, from pure white to crimson and purple. The individual flowers are large, and therefore of great decorative value, and the plant attains a height of four feet.

Every garden, whatever its size may be, requires a proportion of those graceful and delicate types of plants that shall be used to enhance the character and boldness of denser and sturdier classes of plants. Such a subject may be found in the slender-stemmed, fairy-looking Alonsoa Warscewiczii, and when I add that this plant yields masses of glowing scarlet blossoms, its value in the summer border will be better realised. To add the names of one or two more plants of this indispensable character—*i.e.*, lightness and daintiness of effect, I would mention the invaluable Calliopsis. All the varieties of this plant to be found in seed catalogues of reliable growers are good; some are bi-colour, some self-coloured. The plants bloom for months, and are good for cutting. A year or two ago I saw a large border of Geraniums interplanted with this Calliopsis. The addition of this taller and more graceful plant had the effect of banishing the monotonous flatness that is the evil of many of the familiar bedding schemes. It is true the combination left much to be desired as to colour—the two did not blend happily—still, the idea was good and worth remembering, and showed what, with a happier ground colour, this annual is capable of. Again,

FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

IX.—Interview with Mr. G. Carpenter, West Hall, Byfleet, Surrey.

THE surroundings of West Hall, Byfleet, possess great natural charm, and this has been carefully conserved and developed, thanks to the enthusiasm of the owner, Mr. F. C. Stoop, and the skill of the head gardener, Mr. George Carpenter, who has been in charge for the last twenty-one years. The river Wey forms the boundary of one part of the estate, and streams give opportunity for the naturalising of many fine plants of an aquatic and semi-aquatic character. There are woods of great beauty; and fringing the pleasure grounds are choice specimen trees. Even with the flower borders in the kitchen garden an effort is made to preserve the keynote of naturalness. These kitchen gardens are famous for their fruit, which is grown in all forms; while Mr. Carpenter has, in the past, been very successful with flowers, and has raised several new varieties of Chrysanthemums and Perpetual-flowering Carnations. As an exhibitor he has carried off high honours. The home farm is also under his care, and on the occasion of my visit, towards the end of July, I was shown a fine herd of Jersey cows, together with a number of pigs, poultry, etc.

"To keep these gardens at their normal state of excellence must require a large staff," I suggested.

"In ordinary times the staff consisted of nineteen men and a boy," responded Mr. Carpenter.

GARDENING AS A HOLIDAY TASK.

"And now?" I asked.

"The number fluctuates a lot now," was the answer. "We have three discharged soldiers, who were here before the war; several old hands over military age; and two young ladies, Miss Cora Stoop, the fourth daughter of my employer, and her friend, Miss Money, the youngest daughter of our late rector. I will show you presently some of the work these ladies do. Then I have been able to get down help from London—firemen and others who come here during their holidays. They live in the bothy, and receive the usual wages and overtime, and declare they are greatly benefitted by the change from a town life. Of course, they are not skilled gardeners, but we have plenty of digging, weeding, and other work, which they do efficiently."

(Later on, during our walk round, I spoke to one of the firemen, who assured me he thoroughly enjoyed the work, and felt all the better for it—in fact, it was a real holiday for him.)

"So that nothing has been seriously neglected, I suppose?"

"We have done the best we could; but some things have had to go, for we are giving most attention to the kitchen garden. For instance, we used to have five men and a boy in the houses, and now we have only two men—both wounded soldiers—and two boys, who, however, do their work well. My employer, too, is very kind, and makes every allowance. In addition to the gardens, we have taken in a large area of ground on the estate, and here we are growing Potatoes and other vegetables."

A HINT ON SEED POTATOES.

Making our way through the kitchen garden, I watched the lifting of a fine, clean bed of Potatoes. The variety was Sharpe's Express, and I counted as many as sixteen and eighteen good, eating-size tubers to a plant.

"We have seven acres planted with Potatoes in a field in the village," said Mr. Carpenter, as we passed outside; "and many more in the field we are now entering. They are all main-crops here."

"What are your leading varieties?"

"Factor and Up-to-Date do best with us. King Edward does not seem to suit our soil, and the tubers are not so good for table. We have also a bed of Arran Chief, which looks as though it will be very satisfactory. All these rows have been sprayed."

"Some rows of Factor do not seem so vigorous as others," I remarked.

"That," replied my guide, "shows the difference between fresh seed and that saved from last year. The fresh seed has certainly a much better appearance. I am also making an experiment with 'Rito,' and have dressed some rows with it, while others, for comparison, have had none," and Mr. Carpenter indicated the different rows.

"The rows that have had 'Rito' look more promising," I observed.

"They certainly show up better," was the answer. "It is perhaps too early to decide definitely, but so far it promises to give good results. I like it for plants, but this is the first time I have tried it for Potatoes."

SUNFLOWERS FOR POULTRY.

"You appear to be growing Sunflowers on a large scale," I said, pointing to a number of rows.

"As there was likely to be a scarcity of poultry food I had this quarter of an acre sowed with Sunflowers. It took a pound of seed, and the plants are a foot apart, with two feet between the rows. They have had no further attention paid them, but are doing well."

"And what is this Dwarf Bean which you are growing in quantity?"

"That is the Dutch Bean which the Royal Horticultural Society sent out. I had a gallon of seed, and sowed the whole of this plot, which is a hundred and fifty yards long by seven yards wide. The variety is evidently a good cropper. We shall gather the pods when they ripen in the autumn, and dry the Beans for winter use."

After stopping to inspect another piece of ground of one and a half acres, planted with all kinds of winter greens, we turned back towards the kitchen garden proper. Here the first thing I noticed was an enclosed space planted with fruit trees, with winter greens beneath them.

"This enclosure," explained Mr. Carpenter, "is forty rods in extent, and was formerly part of the chicken run. But Miss Cora Stoop, Miss Kathleen Stoop, and Miss Money dug it up, and have put in the plants. They had no help whatever."

MR. GEORGE CARPENTER AND HIS ASSISTANTS.

The ladies are Miss Cora Stoop (left), and Miss Money (right). Mr. Carpenter is in the middle, with a discharged soldier on each side of him; in the back row is a holiday helper.

"The trees are bearing well," I remarked.

"They always do well here," came the answer. "Bramley's Seedling is our favourite, but there are good specimens of Allington Pippin, Lady Henniker, and others, and you see they are all heavily laden with fruit."

Standing on ashes close by, I noticed some rows of Chrysanthemums in pots, and inquired how many were now grown.

"There are five hundred seedling Japanese and Singles of my own raising. We used to have a thousand large Japanese varieties, but we have reduced them by half. The men attend to the watering of them, but I do all the disbudding myself."

ARCHES OF FRUIT TREES.

Coming to the Pear arch in the kitchen garden—an especially attractive feature—I asked Mr. Carpenter how the trees bore. His reply was:

"They do better here than elsewhere, perhaps because they are sheltered from strong winds. We have all the leading varieties."

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"And your Strawberries?" I asked, noticing an extensive bed of them.

"They have had wonderfully good crops, and this is the first year we have not had to net them. There were very few birds about, and I think many of them must have been killed last winter."

"What is the length of these rows of Peas?" I asked, as we passed along.

"These are each ninety-five feet long. Hercules is one variety—a splendid cropper; and another is Quite Content, which is a good Pea, but wants time. For late Peas we start early, and sow two rows; then, when they show above ground, we sow two more rows; and repeat this again. We thus get a good succession. There is a bed of early Peas farther round, however, which has not been cleared, as we are short of labour."

"When did you sow these rows of Cabbages?"

"That was done on July 15th. I like always to make a sowing about that time. Between them you can see rows of Endive just coming through. They will be taken up and put in frames later. We use a great many salad plants, and have frames specially for them, so that we can cut every day in the year."

"What are the varieties of Cabbage you have sown for spring?"

"There are three—Earliest and Best, Model, and Ellam's Early. The Cabbages on the other side, where we have started cutting, are Enfield Market, a very fine variety."

"Your Apple arch looks almost, if not quite, as good as the Pear arch," I remarked, as we came to it.

"It is very successful," was the answer. "We find Cox's Orange Pippin does well, but Peasgood's Nonsuch is not so good as a cordon."

Walking on, we passed in turn thriving rows of Cauliflowers and Parsnips; Cardoons and Celery in trenches; and a bed of Seakale. Touching this, Mr. Carpenter said:

"We always dig up three rows, and force them; and leave one row, which is earthed up and blanched on the ground."

"You have also long rows of Runner Beans which are going to give you good crops."

"The variety is Scarlet Emperor," was the reply; "and there is also a row of Butter Beans. You will notice that we grow almost every vegetable, including Chicory, Kohl Rabi, Salsafy, and Scorzonera. Our Celeriac is also good."

"And the Gages on the wall are something to be proud of," I added.

"They are of several varieties, and all are heavy croppers," said Mr. Carpenter.

It was when we passed the border of Roses in the kitchen garden that the first signs of the lack of labour were manifest, mildew having taken hold of many of the plants.

"In the ordinary way this would not be," said Mr. Carpenter; "but we have not been able to spare time for spraying. There are all the leading varieties here, but one of the best, both as bush and standard, is Ophelia."

A FAVOURITE WALK.

Leading from the kitchen garden is a walk one hundred and thirty-five yards long, with a wide herbaceous border, backed by old Pears, over which Roses and other plants climb.

"This is a favourite walk of Mr. Stoop's," said my guide, "and he particularly likes to see the plants climbing over the Pears. He will not have it altered, although the Pears are worn out and useless. He is an admirer of everything that looks natural. At the same time, he makes every allowance for the shortage of labour, and does not complain of the untidy state the border is in through lack of attention. By the way, nine out of ten of the Roses were killed to the ground last winter, and we have not had time to replace them."

And now we found ourselves outside the winter garden, a handsome extension to the house made four years ago, and built of carved stone and solid English oak.

"There is little to be seen inside to-day," said Mr. Carpenter, "for I have been cyaniding the place to get rid of insect pests. This is the best method of cleaning a house, and, if done with proper precautions, it is quite safe. But it should not be done in a house with a temperature above sixty degrees. It does no harm to plants, except perhaps Begonia Rex and some of the Maidenhairs, and we always remove these first."

"Do you keep the winter garden constantly filled?" I asked.

"There is a constant change of plants wanted for it, and it is kept bright summer and winter. Most of the plants in the houses are brought here in turn."

The main front of the mansion, which we now approached, looks south, and is faced by a lawn two acres in extent, backed by numerous clumps of Rhododendrons, with tall trees behind.

HOW THE LAWN IS MAINTAINED.

"You manage to keep this lawn in fair condition," I observed, as we crossed it.

"For over nine months there has been no male labour on it," replied Mr. Carpenter. "All the work has been done by the two young ladies, who use a small mower drawn by a pony. The idea is to save the lawn from going altogether to ruin. Under normal conditions you would not find a weed, for we kept two men for the lawns. One of them had been on it for fifteen years."

"And do the ladies also attend to the flower beds?" I asked.

"Yes," was the answer; "not only here, but in the Dutch garden, which we will visit next. There is a nice combination in these beds beneath the windows—Viola Maggie Mott and Geranium Golden Harry Hieover, which blends nicely with the Clematis on the house."

THE DUTCH GARDEN.

Arrived at the Dutch garden, we saw the two ladies busily weeding and trimming up the beds, which consist of different varieties of Geraniums, such as Flower of Spring, West Brighton Gem, Surprise, Maxime Kovalesky, Madame Crousse, and Souvenir de Charles Turner. These are combined with Heliotropes and with Violas of different colours. In the centre is a Water Lily pond, with many choice varieties, and dotted about are a number of trained trees.

"Do the ladies attend to the topiary work?" I inquired.

"No; I trim all these myself. Some were badly injured by the severe weather last winter, and I fear it will take years for them to recover, if they ever do. We shall probably have to replace them."

"And the fine Yew hedges—do you attend to these?"

"Yes, I always take them in hand. This was originally six feet thick, sloping to the base, but I reduced it as you see. It is a curious thing that if you cut a Yew back close to the main stem it makes good growth, but if it is only half cut it often dies right back."

WOODLAND AND STREAM.

Next we made our way across the lawn towards the boathouse, which abuts directly on the part of the River Wey known as Navigation—a straight section running nearly parallel with the old river, which, however, has so many twists and turns hereabouts that it is not navigable. Here is a wealth of Ferns—all British—and though overgrown and wanting thinning, still very effective. A walk through the trees—where here and there an opening gives a splendid view across the lawns, taking in perhaps a corner of the house, or a fine Plane, smooth and straight of trunk for a height of thirty-five to forty feet, or a splendidly feathered Cedar—and we pass through the children's playground to the banks of a little brook, where Senecios japonicus and Clivorum, Impatiens biflora (with seedpods that seem imbued with life, for they jump when held by the fingers), Saxifraga pellata (with leaves of noble proportions), and many another fine plant is naturalised. Then, crossing the brook by the rustic bridge, we see more British Ferns, together with lovely Irises of the Kæmpferi group, calling loudly for attention, but unlikely to get it while conditions are as at present.

SOME FINE TREES.

Retracing our steps, Mr. Carpenter showed me a wonderful old Plane, with a girth of twenty-two feet at a height of four feet from the ground.

"This," he said, "was a favourite with the late Richard Dean, who used to say it was one of the finest specimens he had ever seen. Many other tree experts have also greatly admired it. It has had to be placed in the 'tree doctor's' hands, but now it is patched up there is no reason why it should not last for many more years."

There was another fine tree, a Chestnut, which we passed on our way back towards the houses. But it is not for its girth, but for the straightness of its trunk, that it calls for notice. From the ground up to a height of about forty feet no sign of a knot is to be seen, but above it branches gracefully, and it is altogether a magnificent specimen. At one side of the lawn, too, is a grand avenue of Cedrus deodara, but this, unfortunately, was badly injured by the frost last winter, and some of the trees are shorn of many branches.

"You seem to have a considerable extent of glass," I remarked, as we neared the houses; "how much is there altogether?"

"There are two hundred and fifty yards of glasshouses, and the same of frames," was the answer.

A NEW PERPETUAL CARNATION.

The first we entered is devoted to Perpetual Carnations, and here I saw a seedling of Mr. Carpenter's raising, which was exhibited last year at the Royal Horticultural Hall, and won much praise. It has been named Dr. Ward, and is a rosy cerise in colour, with stout calyx that never splits, a delicate fragrance, and very upright growth. In answer to my question, Mr. Carpenter said:

"No; it is not yet on the market. I am raising a good stock of it before parting with it; but it will no doubt find its way into commerce before very long."

The Orchid house was next visited, a batch of Cœlogyne cristata, Chatsworth variety, being a notable feature. From this we passed into a stove house, forty-five feet long, where Stephanotis trained the full length made a glorious show.

"This house furnishes another instance of the value of cyaniding," said Mr. Carpenter. "Stephanotis is always a prey to mealy bug, and last autumn the plant was smothered with the pest; but it has all been cleared out, and the plant is now perfectly clean. The Crotons, Anthuriums, Begonia Rex, Ferns—in fact, all the plants—are used in turn to decorate the winter garden."

Other houses that we passed through in quick succession have, among other subjects, good batches of winter-flowering Begonias, Calanthe Veitchii, Celosias, Coleus, Gloxinias, Maidenhair Ferns, the Sensitive Plant, and Fuchsias; and Mr. Carpenter said:

"All these have been potted up and looked after by the two men and two boys I told you of. They have done their work well. True, one of the men was with me before the war, and came back when he was discharged from the Army after being badly wounded."

THE PEACH HOUSES.

The Peach house we now entered is one of the largest in the gardens, and is a splendid structure, with six large trees on each side. The varieties grown are Princess of Wales, Dymond, Kestrel, Barrington, Duke of York, and Peregrine Peaches, and Humboldt, Stanwick Elruge, Pine Apple, and Lord Napier Nectarines. These give a long fruiting season.

"There are from a hundred to a hundred and fifty fruits on each," said Mr. Carpenter. "Kestrel is one of the newer varieties. It is of rather weak growth, but the fruit is of the highest quality. In another house we have

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Lord Napier and Pine Apple Nectarines, which were replanted last year, the border being made up. They are giving very big crops."

I was able to confirm Mr. Carpenter's words when we entered the house to which he referred; and was equally impressed by the appearance of the trees in the next two houses. In one the Peaches were Peregrine—which the men had just finished thinning and tying in—Barrington, and Bellegarde; in the other, Libra and Dagmar.

THE VINERIES.

There are four houses devoted to Vines, the first we visited being a lean-to, filled with a Black Hamburgh, carrying as many as a hundred and ninety-five good bunches, colouring nicely.

"This," said my guide, "is an old Vine in an old house, but it still does well."

In the next house, Muscat of Alexandria was showing enormous crops, while the Guava is trained on the walls. Of Prince of Wales, which is growing in the next house, Mr. Carpenter said:

"This is a very good Grape, but not everyone succeeds with it. It is all right if you grow on the young canes every year, but otherwise it is 'miffy.'"

In the late house are Alicante, Madresfield Court, Gros Colmar, Gros Maroc, and Appley Towers, and these look fully as promising as the others.

Emerging once more into the open, a number of frames, conveniently situated near the potting sheds, were inspected. There are, it may be mentioned, two potting sheds, one artificially warmed for winter, the other for use in summer. Several lights had Pineapples in various stages of development; in others were good batches of Eucharis. Others had Cyclamen, just starting into growth; while a further lot had some three hundred plants of Perpetual Carnations, ready to be moved into the greenhouse.

THE BEST TOMATOES.

The Tomato house into which we next passed had on one side Ailsa Craig, and on the other Moneymaker.

"Both of these are excellent varieties," said Mr. Carpenter; "but it would be difficult to say which is the better; indeed, there is little to choose between them. They both, as you see, have enormous trusses of shapely fruits, and both are short-jointed and vigorous in growth, but it is difficult to see much difference between them."

"Are these the only varieties you grow?" I asked, as we came away.

"No; in this house we are now entering, in addition to more of Moneymaker, there are Kondine Red and Bide's Recruit—both new varieties."

"And what is your opinion of them?"

"Kondine Red is one of the best on the market. Look at these trusses, and see how large the fruits are, and what a number there are on a truss. They are, too, of splendid flavour, while the plant is of vigorous habit and growth. Bide's Recruit does not make so much growth, but the trusses are good, and I should say it is the best variety to grow where space is limited."

A miscellaneous collection of plants in the same house—Cannas of choice sorts, Kalosanthes, Kochias, and others—also came in for inspection, and the tour of the houses was completed.

There is not space enough to descant on the many beauties of the woods outside the gardens, through which Mr. Carpenter led me on my way back to the station, and which recalled to mind the Choric Song in "The Lotus Eaters."

One interesting fact that I learned was that Mr. Stoop's two sons and his son-in-law are officers on active service, while he himself is a member of the same company of National Volunteers as Mr. Carpenter.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: Mrs. Humphrey Ward's garden at Aldbury, Tring, Herts.

THE COOL GREENHOUSE AND FRAME.

By William F. Rowles, Author of "The Food Garden"; "The Vegetable Plot Productive"; "The Greenhouse Ever Gay"; "The Garden Under Glass"; "Greenhouses: How to Make and Manage Them"; "How to Make and Manage a Garden"; "Garden Difficulties"; and "Garden Operations."

PROPAGATING BEDDING PLANTS.

OUR cool and practical greenhouse, as I have previously pointed out on several occasions, will be used as well for the benefit of the flower garden and the vegetable garden as for the provision of greenhouse plants proper.

We now arrive at the period when we must consider the propagation of summer-flowering tender plants, with a view to providing sufficient stock for propagating next spring. Many of the choice subjects are best propagated wholly at the present time, while with others of an easy-rooting and quick-growing character it will be sufficient if we propagate a small stock to carry us through the winter, and then propagate more

A PRETTY CORNER IN THE CONSERVATORY.

largely from them, up to the limit of our requirements in the early spring. Subjects which fall within this category are Heliotropes, Ageratums, Lobelias, Iresines, etc. I much prefer to root some cuttings now than to rely on potting or boxing up old plants from the flower garden.

Whether pots or boxes be used for propagating these bedding plants will depend on the number required. I prefer boxes myself, and I think that in the majority of cases it will be found that these are more convenient, and are open to less errors in management. Of course, we have several weeks in front of us in which to propagate these plants, so we need not unduly denude the flower beds of growth, for naturally we want them to look gay until the cold, frosty weather arrives. If we start propagating now we can be sure of getting a sufficient stock together, and the rooting takes place at a time when we can expect good weather.

The cuttings are prepared in the usual way, by cutting them straight across below a joint, and removing the leaves from that part of the cutting which, when inserted, will be beneath the surface. Each cutting should be inserted to about one-third of its depth, the hole being made with a dibber blunted at the end. Care should be taken that the cutting rests solidly on the bottom of the hole made, and that the soil is pressed back firmly against the stem. After insertion, the cuttings should be well watered, and the boxes or pots be placed in the greenhouse or frame.

A good, sandy soil, mixed with leaf-mould and free from manure of any kind, is the best material for rooting. It will only be necessary to drain the boxes with a layer of leaves. Usually the space of three inches apart will suit these cuttings.

POTTING STANDARD PLANTS.

Most of the cuttings intended for the formation of standard plants, which were inserted at the end of July, will by now have rooted, and may be potted singly into 3-in. pots. If smaller pots are used I find the soil dries out quickly, and as they can be easily overlooked it often happens that they suffer from neglect.

We have, of course, put in far more cuttings than we shall need; and I advise that we also pot up far more young plants. This gives us the power of selection. Get all the young cuttings out, and then select those which have robust tops and the best roots. The remaining inferior ones may be destroyed, unless we have a friend who would be glad of them. Water the plants well, and stand them in a light place. Of course, where we intend to form standard plants no point-pinching will take place, for the leading growth must grow forward, and all side growths be removed.

The Heliotrope is an easy example. It often happens that this will develop a flower head at the point. This must be removed, and the uppermost growth be allowed to take the lead. The side growths are pinched out as soon as they can be taken between the thumb and finger. This removal of the side growths is assiduously followed until the desired height of clear stem has been obtained. Whatever subject is trained as a standard, the same course is pursued.

POTTING CARNATIONS.

The Malmaison and Border Carnations which were layered early in July should now be ready for potting up. There is no hurry if this be not done until September, but if they have rooted well it will be quite safe to move them singly into 3-in. pots. Lift one or two typical plants carefully with a small hand-fork. If they have a nice mass of roots to which the sandy soil clings well, then we may safely sever them from the parent plant and pot them up. In doing this we must be very careful not to get the varieties mixed. If the label has been put in at the ball of the plant which was layered, it will be an easy matter to trace each layer to its source before removing it.

At this stage a fairly open, sandy soil will suit the Carnations. All the material in the compost should be passed through a half-inch sieve. For preference it should consist of good yellow loam, flaky leaf-mould, Mushroom manure, sharp (but not too coarse) sand, and a sprinkling of a good fertiliser. Crushed brick, passed through a quarter-inch sieve, will form a valuable addition to the soil. We should crock the pots carefully, making sure that they are quite dry, and protect the drainage with a few leaves. Each plant should be so potted that no part of its stem which has been cut during the process of layering is above the soil. Water the plants well, and place them pot-thick in a cold frame, where they may remain until a further potting takes place.

OTHER PLANTS TO BE POTTED.

There are some other plants which might receive a further shift during this month. We may, for instance, move Primula obconica to

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The Gardens of the Postmaster-General, at Fox Warren, Cobham.

INTERVIEW WITH

MR. J. CARPENTER.

ONE of the loveliest seats in Surrey bears the quaint name of Fox Warren. In former days, more than half a century ago, foxes were reared on the estate, which was purchased by the father of the present Postmaster-General, the Right Hon. Sydney Buxton. Not only was the handsome mansion erected by the late Mr. Charles Buxton, but he also transformed the whole of the grounds. The glory of the position is fully realised by a survey of the surroundings from the terrace, which faces south. Not a house is to be seen, but there is a splendid expanse of country, embracing hill and valley, woods and open spaces. On the occasion of my visit a few weeks ago, the autumn tints were at their best, and in discussing the features of the gardens with Mr. J. Carpenter, the head gardener, who conducted me round, I enquired about the creepers on the house.

"They are chiefly," he replied, "Clematis in variety, Roses (Marechal Niel, and Banksian varieties), Wistaria sinensis, Pyracantha Lælandii, Cratægus, and Virginia Creeper."

The Terrace Bedding.

"And the spring bedding on the terrace?"

"Two of the six beds are filled with Myosotis and white Tulips; two with yellow Wallflowers and white Arabis; and two with dark Wallflowers and Myosotis. In summer there are two with scarlet Begonias, Dracæna indivisa, and a groundwork of white Lobelias; two with white Geraniums and pale blue Violas; and two with scarlet Geraniums and a groundwork of yellow Violas. Below the terrace is a fine bed of Montbretias and Hyacinthus candicans, and, as you see, there are some nice plants of Pampas Grass still in flower."

Features of The Dell.

From the terrace we proceeded across the west front, with its spacious tennis lawn, to "the Knoll," which is just outside the gardens, forming a part of the estate of about five hundred acres. The great feature is the Scottish Pines. The balminess of the air may be judged by the fact that Agapanthus, planted out, was in flower in November, and needs only the protection of a little Bracken Fern. Within the gardens, and facing north, is a lovely spot called "the Dell," and here, observing the thriving appearance of the Rhododendrons, I asked,

"Is there peat in the soil?"

"A little, but we put more into it. As to the other plants which flourish here, there are some good clumps of Boccónia cordata. Earlier in the year, the Crimson Rambler Roses on the arches were very ornamental, and we get masses of flowers from the Tropæolum speciosum, which trails over the shrubs. In the borders, Foxgloves, Cannas, Spiræas in variety, Yuccas in variety, Tritomas, Tree Pæonies in variety, Azalea mollis, Eulalias in clumps, Bamboos, Gunnera manicata, and Tree Lupins are conspicuous. There are grass paths right through 'the Dell,' and there is an edging of Violas and Polyanthus, while Daffodils of many varieties are planted for spring flowering. In the border above are Darwin Tulips planted in clumps."

"Have you a continuous supply of water?"

"Water is laid on from the river, and pumped up to the tower, so that we always have plenty."

"You have more fine clumps of Pampas Grass near the entrance to the mansion?"

"Yes, and in the wide border near the house

MR. J. CARPENTER.

Asters, Montbretias, Delphiniums, Hemerocallis aurantiaca, Fuchsias, and Dahlias flourish; also the old Clove Carnations in clumps. Everywhere you will notice that we plant in clumps, and not in lines; also that we have exceptionally wide gravel paths."

Flower Combinations on the West Front.

"Then, there are the beds on the west front?"

"Three of these consisted of Roses—Gruss an Teplitz in the centre, and Princesse de Sagan outside—edged with pale blue Violas. Between the Roses we had Gladiolus Brenchleyensis. The four beds between the Rose beds contained, this year, Geraniums Surprise, with a groundwork of Blue King Violas; and in the four outside beds were Paul Crampel Geraniums and single blue Lobelias."

"How are these spring-bedded?"

"Two with Myosotis and white Tulips, two with yellow Wallflowers, and the outside four with white Arabis and Cottage Maid Tulips. In the side borders under the house are Roses in variety, including Climbing Caroline Testout. Here, Choisya ternata, now in flower, is quite hardy."

"Amongst the notable specimen trees, you include the Irish Yews on the west lawn?"

"Yes, but there is no more notable tree than the Stone Pine on the north front. I believe that, except in Kew, there is not a finer specimen in the country. The Scottish Pine, with spreading branches, is also remarkable."

"Have you any idea of its age?"

"It must be between three and four hundred years old. Other trees worth mentioning are the Chestnuts, Cupressus, Abies, and Cedrus deodara."

Roses and Gladiolus.

Between the kitchen garden and the pleasure grounds is a green walk where a vast quantity of bulbs are naturalised, but the kitchen garden itself is a striking combination of the useful and ornamental.

"One of the features here," said Mr. Carpenter, "is a wide border on which we mix Roses with Gladiolus, for cutting. The Roses are chiefly Mrs. John Laing, Caroline Testout, and General Jacqueminot; the Gladiolus, Warneri, Lemoine, and Nanceianus. The latter harmonise with the Roses, and do not take away the light."

Tulips and Iris.

"Any other specialities in flowers would be interesting."

"Tulips are largely planted. Here, for instance, are four rows, two of Gesneriana, one of Darwin White Queen, and one of fulgens, the whole edged with Aubrietias. Facing these Tulips are four rows of Spanish Iris of different colours, Chrysolora, King of the Blues, British Queen, and A. Von Humboldt. These, with the Tulips, are used for cutting. At the back of the Iris, for summer decoration, are crimson Antirrhinums, and in the front two rows of a special pink variety, the edging being of Mrs. Sinkins Pinks. Stocks follow the Tulips, Beauty of Nice (blush), and a scarlet variety."

"You have a border of Asters?"

"This border is all singles for cutting, with Aquilegias in front in spring. On the opposite border are Delphiniums in variety, planted in clumps."

"Which of the standard Roses in the centre walk do you specially recommend?"

"The principal I use are Mrs. John Laing, Lady Helen Stewart, and Mrs. Paul. On the arches are Dorothy Perkins, Crimson Rambler, Philadelphia Rambler, and Blush Rambler, while the varieties on poles at the back of the herbaceous border are Hiawatha, Dorothy Perkins, Carmine Pillar, Northern Star, and Clio. All these are used for cutting, and so are the early Tulips in the bed close by. The varieties are Red Bedder, Rose Gris de Lin, Elegans, and Summer Beauty."

"I should like the names of the principal clumps in the herbaceous border."

"Helianthus, Anemone japonica, early-flowering Chrysanthemums, Delphiniums, Oriental Poppies, Phlox in variety, Hollyhocks, and

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Gypsophila paniculata, with Polyanthus and Violas in front. We fill in with annuals. Another border is entirely devoted to Michaelmas Daisies."

The Cultivation of Michaelmas Daisies.

"What is your system with them?"

"I take them up in December, divide them, and plant on fresh ground. This is done every year, with the result that we get much better flowers than otherwise could be possible. They are planted in rows, according to height, and include Top Sawyer (six feet), John Henshaw (five feet), M. Rayner (four feet), William Marshall and Cordifolia Diana (three feet), cordifolius elegans (two feet six inches), Delight (two feet), and amellus bessarabicus (one foot). The edging consists of Campanula persicifolia, Calceolarias amplexicaulis, and Desgrange Chrysanthemums."

"How do you grow your Sweet Peas?"

"In a trench in clumps of one variety, planted at the back of the flower borders, and a couple of yards apart. They are so much easier to cut when they are put close together. All the Sweet Peas are spring-sown. If I sowed any in autumn, the slugs would have them. In front is a row of Dahlias, and then early-flowering Chrysanthemums. The Dahlias are chiefly Cactus, and amongst the Chrysanthemums are Market White, Harvest Home, Soleil d'Octobre, and the Masse family. Opposite these, Iceland Poppies are grown for cutting. Now you know about most of the flowers outside, except that under the Apple plantations on the east side are thousands of Narcissus just beginning to show. The varieties include Barri conspicuus, Horsfieldii, Poeticus ornatus, Empress, and Sir Watkin. We cover them with rotten leaves, which act as manure."

Hardy Fruit.

"With regard to fruit, the absence of walls does not appear to make any difference to their growth."

"I do not think that there is any appreciable difference either to fruit or vegetables. The garden is wired in, to protect us from rabbits, but we are troubled by slugs in the spring when the seedlings are coming up. The best remedy for them is lime and soot. The principal Apples are King of Pippins, Cox's Orange, and Bismarck. Facing these are a number of Pears, which have just been put out. The Plums are all standards, and bear well. We root-prune now, and thin if they are growing too strong. Jefferson and Victoria give us the best crops, and Denniston's Superb is a good variety."

"Do you get good crops in your fruit cage?"

"Excellent, but we should not get any if we did not wire the side, and use netting over the top. We do not suffer from the Black Currant mite. Raspberries (Superlative) are grown, and several varieties of Strawberries. We keep the plants of the latter for three years, planting a new bed every year."

A Hint to Asparagus Growers.

"Vegetables appear to be a great feature with you."

"I am very fond of vegetable cultivation, and the soil is suitable. It is rather heavy, with clay in places. But we work in a lot of road grit, leaves, mortar-rubble, and lime, which improves it. In cultivating Asparagus, I use a great deal of salt, which checks the weeds and acts as manure. We begin to cut early in May, but do not go on after June 20th. It weakens the plants if the season is prolonged unduly. In vegetable cultivation, I aim at getting as many crops as possible in one year. Thus, in a border where I had early Potatoes, with early Cauliflowers planted in every other row, the Potato haulm being mown off from the Cauliflower plants where it had grown over, I afterwards put small Cabbages."

"What variety was the Potato used?"

"Veitch's Ash-leaved Kidney; another variety I like very much is Sir John Llewelyn, but we rely for our main crop upon Up-to-Date. These, however, are grown in a field outside, together with mixed crops of Artichokes, Beet, Turnips, Parsnips, and Chicory."

Treatment of the Land.

"You grow your spring Cabbages in the kitchen garden?"

"Yes, Ellam's Early. Before these Cabbages we had a crop of Onions—Veitch's Brown Globe and Ailsa Craig. With regard to the treatment of the land, I rake off the weeds, and give a good dressing of soot, before I plant the Cabbages. The point is that I do not dig the ground, because I like it as firm as possible for greenstuff."

"Have you many varieties of Brussels Sprouts?"

"Market Favourite and Paragon, of which we grow about a thousand plants. Then we have Veitch's New Sprouting Kale, Scotch Kale, and Cottage Kale, which is very hardy, and stands the frost when other varieties get cut off. The varieties of Broccoli are Model, Late Queen, and Brimstone. These followed Celery last year, and I only just levelled the ground before planting them. Now we come to the Pea quarter."

A Prolonged Pea Season.

"Tell me about your system."

"I put them in trenches, not so deep as Celery, and I find this much better for watering. As soon as I see one sowing above ground, I make another, and thus keep up a succession. Between the Peas I have Spinach and Radishes. We started picking on June 4th, and went on to the middle of October. The varieties on this ground include Gradus, Duke of Albany, Autocrat, and Ne Plus Ultra. We also, on another border outside the houses, grow early Peas—American Wonder and William I. These are sown in pots, and planted out after the frost has gone. Near the Pea quarters is a bed of Red Globe Turnip Greens, which were preceded by Early London Cauliflowers."

How to Grow Seakale.

"When did you plant your Seakale thongs?"

"In April. When I planted them, I cut them aslant at the bottom, and straight across at the top, putting them in a foot apart each way. They throw up several shoots, and as soon as these get long, we disbud, and leave only one crown. This is the way to get strong crowns. Runner Beans are grown in trenches; the varieties are Hackwood Park Prolific and Sutton's Best of All, which succeeded winter greens, the latter following Strawberries."

"You have a very fine show of Celery."

"There are seven double rows. We sow in spring, and prick the seedlings into the Violet frames about four inches apart, and get very fine sticks of Celery about the middle of September. The varieties are Major Clarke and Early Rose, and we grow Endive and Lettuce on the ridges. Winter greens will follow Celery."

Winter-flowering Geraniums.

Then, noticing the borders outside the houses, in which annuals, such as Mallows, Cornflowers, Coreopsis, and Larkspur, are grown, we entered the flowering house.

"Here," said Mr. Carpenter, "are a few Primula obconica grown out in cold frames during the summer, and some pots of Mignonette sown in August and thinned out. The Nerines have just finished flowering, but the winter-flowering Geraniums are a feature. We decorate tables with them."

"When do you put the cuttings in?"

"During April. They are grown in cold frames in the summer, and put in their flowering pots in July. I work them in here with the Chrysanthemums."

FOX WARREN, THE SURREY RESIDENCE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

The Best Japanese Chrysanthemums.

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"A hundred and fifty each of Japanese and bush. The best of the Japanese are, I think, Mrs. W. Knox, Mrs. A. T. Miller, Mrs. Greenfield, Mrs. J. Dunn (which, it may interest you to know, was raised by my brother, Mr. G. Carpenter, at West Hall, Byfleet), Madame Oberthur, F. S. Vallis, Mrs. T. Dalton, Madame Paola Radaelli (not easy to grow), W. A. Etherington, Lady Talbot, Walter Jinks, and Mrs. Norman Davis. Behind the Chrysanthemums are some Arum Lilies, which flower right through the winter."

"Your Peach house seems full of a nice collection of bush Chrysanthemums."

"There are enough here to keep us going until February. The four best varieties are Source d'Or, Lizzie Adcock, Edith Pagram, and Niveus. The Peaches in this house, which is an early one, are Hale's Early, Stirling Castle, Royal George, and Cardinal Nectarine. In the late Peach house are Violette Hative and

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Princess of Wales, and here you see there are a lot more late bush Chrysanthemums."

"Have you many varieties in your early Vinery?"

"Black Hamburgh and Muscat of Alexandria; and in the late Vinery the same varieties, with Alicante in addition. The bunches of fruit of the last are particularly satisfactory."

The Value of Begonias.

"So are the Begonias in your stove. How do you manage to get such good flowers?"

"I take cuttings about April, pot them on, and put in 'thirty-twos' the beginning of July. These are the flowering pots. Then we feed them with manure-water and fertiliser. One of the Begonias is Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, a variety of Gloire de Lorraine which I think is the best of the section. We use Begonias for groups indoors, for vases and for baskets. In the baskets all along the stove there are two or three plants, which we tie down in order to spread them out. Other features of the stove and the adjoining cool house, are Poinsettias (just showing their bracts), Asparagus in variety, Ferns in variety, Orchids (notably a batch of fifty Phaius, which throw up long spikes of flower in February and March), and Pancratium fragrans, which flower in August and September, and perfume the house."

"What about Melons and Cucumbers?"

"We grow Cucumbers in the Melon house, Improved Telegraph and Sutton's Matchless. In this house we get four crops in one year—two of Cucumbers and two of Melons. The varieties of the latter are Sutton's A1 and Hero of Lockinge."

"What else do you grow in the frames?"

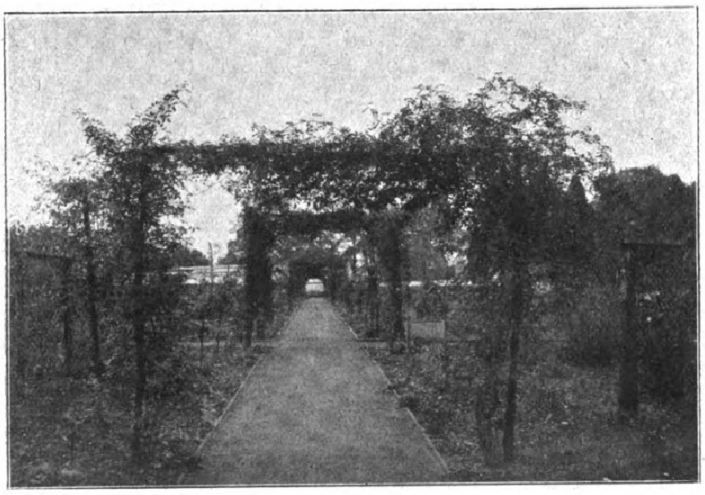
"Cyclamen, for one thing. I grow the plants for a year only, sowing about August, and potting on. Malmaison Carnations are grown here, the only variety being Princess of Wales. The Fuchsias are Scarcity, Charming, Mrs. Marshall, and Display, and you might mention the Kalosanthes coccinea, which flower in July. These are grown in cold frames, and get a much better colour in this way than if grown indoors. I start them five in a 'sixty' pot, and they are afterwards moved on to the flowering pots. Clivias are also grown in large and small pots."

Mr. Carpenter's Experience.

"How long have you been head gardener at Fox Warren, Mr. Carpenter?"

"I came here nearly a year ago. My experience extends over about thirty years. My first start, as a garden boy, was at Deerleap, Rowlands Castle, Hants, and at the end of three years I went to Idsworth Park gardens in the same county. Then for two years I was in the kitchen garden, and for two years in the houses. My first appointment as foreman in the houses was at Brableigh, Esher, and there I had a good deal of experience in growing Chrysanthemums for exhibition, under Mr. R. Cawte. I next went as general foreman at Langley Park gardens, Kent and at the end of two years was appointed head gardener at Highfield, Eastbourne. There I stayed for five years, and gained a great many prizes at shows, including three of the medals of the National Chrysanthemum Society for trained specimens. In these I used to take a great pride, often growing them nearly five feet across, with as many as two hundred blooms on them. Returning to Surrey, I became head gardener at Fairmile Court, where I remained for twelve years, taking many prizes, including eleven firsts at one show, and a silver cup for a group of miscellaneous plants arranged for effect."

ALFRED WILCOX.



ROSE ARCHWAYS IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT FOX WARREN.

The subject of the next interview will be The Gardens of Lord Lytton, at Knebworth House, Hertfordshire.

A Neglected Race of Plants.

ACROPHYLLUM VENOSUM.

THIS evergreen cool greenhouse plant, from Australia, is a very pretty subject, with neat spikes of Spiræa-like flowers; but its culture is not so simple as that of many others in this class, as it has a bad habit of ceasing to grow suddenly, while in a young state, this being caused by the young feeding fibres dying off or shrivelling up. This failing has been attributed to the lack of a sufficient supply of water, for this Acrophyllum carries a large mass of foliage, and requires to be kept more evenly moist at the roots than most others of its class, and should have water rather before than after the soil becomes a little dry. It also cannot endure as much of the direct rays of the sun and light as most similar subjects, and must be rather heavily shaded during the summer, and not have quite so much light as other things, even in the winter and spring. Nothing but the finest fibrous peat, broken up into a rather coarse condition, with some sand, must be used for its culture, and this must be made quite firm in the pots, by means of the potting-stick.

Propagation.

This may be effected by means of either cuttings or seed. In the first case the cuttings will usually be found in the right condition towards the end of the summer, say, in August, and should consist of nice sideshoots, each with a slight heel of the older wood, three or four inches long. Put them in 4-in. or 5-in. pots, not too closely, using a mixture of fine peat and sand in equal parts, with free drainage, and keep them in a minimum temperature of about fifty degrees, for if kept too cold they are liable to decay. When rooted, in the spring, they should be potted off in small sizes and grown on in the usual way, moving them on again into 4-in or 5-in. pots, and if not pinched back too closely, they may bloom during the succeeding summer, or otherwise the next. It is important to keep the strongest shoots well stopped back, however, as they will form rather straggling, untidy plants, and will not bloom as regularly as they might do.

The seed must be sown in the autumn, as soon as ripe, placing it in 5-in. or 6-in. pots of sandy peat, keeping it also in a temperature of fifty degrees minimum through the winter. In the spring they may be pricked off at about two inches apart, and grown on until they become strong enough for single pots. Then pot them off singly, and grow on as usual. This Acrophyllum makes a fine specimen if it can be kept growing, and is very little liable to the attacks of any insects.

The Adenandras.

These are very attractive cool greenhouse plants, of a vigorous nature, and not nearly so difficult of management as the last. In fact, they are among the easiest to grow of all this class of plants They are propagated by means of cuttings, which should be taken directly the plants have done flowering, and, after trimming, be placed about an inch apart in pots of very sandy peat surfaced with pure silver sand. Keep them in a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees during the autumn and winter, and pot them off singly in the spring, using 4-in. pots, and a light compost of sandy peat. When ready, or about Midsummer, pot them on into pots about three inches larger, using the same soil, and grow them on steadily through the winter, keeping them near the glass, and in a moderate temperature—not too cold. These plants may be grown in light, fibrous loam, leaf-soil, and sand, but they do better in peat, growing faster and blooming more freely.

The next spring they will probably bloom on almost every shoot, and the flowers will expand in April or May, when the plants may be removed from where they have been growing to quite a cool house, or conservatory. After blooming, cut back the shoots to about half-way between their points and where they were cut back before, but not more; keep them rather warm and close, and syringe them liberally overhead on fine afternoons. When well in growth again, they may be moved on into larger pots, if desired, but they will bloom well if kept in much smaller pots than would be suitable for many things.

About the end of July they may be turned out of doors for a month, to ripen the wood and induce plenty of bloom. There are two principal varieties—A. fragrans, which is very sweet-scented, and A. speciosa. AN OLD HAND.

REMOVE all decayed leaves or stalks from the flower beds to the rubbish heap, or, otherwise, fork them into the soil to form manure.

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increased in energy up to August, and accomplished 65 per cent. of its increase in the latter half season.

4. The annual increment in evergreens is spread more equally over the months than that of deciduous trees. Several species of the latter grew more than 50 per cent. in a single month. Some of the results are shown in the table, which gives only those species in which the results are fully reliable. Experiments on many other species have been commenced with the view of ascertaining their characteristics, and whether a general law of distinction between deciduous and evergreen trees can be made out.

Monthly Percentage of Increase of Girth in different Species of Trees, in Edinburgh Botanic Garden or Craigiehall, based on Three Years' Measurements.

	Species.	Number of Trees Measured.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August and September.
Deciduous.	Beech	9	4	7	25	37	27
	Hungary Oak .	3	9	9	20	35	27
	Turkish Oak ...	2	6	14	10	35	35
	Spanish Chestnut	1	9	12	12	36	31
	Liriodendron ...	1	2	5	5	34	54
Evergreen.	Sequoia ...	4	3	24	39	22	12
	Araucaria ...	3	17	23	32	19	9
	African Cedar .	1	5	20	24	25	26
	Cypress ...	1	8	23	31	31	7
	Deodar	4	5	11	19	28	37

II. "Notes on the British Species of Epilobium." By Arthur Bennett, Esq., F.L.S., Croydon.

III. "On the Size and Number of Wood Vessels in relation to the amount of Wood Development." By Mr. Philip Sewell.

IV. "Report on the Progress of Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh." By W. R. Lindsay, Curator.

The weather during March was rough, with much snow, wind, and frequent frosts. Vegetation having been forced on by the unusual mildness of the preceding month, suffered a severe check, and made little progress till near the end of the month. Compared with last year, the season is still considerably in advance. The thermometer was at or below the freezing point on eighteen nights, collectively 100° of frost were registered for the month as against 134° for the corresponding month last year.

The lowest readings of the thermometer were, on the 12th, 24°; 13th, 18°; 14th, 24°; 15th, 23°; 21st, 24°.

The highest morning readings were, on the 2d, 42°; 3d, 44°; 7th, 35°; 27th, 39°; 31st, 39°.

The lowest day temperatures was 29°, which occurred on the 11th, and the highest 52° on the 30th.

Flowers of Rhododendron præcox, R. Nobleanum, and R. atrovirens were much injured by frost on the 9th, Roses, which had started into growth, had their young leaves slightly browned; no other injury was observed. Snow fell more or less from the 10th till the 22d, which helped to protect spring flowering plants. Thorns, Poplar, and Lilac are well advanced in leaf. Willows, Alder, Elms, Pyrus japonica, Ribes sanguineum and Forsythia viridissima are flowering profusely. Magnolias and Prunus triloba are well set with flower-buds. Spring-flowering bulbous plants are vigorous and flowering well, although cold drying winds and absence of anything like genial rains is beginning to tell on them.

On the rock garden a large number of plants are now in flower. Sixty-five species came into bloom during March, exclusive of those which opened in the previous month, many of which are still flowering. Among the most interesting which opened in March were the following, viz.:—Corydalis angustifolia, Primula denticulata, Erica carnea, Chionodoxa Luciliæ, Saxifraga sancta, S. oppositifolia var. aretioides, S. Burseriana var. Boydii, Puschkinia scilloides, Polygala Chamæbuxus and purpurea, Pachystema Canbyi, Draba Mawei, Anemone Pulsatilla, &c.

Of the forty spring flowering plants whose dates of flowering are annually recorded to the Society the following fifteen came into flower, viz.:—

Scilla bifolia... ...	Mar. 2	Erythronium Dens-canis	Mar. 19
Mandragora officinalis	,, 2	Hyoscyamus scopolia...	,, 23
Scilla bifolia alba ...	,, 4	Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus	,, 23
Sisyrinchium grandiflorum	,, 4	Ribes sanguineum ...	,, 23
Orobus vernus	,, 6	Corydalis solida ...	,, 26
Sisyrinchium grandiflorum album	,, 8	Draba aizoides... ...	,, 28
Narcissus pumilus ...	,, 14	Adonis vernalis ...	,, 29
Aubrietia grandiflora...	,, 19		

V. "Report on the Temperatures and Vegetation at the Glasgow Botanic Garden." By Mr. B. Bullen, Curator: March, 1887.—During the month the night temperature has fallen below the freezing point twenty times, and several times very near it. The total frost registered this month is 117°. During the corresponding month last year the total was 139°. We have experienced a low temperature this month; but last year the temperature for the corresponding period was unusually so. The lowest reading was 16° during the night of the 12th. The lowest day reading was 32° on the 11th, when considerable snow fell. Rain and snowstorms have been light as compared with most other districts. Although an average number of fine days are recorded, outdoor gardening work has been retarded by the frequent frosts, &c. The same may be said as regards vegetation generally, for little progress has been made. Many plants, so much in advance of the season last month, have suffered slightly.

VI. Miscellaneous:—Mr. Lindsay exhibited plants in flower of Primula obtusifolia var. Gammieana and P. glabra, raised from seeds presented to the garden by Dr. King, of Calcutta, in January last. The former has large flowers, dark purple in colour, and is a great acquisition to this fine family; the latter has small heads of flower, somewhat like a miniature P. capitata. Also two plants of Primula Reidi, figured in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, November 27, 1886, p. 693, raised from seeds presented by Miss Reid, in October, 1885; P. denticulata erosoides, P. Olgæ, P. viscosa, seedling varieties, having large, well-coloured flowers.

VARIORUM.

Science and Art.—Practice is often spoken of as if it were altogether distinct from science, and inconsistent with it. We hear science and practice spoken of as if in opposition, and sometimes as if they were mutually distrustful. I will not deny that strange contrasts of the practical and the scientific may be found among us, but these contrasts are constantly becoming more rare, and it is an excellent influence of scientific societies that they tend to cultivate the scientific mind and to maintain it in the practical life. For what practice may be depends, in all respects, much more on the person engaged on it than on its own subject matter. . . . It may be a mere useful art practised by one who has neither love for nor knowledge of any science, or to the man of scientific mind it may be a thoroughly scientific study as well as an applied science. . . . Practice is full of opportunities for science. Reflections on any day's work in practice may convince us that we have been using a good deal of knowledge or belief which we cannot explain by its relation with other knowledge. *Sir James Paget.*

Sub-tropical Plants in Small Gardens.—These, of course, are named as best sites, but the owner of a small village garden, who—as a matter of course—has no choice of sites, need not despair. If he only has shelter, he may, if so inclined, have a first-rate sub-tropical bed. Say, for instance, he has a large circular bed, and wishes it planted effectively after the sub-tropical fashion; here is the arrangement. In the middle plant a large clump of the hardy Bamboo (Bambusa metake), or else of New Zealand Flax (Phormium tenax); then three plants, equal in size, of seedling Acacia lophantha; and next six plants of Grevillea robusta; the outer row of all being twelve plants of variegated Abutilon: the edging to be the hardy variegated Plantain Lily (Funkia ovata variegata). All these plants can be bought at the price usually paid for common Pelagoniums, and are, therefore, within the reach of all. The bed can be filled out either with flowering or foliage plants; considering the position, we should advise the former, the kinds to be either Pelagoniums or Fuchsias, or both in mixture. Should foliage plants be preferred, variegated Thyme, Golden Feather Pyrethrum, or any of the mossy selection of Sedums would be appropriate. *Cassell's Popular Gardening.*

Obituary.

Richard Carr.—We regret to announce the death, under very painful circumstances, of Mr. Richard Carr, Head Gardener to the Duke of Portland, Welbeck Abbey. His death was due to an inadvertence in stepping from a railway carriage whilst in motion, at Retford Junction, on returning from a journey to London, on Wednesday, the 13th inst. He fell between the footboard and the platform, and was carried a distance of more than 40 yards, receiving internal injuries, to which he succumbed about three hours' afterwards. Mr. Carr made many changes and alterations in the gardens at Welbeck, which are several hundred acres in extent, the kitchen garden alone being about 36 acres. He put this department into thorough working order, the walls being planted with the choicest sorts of fruit trees for the consumption of one of the largest establishments in England, giving the greatest satisfaction to his employer. The planting and laying down of this large extent of ground, which some forty years ago was covered with bricks, stone, and mortar heaps, and the *débris* from the continued building work that had been carried on, was executed by him. Some short time since Mr. Carr was presented with a valuable gold watch by the Duke of Portland as a recognition of valuable services rendered. He was one of the most intelligent of gardeners, and enjoyed the confidence of his employer. He was interred on Saturday last at Cuckney, many of his gardening friends being present at the ceremony. The deceased, who was fifty-seven years of age, leaves a widow and eight children,

THE WEATHER.

MEAN TEMPERATURE OBSERVED AT CHISWICK DURING THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 30. (AVERAGE OF THIRTY-THREE YEARS.)

April 24	49°.5	April 28	50°.1
,, 25	49°.6	,, 29	50°.4
,, 26	49°.7	,, 30	50°.7
,, 27	49°.8	Mean for the week ...	50°.0

THE PAST WEEK.

The following summary record of the weather for the week ending April 18, is furnished from the Meteorological Office:—

"The *weather* has continued fine and dry in all parts of the kingdom. The nights were generally very cold, while the days were bright, and on some occasions rather warmer than they have been of late.

"The *temperature* has remained below the mean in all districts, the deficit ranging from 2° to 4° in Ireland and Scotland, to 5° over the northern parts of England, and to 6° or 7° in the other English districts. The highest of the maxima, which were recorded either on the 12th, 17th, or 18th, varied from 58° in 'Scotland, N.,' to 66° in the 'Midland Counties' and 'England, S.,' and to 67° in 'Scotland, E.' The lowest of the minima, which were registered on irregular dates, were unusually low for the time of year. In the 'Midland Counties' (at Cirencester) the thermometer fell to 20°, in 'England, S.W.' (at Llandovery) to 21°, in 'England, S.' to 22°, and in 'Ireland, S.' and 'England, E.' to 23°; in Scotland and the north of Ireland they were a few degrees higher, ranging from 24° to 29°, while in the 'Channel Islands' the lowest reading was 34°.

"The *rainfall* has been scarcely appreciable in any part of the kingdom. Over central and south

CARR Martha.

Personal Estate £17.

4 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of Martha Carr late of Side Beet Rishton in the County of **Lancaster** Widow who died 20 December 1885 at Side Beet was granted at **Lancaster** to James Tattersall of 44 Carlisle - street Lower Audley Blackburn in the said County Pointsman the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

CARR Mary.

Personal Estate £85.

4 February. The Will of Mary Carr late of 35 West-Percy-street North Shields in the County of **Northumberland** Spinster who died 30 December 1886 at 35 West-Percy-street was proved at **Newcastle - upon - Tyne** by Caroline Worswick of 35 West-Percy-street Widow and Frank Rennie of 24 Beverley-terrace Cullercoates in the said County Esquire M.D. the Executors.

CARR Mary.

Personal Estate £139 16s. 8d.

13 September. Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Carr (Wife of Oliver Carr) late of Settle in the County of **York** who died 29 December 1868 at Settle was granted at **Wakefield** to the said Oliver Carr of Settle Labourer.

CARR Mary.

Personal Estate £911 9s. 9d.

18 October. The Will with a Codicil of Mary Carr late of Richmond in the County of **York** Widow who died 30 September 1887 at Richmond was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Thomas Wilde of Richmond Accountant and George Carr of 109 Ebury-street in the County of Middlesex Cabinet Maker the Son the Executors.

CARR Mary Ann.

Personal Estate £105.

14 March. Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Ann Carr late of 57 Wentworth - street Spitalfields in the County of **Middlesex** Widow who died 14 January 1887 at 57 Wentworth-street was granted at the **Principal Registry** under the usual Limitations to Henry Beech of 3 Mylne - street Myddleton - square in the said County Mercantile Clerk the Guardian of Mary Ann Carr Spinster a Minor the Daughter and only Next of Kin.

CARR Richard.

Personal Estate £1,425 14s. 4d.

18 May. The Will of Richard Carr late of Welbeck in the County of **Nottingham** Gardener who died 13 April 1887 at West Retford in the said County was proved at **Nottingham** by John Carr of the Town and County of the Town of Berwick - upon - Tweed Innkeeper the Brother and Robert Tait of 43 Corporation-street in the City ot Manchester Seed Merchant the Executors.

CARR Robert.

Personal Estate £2,392 2s. in the United Kingdom.

1 March. The Will of Robert Carr late of Upper-Pitt - street Liverpool in the County of **Lancaster** Master Mariner who died 27 December 1886 at Upper-Pitt-street domiciled in England was proved at **Liverpool** by Maxwell Smith of Hartfell House Moffat in the County of Dumfries in North Britain Indigo Planter one of the Executors.

Mr Carr

THE GARDENS OF GOG MAGOG HILLS, CAMBRIDGE.

IT was in the teeth of a blizzard that I drove up the highest hill in Cambridgeshire, for the purpose of visiting the most historic gardens in the county. A combination of snow and north wind cannot be called favourable conditions, but the cold on the summit was less piercing than in the plains below, and I was able to get glimpses of the fair domains which in recent years have passed into the ownership of Mr. H. S. Gray. Both Mr. Gray and his wife take the keenest interest in their gardens, which, quite apart from past associations, have many attractions. They are in charge of Mr. W. H. Carr, who lost no time in showing me the more notable features, and the covering of snow in no wise prevented me from realising the beauty of the situation, the delightful surroundings, as well as the careful attention which is evidently given to arrangement and cultivation. The north side of the mansion, which dates from the seventeenth century, was first approached. Here there is a charming Rose border.

"That is to say," explained Mr. Carr, "the border chiefly consists of Roses. They are planted separately, and trained, as you can see, on wires, four feet from the ground, in order to form a hedge."

Flowers for a North Aspect.

"I suppose that here, too, are the principal flower beds?"

"Yes, there are sixteen beds of varying shapes and sizes, none of them raised, but all on a level with the house. For spring blooms, several of the larger beds are planted with red and yellow Wallflowers only; others with Myosotis and pink Tulips; and a number with Polyanthus, mixed with rose-coloured Hyacinths. Mrs. Gray likes all shades of rose and pink."

"Then, you get these shades into your summer bedding?"

"As much as possible. Thus, the corner beds contain Ivy-leaf Geranium Madame Crousse. These are dotted with Kochia trichophylla, which are green through the summer, and subsequently carmine. Four of the beds are occupied by Petunias, without edging, and four with Phlox Drummondi, dotted in each case with purple Sage."

"How do you treat Petunias?"

"They are sown in February in a gentle heat. When they are large enough to handle, we prick them off into boxes, subsequently potting into small 'sixties,' and hardening gradually in cold frames. They are planted out in the middle of June."

"How does the fact that these beds have a north aspect affect the flowering seasons?"

"The flowering seasons are late. But though the spring plants do not flower until April, they continue to throw up blooms until June is fairly well advanced. The summer flowering also begins late, but we have plenty of blooms until the first frost comes. Last year I did not clear the beds off until November."

"Have you any trouble in keeping the Ivy on the mansion strictly within limits?"

"It is clipped every year in March or April. Last year we started in March, and got it quite close back, securing the best effect. We shall repeat the same course next month. There is also Honeysuckle on the house."

"How do you fill the narrow border, divided by steps into the house?"

"With Wallflowers and Myosotis in spring, and in summer we shall have Calceolaria Golden Gem, with Periwinkles at the back. With the background of Ivy, they look very well."

THE ENTRANCE, GOG MAGOG HILLS.

A Floral Lounge.

"I conclude, from appearances, that there is no conservatory?"

"No; but in the mansion itself is a sort of winter garden. It is, in fact, called the Lounge, and, as you will observe, adjoins the dining-room. It is always thoroughly warmed, and decorated with plants in bloom; also with hanging baskets. Our last combinations of flowers consisted of Clivias, Cinerarias, Tulips, and Ferns.

"In the spring, outside," continued Mr. Carr, "we make a show of Rhododendrons in tubs on this side of the mansion. There are about two dozen, and they begin to flower in May. Judging by results, a north aspect suits them. They stand outside all the winter without harm, quite exposed."

"Do you put peat in the tubs?"

"Yes; the soil consists chiefly of peat. We have had some of the plants for three years, and they have grown into good specimens. We never cut the flowers."

"The tennis ground is on the lawn this side?"

"And also the croquet ground. A good view of the lawn is obtainable from the summer-house. Both on this lawn and elsewhere, the hardy varieties of Daffodils are naturalised, and make a big show in March and April. Very few of these are cut. This is the main lawn, with the famous cock-pit. The ornamental lake in the cock-pit does not contain Lilies, its solitary decoration being a few wild ducks. With respect to bedding, the feature of this, the main lawn, is the number of herbaceous beds."

The Herbaceous Beds.

"What are your combinations?"

"As to edging, Pinks are used, and for the front of the beds we have bold patches of Sweet William Pink Beauty. It is very showy, lasts a long time in bloom, and does not look naked at any period of the year. Doronicums, Spiræas, Canterbury Bells, Sedum spectabile, Michaelmas Daisies in clumps, Delphiniums, and Solidago, are largely used; while Chrysanthemums in variety supply an excellent patch of colour in November, when other flowers are scarce."

"How about specimen trees?"

"One of the most notable is the Cupressus Lawsoniana erecta virida, which can be seen from almost every part of the pleasure ground. It is forty-eight feet high, and the circumference of the stem four feet from the bottom is five and a half feet. The Tree of Heaven near the cock-pit is also worth mentioning, and other trees which thrive in the gardens and park are evergreen Oaks and Beeches."

The Ancient Yew Hedge.

"Can you tell me the extent of the gardens?"

"About six acres. The park, which is all fenced in, is very extensive, and the whole of it is on very high ground. The well from which we get our water is over three hundred feet deep. The soil is chalk."

"Speaking of trees, the soil must suit Yews."

"You are thinking of our great Yew hedge. Both English and Irish Yews flourish. The Yew hedge which divides the main lawn from the kitchen garden is a hundred and forty yards long, twenty-one feet high in the highest part, by ten wide. The age of these Yews is believed to be from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and fifty years."

"The hedge makes a splendid background to the lawn."

"Yes, it is very much admired. Now, you must see our latest addition outside the walls."

A Rockery in a Roman Encampment.

Crossing the bridge over the old Roman encampment, we speedily arrived at the rockery, which promises to be an extremely pleasing addition. I asked when it was made.

"Only in the autumn of last year," rejoined Mr. Carr. "Ideas were given to me by Mr. Gray, and I did my best to carry them out. In making this rockery, we were faced with a difficulty in securing a good natural effect. Owing to the chalk soil, we tried to scheme in order to avoid too much carting away. So we threw up the chalk from the paths to form mounds, afterwards adding a considerable depth of loam for planting purposes. To flower this season we put in, temporarily, such plants as Pinks, Alyssums, Arabis, dwarf varieties of Antirrhinums, and Wallflowers, taking care to give plenty of room to all the plants we intend to be permanent. The Roman ditch, nine to ten feet deep, we turned to account for a Fern bank."

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"You have Daisies already in flower?"

"And a few of the Aubrietias. These are amongst the permanent plants. We hope to have a water garden at the foot of the pathway, with Japanese Iris. The fall of the water is five feet, and along the sides of the gully, which runs into the main pond, are numerous plants to flower in spring."

A Special Garden.

Proceeding to the south-east side of the mansion, which, on the walls, is adorned with Wistaria sinensis and Bignonia radicans, and also a quantity of Virginia Creeper, which is just cut away from the windows and allowed to hang down, my attention was drawn to a little enclosed garden, surrounded by climbing Roses.

"This," said Mr. Carr, "is Mrs. Gray's special little garden, containing in the centre a bed of mixed Roses, and round the sides herbaceous plants, similar to those in the beds on the north lawn. The rustic porch built out of the mansion is covered in summer with Roses and Virginia Creepers. A feature of this lawn later on is a show of China Roses, which fill two beds, and often flower right up to Christmas. Close to the sundial on the grass is a good clump of Delphinums, with a background of Crimson Rambler Roses on rustic poles and chains. Delphiniums and Roses harmonise well together."

Passing through a gateway in about the centre of the Yew hedge, we entered the kitchen garden, which is partly walled in, and partly separated from the pleasure grounds by a hedge. Before we inspected the range of glass, I asked Mr. Carr if he knew the age of the grand old Mulberry tree, which is a conspicuous object.

"It is probably about the same age as the Yew hedge. Although so old, it never fails to produce a good crop of fruit yearly, which for stewing purposes is most useful. Surrounding the tree itself are Rose beds, containing numerous varieties, the Roses being both dwarfs and standards. On the west side of the Mulberry tree are climbing and Pillar Roses on chains, amongst which are planted Daffodils in variety. The south-east side includes the herbaceous border, which is planted with varieties intended for cutting for use in the mansion."

Tree Carnations.

"I notice that in your greenhouse you have nice batches of Cyclamen and Freesias in flower, and that Fancy Pelargoniums are coming on."

"We grow a number of varieties of the last. Among other subjects of which we make rather a feature is the Justicia, a tall-growing plant with a pink flower. We have between thirty and forty, and they are in flower during the summer. Tree Carnations are in flower from January to September. We layer old plants on outside borders in summer, pot off when rooted, grow in winter in the greenhouse, plant out in April, and get a good supply of flowers during summer. A plant worth growing extensively is Dielytra spectabilis. It is quite easy to work up a good stock quickly, and when the plants have been potted up and gently forced, they make splendid specimens for house decoration. The varieties of Tree Carnations are Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Enchantress, The Belle, and Floriana."

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

A Favourite Sweet Pea.

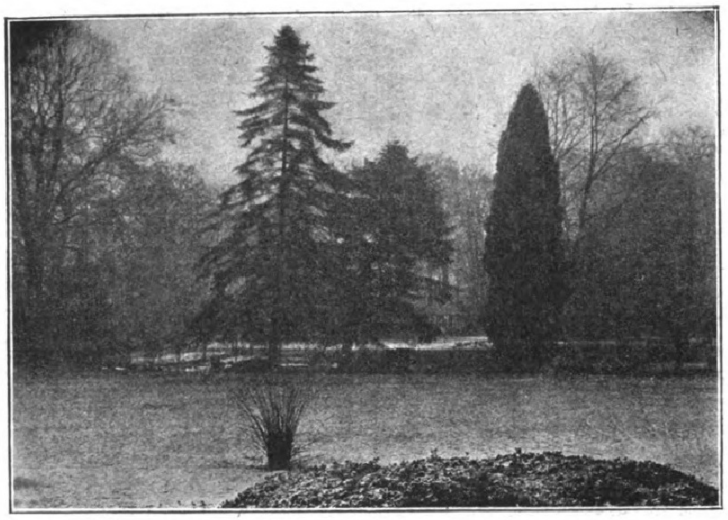
"We have a fair collection, but they are Singles chiefly. Sweet Peas are just showing in 5-in. pots. We subsequently plant out in rows and separate clumps. The varieties are Countess Spencer, George Stark, Clara Curtis, Princess May, Princess Victoria, Thomas Stevenson, Rose du Barri, and several others. Gorgeous is very much admired here, and we grow a considerable number. Although a small flower, Gorgeous is an excellent decorative colour, and last year it made far the best show. I think this was accounted for by the soil in which it was grown, namely, the mud from the bottom of a soft water well, which had lain out all the winter, and was mixed in as the trenching proceeded with the usual manure."

"In your stove everything seems to be overshadowed by Bananas. How long have you fruited them?"

"This is the second year. A Banana plant does not fruit twice; the old stem is thrown away, and young plants put in. The plant you see is seven feet high, and six inches through. It carries one hundred and fifty fruits, which are exceedingly good, far better than any we can buy. The border in which it is planted out is two feet wide by four feet long, with hot-water pipes underneath. There are other Bananas coming on, and one which will fruit in March. We put the smaller trees into the Lounge for a short time. Perhaps the most striking point about the Bananas is that they are growing with many other things, and are not in a house by themselves, as it is sometimes said is necessary. For example, there are a number of Palms, and on the stages, now in flower, are Eucharis amazonica and Deutzia gracilis. Here we also grow Azalea indica, Lilies of the Valley, and Tulips. In the Fernery we have two or three dozen Adiantum Farleyense, and a few Asparagus Sprengeri. Nephrolepis Whitmanni is grown in quantity in baskets, for use in the house. We have one plant three feet through. The collection of Orchids embraces three or four varieties of Cattleyas, Cœlogyne cristata, Cypripedium insigne, Odontoglossum Crispum, O. Pescatorei, and O. Adriani, which is just coming into flower."

"I see you have Arum Lilies in your Peach house."

"They are just throwing up good spathes, with Clivias making a good show of colour, amongst them. We do not coddle Clivias in any way. In winter they are kept in our coolest house; and in summer they stand outside on ashes, and are frequently watered."



THE LAWN AT GOG MAGOG HILLS.

Forcing in Pits.

"What do you use your rows of heated pits for?"

"For a number of purposes. We force about two hundred Royal Sovereign Strawberries. Peas do better in large pots than planted in pits. We pick them early in May, and continue for a month until they are ready outside. Seakale, Asparagus, and Carrots are forced in the pits, and on a hotbed outside Tom Thumb Lettuces."

"What fruit does best on your walls?"

"On the east walls Plums flourish, especially Victoria, which never fails to give a good crop. Other varieties are Coe's Golden Drop, Prince Englebert, Grand Duke, and Denniston's Superb. On the south walls are Apricots, Peaches, and Pears in variety."

Peas in December.

"I should like to have any details about particular vegetables?"

"As to Peas, after Chelsea Gem has been grown in pots for early work, it is succeeded by William the First. We sow these early in November on a warm border, sowing the same variety again early in February. Then we grow Veitch's Criterion, a first-rate cropper. Although the pods are not large, the Peas are quite equal in size to many other varieties with big pods. It also has a very good second crop. For our main crop we depend upon Duke of Albany; and for late work Autocrat and Chelsonian. The last two carry us on to the end of October. In fact, in 1910, Chelsonian was producing good pods late in November, and early in December."

"I think you make a feature of Celery?"

"Yes, it is largely grown here, because it is cooked as a vegetable. We can always do with one thousand five hundred heads. We only grow two varieties, Superb White and Standard Bearer. The former is ready in August if sown early in February, and we send a quantity to Scotland during the shooting season. Onions also are largely grown. We sow a few in January for extra large bulbs. The main crop are sown as early as possible in February. The ground for them is trenched three spits deep in the autumn, and plenty of stable manure added. The three varieties are Ronsham Park, Nuneham Park, and Bedfordshire Champion."

Mr. Carr's Career.

As we strolled along the Lavender walk, and observed the fine Holly hedge, which divides Mr. Carr's house from the garden, I asked how long he had been at Gog Magog Hills.

"Five years. This was my first appointment as head gardener. I started at Playford Mount, Suffolk, where I remained six years. I went next to Carlton Hall, Saxmundham, and thence in succession to Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire; Greenham Lodge, Newbury; Warfield Hall, Berkshire; and Loughton Lodge, Lewes. So that I have had experience in representative gardens in various parts of the country."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE subject for next week is: "What Worcestershire is Doing for Horticulture." Interview with Mr. Udale, F.R.H.S., Instructor for the County.

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The Garden, 1881

MR. S. M. CARSON, for some thirty years gardener at Nonsuch Park, Cheam, died on May 22 last, at his residence at Gatehouse, of Fleet, aged 67. Mr. Carson, who was one of the foremost plant growers of his day, was for a lengthened period an exhibitor at the great London shows, successfully contending in the classes of Azaleas, and stove and greenhouse plants, with such men as Green, Falconer, Hunt, and Barnes, all in their day grand plant growers. But plant culture was not his only strong point; he was an equally good gardener generally—an excellent man in all departments, and as such appreciated by his employer, who allowed him on his retirement from Nonsuch Park, in 1872, a liberal annuity.

as smaller the garden, the more necessary it is strategic to conceal its limits from any one point of view." This is certainly true, and it is in the manner in which the concealment is effected that the hand of the artist is seen.

The Dove Orchid or the Holy Ghost-flower, is a most singular plant. The extraordinary resemblance which the flower bears to a dove would seem to serve no useful purpose, especially as the difference in size would surely prevent any insect from mistaking the flower for the bird. In that case the resemblance must be purely accidental.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 241.—MR. O. CATLING, AT THE GARDENS, BAYFORDBURY, HERTFORD.

ONE of the most interesting features of the gardens at Bayfordbury, which I recently visited, by permission of Mr. H. Clinton Baker, the owner, who takes the keenest interest in them, is the remarkable collection of rare trees and Conifers, many of them being the largest in England. Going round the beautiful lawn, in front of the mansion, with the gardener, Mr. Catling, I asked for the dimensions of some of these noble specimens.

A Collection of Rare Trees.

"The most notable of the Oaks," he rejoined, "include Quercus palustris (six feet seven inches round), Quercus velutina (six feet eleven inches), Quercus rubra (eight feet ten inches), Quercus Phellos (five feet ten inches), Quercus imbricaria (four feet seven inches), and Quercus Turneri (three feet five inches in girth)."

"What about Pyrus?"

"There is a specimen of P. pinnatifida, five feet two inches in girth, and forty feet high. As to Pines, I may mention Pinus cembra seven feet two inches in girth, sixty-four feet high, P. pungens (three feet one inch in girth, thirty-five feet high), P. ponderosa (nine feet four inches in girth, a hundred feet high), P. Coulteri (eight feet eleven inches in girth, seventy-two feet high), and P. contorta (four feet nine inches in girth, forty-nine feet high). The principal Abies are A. cephalonica (six feet eleven inches in girth, seventy feet high) and A. Nordmanniana (six feet nine inches in girth, and ninety-one feet high)."

"Then there are also the splendid Cedars on the lawn."

Many of the Oaks were planted by members of the family.

"There is, also," continued Mr. Catling, "a nice piece of ornamental water of about one acre and a half in extent, dotted over with four islands, and planted with various trees, that adds much to the beauty of that part of the gardens, as viewed from the carriage drive, which goes past it to the village. It is fed with surface water, which is drained to it from higher ground, and it is situated on a higher level than the Rose garden and greenhouses, so that it forms a welcome source of supply for use in the garden and stables, and for refilling the fountain in the centre of the Rose garden when necessary."

The Bedding.

Proceeding to the terrace walk, which is laid out with beds, edged with cement coping, I inquired how they were made up.

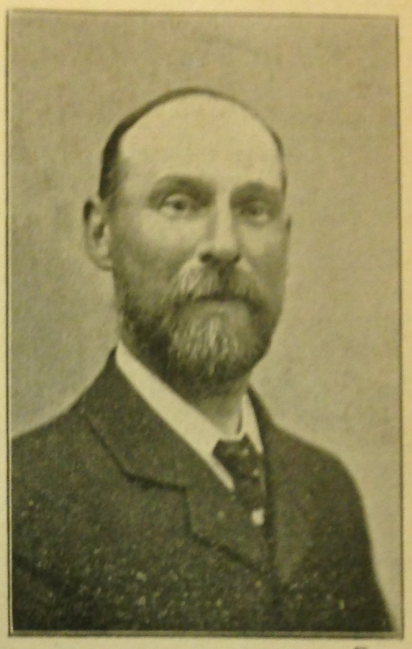
"There are six beds of golden Calceolarias, eight of Heliotropes (in two varieties—light and dark), and two beds in the centre of outlets to the lawn, containing Nicotiana affinis and scarlet Gladiolus, with Nicotiana Sanderæ on each side. Of the two narrow beds, one is planted with Mrs. Pollock Geraniums, and the other with dark Heliotropes; the centre oblong bed contains Golden Gem Calceolarias, another one Heliotropes, and a third Madame Crousse Geraniums. The little round beds last year contained Grevilleas in the centre, edged with Lobelias, and Alternanthera round the coping, but this year I am trying Coleus Verschaffeldtii, edged with Lobelias."

BAYFORDBURY, HERTFORD.

"They were planted in 1765, four on one side and six on the other, and are generally admired. The collection of Pines used to be even finer than it is, but the frost of 1860 killed a number.

"Have you tried tuberous Begonias on the terrace?"

"Yes, and we found they would not do, because it is too hot. The row of beds, with a narrow border on the left side close to the wall, goes the length of the terrace, and is about a hundred and forty yards long. The border itself contains a mixture of Geraniums, Verbenas, or anything we happen to have. As to the beds, there is one containing Heliotropes, the next has Irisii Lindeni intermixed with Geranium Manglesii, another is generally filled



MR. O. CATLING.

with fibrous-rooted Begonias, a fourth with scarlet Geraniums, a fifth consists of variegated Gazanias, a sixth of pink Ivy-leaf Geraniums, a seventh of Heliotropes of a light colour, an eighth of Miss Kingsbridge Geraniums (white variety), and the ninth of Golden Gem Calceolarias. The beds at the other end of the terrace correspond."

Vases and the Terrace.

"How do you fill your vases?"

"The large ones on the coping with Aralia Sieboldii, filled in with Geraniums and Fuchsias, Ivy-leaved Geraniums hanging over the edges of the vases. The smaller ones are arranged in pairs, two having Cleopatra Geraniums, two Happy Thoughts, and two Henry Jacoby. There is one odd bed outside on the terrace which I have omitted to mention; it is filled with sub-tropical plants, such as Nicotianas, Solanums, and Ricinus. As you see, the terrace is raised from the lawn, and there are beds on both sides of the steps. On the mansion, Choisya ternata thrives, also Magnolia grandiflora and Tecoma, while the different creepers on the verandah include Honeysuckle and Wistarias, with Roses intermixed. On the pillars of the portico two Vines are trained. Yuccas, planted in the grass, are doing fairly well."

"You have a nice piece of Plumbago capensis alba on the roof of the conservatory."

"Yes, and also P. capensis. The conservatory is very old, and the floor is of flag-stones; it is sixty by twenty feet. We have had a splendid lot of flowers from the Camellias, in spite of the fact that they have only a border fifteen inches wide and fifteen to eighteen inches deep to feed on. Occasionally we give them a little artificial manure."

"I notice you have some white Rhododendrons."

"They are useful both for house and church

decoration. The Liliums are a hardy variety, all grown under the Vines, and brought from the Vinery here, the conservatory being necessarily used as a plant house. We have one Orange and one Lemon tree on the back wall, and two Orange trees in slate boxes, which are moved out on to the terrace during the summer months."

The Rock and Bog Gardens.

From the conservatory we proceeded to the north end of the mansion, where there is a garden of Yews, these consisting of the ordinary green and a few golden kinds. There is also one fine specimen of Wellingtonia. The rock garden includes on one side a little bog garden, planted with choice varieties, and the rockwork is built chiefly with stones and old brick burrs.

"What are the principal varieties?" I inquired.

"The Alpines which grow here are, chiefly, Androsace carnea, A. lanuginosa, A. sarmentosa, and A. villosa, Anemone sulphurea, Dictamnus Fraxinella, and D. alba, Draba ciliaris, Eritrichiums, Lewisia rediviva, Potentilla ambigua, Primulas, Auricula marginata, P. calycina, and P. villosa, Saxifraga apiculata, S. Burseriana, S. Boydii, S. Grisebachii, S. oppositifolia, S. sancta, and S. Valdensis. Sedums in variety and Alpine Phloxes are also grown, while, in the bog garden, Cypripedium calceolus (or the English Lady's Slipper) and C. spectabile are just coming into flower. Other contents include Thymes of different colour, Aubrietias of the most recent introduction, which are a great improvement on old-fashioned varieties, and Gunnera manicata and G. scabra."

The Vineries.

As a thunderstorm was at this time in progress, we sought shelter in the houses.

"There are three Vineries," said Mr. Catling, "ninety feet long. The varieties in the early house are Black Hamburgh and Madresfield Court; in the medium Vinery, Muscat of Alexandria and Mrs. Pince; and, in the late house, Alicante and Lady Downe's Seedling. All the roots are outside, excepting those of the Muscats. We begin cutting in the early house about the middle of July, in the second at the end of August, and in the late house towards Christmas. This year we had Grapes until the first week in April."

"Then there are the stove and the intermediate house?"

"They are forty-two feet in length. The stove contains, chiefly, Dracænas, Crotons, Caladiums, and a few plants of Farleyense Ferns and Gloxinias. We grow about fifty of the latter (mixed varieties), also a couple of dozen Clerodendrons for the autumn. In the intermediate house we have a number of Fuchsias, which are useful for indoor decoration, and a few cool Orchids (Odontoglossums, Cypripediums, and Lycastes Skinnerii), which come in either for cut flowers or to adorn the plant house."

"What about Nectarines and Peaches?"

"They are all grown in the orchard house, which is cool. The first Peach is Alexander, and Golden Eagle the last. Other varieties are Duke of York, Hale's Early, Dymond, and Barrington. We keep up a succession of fruit from the beginning of July until the middle of October. The Nectarines are Early Rivers, Lord Napier, Rivers' Orange, Pineapple, and Humboldt. Our system is to fill up the old trees with younger ones planted in pots, but these are not yet rooted out. With respect to cultivation, it is most essential that the border should be regularly watered, because the foliage draws up so much moisture, and the usual attention in disbudding is required."

"I notice that you have also Cherries here."

"Two varieties—Rivers' Early, which we begin picking in the middle of June, and Governor Wood in July. Although there is no apparatus for heating, we manage to keep the frost out pretty well, and if it comes to the worst we light a paraffin stove."

A Charming Rose Garden.

"When did you plant your Rose garden?"

"We replanted the centre of it between seven and eight years ago, and we have filled up the beds each year with a few newer varieties. You will observe that all round the garden are asphalte paths, which are a great assistance in the way of keeping off weeds. Roses are grown in all the main beds, six of which are almost square, four (round the fountain) circular, and four corner beds with Roses grown as chains. There is also an outside border on each side, and another one lying between two banks, the varieties grown here being all Teas. The others are mixed varieties planted in groups, three of one variety together, so as to get effect in colour."

"You grow Strawberries in your Rose garden?"

"Yes, a large number, and we consider that they do not in any way detract from the appearance. The varieties are Royal Sovereign and President, which we grow on from year to year. The other feature is Sweet Peas, a few varieties grown singly, so as to get a handful of decided colour."

Fruit in the Kitchen Garden.

"I suppose you have the usual fruit in the walled kitchen garden?"

"The pyramid trees up the centre walks and all round are Apples, Pears, and Plums. A few of the best Apples on pyramids are Worcester Pearmain, Adams' Pearmain, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Brodrick's Nonpareil, Lady Suffield, and Cox's Orange Pippin. On standards we have Tower of Glamis, Nelson's Codlin, and King of Pippins. The number of varieties is not large, but we get plenty of Apples, and our crop last year held out until the end of April."

"What are the varieties of Pears on pyramids?"

"Chiefly Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Diel, and Pitmaston Duchess. We have a few on cordons, but they do not thrive so well as those on pyramids. Plums are grown on bush and pyramids, mostly Victoria and Monarch. Cherries—the Morella—do well on the walls, but will not grow on standards. No Peaches or Nectarines are grown outside, because we get as many as we want in the orchard house. Currants and Gooseberries are grown as bushes, and we get good crops of Raspberries—Superlatives and Semper Fidelis. The Raspberries are trained on wires, but I think that they did better when we had the old Red Antwerp grown up the stakes. We have also two rows of Loganberries, which were planted four years ago, and yield good crops of fruit."

Vegetables and the Frames.

"Your Peas look remarkably well?"

"They are rather a special feature; the early varieties are Exonian and William I., and they are succeeded by Gradus, Dr. McLean, Criterion, Lord Mayor, Alderman, and Autocrat. Of Potatoes, a few of the best varieties are Myatt's Ashleaf, Sir J. Llewellyn, Factor, and

A Sheltered Corner in the Gardens at Bayfordbury.

Up-to-Date, which latter takes a good deal of blanching. Of Celery, which is grown in double rows, we have about seven hundred plants. For the rest, a considerable quantity of useful varieties of different vegetables are grown. There are three lights of Cucumbers (Lockie's Perfection), and Melons are also grown in frames. The varieties include Dickson's Exquisite, which is green-fleshed and of good flavour.

"Have you anything special in the other frames?"

"There are four lights of Begonias for baskets, and for the front of the conservatory, with a number of Cyclamen and Primulas, Cineraria stellata, Nicotiana Sanderæ, a light or two of Geraniums for autumn flowering, a few Asters and annuals for planting out, and three lights of Violets, while Radishes, succeeded by Carrots, are grown in three cold frames. There are about two hundred Chrysanthemums standing out, which are grown to cut from, but are not new varieties. Generally speaking, I may say that the plan is to grow what is most decorative out of doors, and most useful for decoration and consumption indoors. As to myself, I think it is only necessary to say that I have been here as head gardener for eighteen years."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 207.—SUMMER PRUNING, AND REGELIO-CYCLUS IRISES.

DEAR KATE,—When you have quite done clearing your rock borders from weeds, and also your lawn (and that will not be done in a day, I expect), your sharp old knife may still find work in the summer-pruning of many plants. For some of them you may, indeed, need the secateurs, but, as a rule, it is only the young growths which are removed or shortened at this time of year, and a strong, sharp knife will do the work.

The Currant Bushes.

Red and White Currant bushes should be pruned on somewhat the same plan as a Vine—*i.e.*, the young shoots can be shortened (except those you wish to extend the branch) to three or four leaves, which will have the effect of filling out the bunches of fruit, and plumping up the buds left, for it is at the axils of the leaves that these Currants are produced, on the last season's wood. But Black Currants are quite different, and must not have their young growths shortened in summer, for they bear their crop on the current season's wood (no joke intended, mind), and this should not be cut back until December, when you should only thin out the weaker branches from the centre, and, of course, remove any dead wood on all the bushes, whether of Red, White, or Black Currants at that time, and shorten the spurs of the Red and White Currants to two inches, only sparing the terminal shoot, which can be left untouched, to lengthen the branch.

Apple Trees.

Apple trees are, I think, often injured by too close pruning while young, and should be allowed their own way to a considerable extent until they have attained ordinary size. All that they will need is to top their branches in December, and cut away, then, any that cross each other, or fill up the centre of the tree too thickly, for each branch should have room to grow, and the sunshine and air must penetrate all parts of the tree to ripen the wood properly.

An old tree, however, as well as espaliers and cordons (both Apples and Pears), must part with some of its young growths in the summer for the purpose of regulating its shape, and inducing the buds left on the tree to form fruit. The lateral branches, therefore—*i.e.*, those which form at the sides of the older wood—must be shortened in summer to within six leaves of their base, leaving the leading shoots to extend, if there should be space for them to do so, and merely removing their tips.

The necessary winter pruning, which may be done in January or February, consists in further reducing the length of the shoots to within four buds of the base of the shoot. But here, again, a careless pruner, thinking only of the neat appearance of the tree, is apt to do much damage, for, unless we can tell fruiting buds from leaf buds, and take care not to remove the first-named, even though they should be on the fifth or sixth axil left on the spray in summer, we shall lose a great deal of the crop. For this reason the winter pruning is best done rather late in the winter, when the fat, globular buds which will bear fruit are more easily discernible from the thin, spiky leaf buds, and each shoot should be examined for these before pruning it.

IRIS PSYCHE.
(Regelio-cyclus hybrid.)

A HEDGE OF CLEMATIS MONTANA.

The Flowering Shrubs.

Many flowering shrubs, too, can be pruned in summer, just after they have blossomed, more safely than in winter. Pyrus japonica (more properly called Cydonia japonica), the Japanese Quince, can be treated like an Apple tree, and will even grow into a hedge, if pruned in that way. Lilacs (Syringa) must not be cut back if you wish plenty of blossom, for this is produced on the young shoots of the previous year; the deadly shears must never be used to clip these things into a hedge, or you will lose the next year's flowers, but, of course, it is sometimes necessary to cut out dead or half-dead branches, or to remove those for which there is no room.

Those who own a few good shrubs should study the natural shape of each before pruning them, and never give way to the temptation (under which old John is apt to suffer) to reduce them all to a sort of plum-pudding shape with his favourite shears.

The long shoots of Clematis montana, if left alone, will be covered next May with snowy, starlike blossoms, but they may now need to be thinned out and regulated, if on the house. This plant makes a wonderful amount of growth, and covers an arbour, a pergola, a wall, or an old tree, with exquisite wreaths of bloom in May. Many other Clematises blossom only on last year's wood, so that the fatal plan of clipping them close is responsible for many disappointments in the matter of their flowers.

It is never safe to prune back a Clematis hard unless you are very sure that it will blossom on the growths of the season, so that I advise you to study any Clematis you may have in your garden for a year before touching it with the knife at all.

A Good Hybrid Iris.

I promised, in the early spring, to tell you more about the fine hybrid Iris, Psyche, which was then making good growth on the Iris border under a dry, south wall. It is a far more satisfactory plant than either of its parents, for the Oncocyclus Iris, Susiana, is difficult to manage (like all those of the Oncocyclus group),

A Strange Plant.

November 21st.—A very interesting description of that strange plant, the Dodder, which is such a pest among Clover, is given by Professor Henslow. The seed, which resembles a tiny coiled spring, germinates by pressing its club-shaped end in the soil, and then throwing up a thread-like stem, which twists about like a tendril in search of support. When it comes in contact with a suitable host plant, it forms a sort of sucker, which serves the double purpose of enabling it to adhere and also to abstract the sap from the host. The lower part then dies, and the Dodder becomes entirely parasitic, spreading rapidly. If, however, the thread-like stem does not find a suitable plant to cling to, it falls to the ground, and, if moisture is present, the apex continues to grow, drawing its food from the base, which dies yielding up its substance, just as a bulb growing without roots does. The young Dodder thus moves along, literally hunting for its prey, its existence depending on its success. If it fails, it dies in time; but if it succeeds before it is exhausted by its efforts, it grows with remarkable rapidity, throwing out long arms, which bind its victims in tight bundles, and eventually strangle them. It grows not only on Clover, but also on Gorse and many other plants. The Dodder belongs to the same family as the Convolvulus.

The Utility of Ivy.

November 22nd.—I should like to see Ivy utilised very much more than it is at present. We expect to see it on old masonry, draping gateways, arches, and so forth, and to it many of them owe much of their effect, but there are many ugly modern buildings and walls with a north aspect which could be made beautiful by its means. It is sometimes said that Ivy makes a wall damp. I can only give my own experience. I planted it against a wall which had previously been incurably damp, and after a time all trace of moisture disappeared. I do not suggest that it would do this in a case in which, owing to the want of, or a defect in, a damp-course, the moisture ascended from the ground. In the wall I am referring to, the mortar was old and absorbent, and rain easily obtained a lodgment in it. Here, no doubt, the broad evergreen leaves acted as a protection. There must be many other damp walls which they would dry in the same way. But it is mainly for the sake of appearances that I recommend Ivy. There are many varieties of Ivy, green, silver and golden, some with large leaves, others with small, all of them admirably adapted for covering ugly, sunless walls. They are fairly cheap, and when once established they can all look after themselves. The only attention they need is a little clipping occasionally, to prevent their breaking away from their support. But trimness should be avoided—they look far better when allowed to grow naturally.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Earl of Pembroke at Wilton House, Salisbury.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. T. CHALLIS, V.M.H.

THERE are, of course, many features of interest in the gardens of Wilton House—Lord Pembroke's historic seat, in Wiltshire—but the most conspicuous is the remarkable collection of fruit. To this, therefore, I devoted special attention on the occasion of my visit in the summer, when I was welcomed by the Countess of Pembroke (who congratulated me upon coming in beautiful weather), and by Mr. Challis, the well-known and popular head gardener. Starting, however, with the flower garden, as a matter of convenience, considerable time was necessarily spent in exploring the large area which it covers.

WILTON HOUSE AND THE ITALIAN GARDENS.

The Flower Garden.

One of its greatest charms is that it is quite old-fashioned. Lord and Lady Pembroke do not admire the modern system, and, moreover, the present style accords with the original design. Cedars of Lebanon (some dating from 1640) are in profusion, evergreen Oaks, Thuja gigantea, rare specimens of Abies, and many varieties of Conifers, adorn the lawns, and memorial trees, planted by illustrious personages, including members of the family, are numerous.

"One of the Abies," said Mr. Challis, "is the finest tree of its kind in the kingdom."

"And the variety?" I enquired.

"Parviflora. In 'George Herbert's Walk,' which we are just approaching, there is a fine specimen of the dwarf variety, Clanbrasiliana, over a century old. You will notice that Roses are allowed to grow naturally, and that there are many groups of the Lord Penzance Briers; also of Monthly Roses. In fact, the practice of grouping is largely adopted."

The preservation of its old-world appearance does not hinder the introduction of additions in the flower garden. As I admired the prospect from the Palladian bridge (by Inigo Jones) which spans the river, Mr. Challis said:

"We are making Lily ponds, and planting the best of the new Nymphæas, such as Marliacea sanguinea, M. albida, M. chromatella, gloriosa, and Ellisiana."

The formal bedding is limited to the Italian garden on the terrace, and I enquired how the four central beds were made up.

"At present with sub-tropical plants, intermixed with flowering varieties. The other beds are chiefly composed of Violas, Heliotropes, and double Begonias, in different colours, the varieties including Argus, Lafayette, Snowflake, and Pink Perfection. Roses are used round the sides, and the numerous urns are filled with sweet-scented flowers, chosen for fragrance and colour. Here you see one of the finest kinds of Chamærops Fortuneii, in flower, with its golden bloom and beautiful raceme."

"I notice that you have an Orangery."

"It is now mainly used as a Palm-house. The rock garden was made seven years ago, and the Lily pond here contains some of the varieties which we are using in the new pond. Among notable plants in the rock garden are Meconopsis integrifolia (a seedling of our own), Eremurus himalaicus, and Polygonums in variety. The island near is covered with various shrubs."

We next made our way to the handsome herbaceous border, which runs along the side of the fishing stream. At the time of my visit, the plants were intermixed with fruit trees.

"One of the most effective of the plants," remarked Mr. Challis, "is the Dropmore variety of Anchusa, with its deep blue flowers. Delphiniums are also largely grown. We get as much variety in colour as we can in this border."

"Which do you consider the best variety of Delphinium?"

"Formosum is our favourite, and Bella Donna and The Queen are very good varieties. Campanula persicifolia alba grandiflora supplies some fine white flowers. Other plants grown largely are Liliums speciosum and candidum, Pentstemons, Asters, Phlox in variety, Tree Pæonies, and Iceland Poppies."

A Remarkable Orchard.

I could have lingered for a long time among the beautiful glades in the flower garden, and I could have asked many questions about the treatment of plants, but there were nine acres of kitchen garden to be seen, and several ranges of houses, as well as the orchard, planted eight years ago. Proceeding to the latter, I was much impressed with the striking combination it presented. Fruit, of course, occupies most of the space, but in front of the laundry, which stands nearly in the centre of the orchard, were a superb bed of Liliums (in bloom) and beds of Iris, with a hedge composed of Brier Roses. Many other Roses were also in bloom, noticeably Bardou Job, Paul's Carmine Pillar, Félicité Perpétue, Bennett's Seedling, Crimson Rambler, Aglaia, and splendens. With respect to fruit trees, those in goblet form at once attracted my attention, and I asked Mr. Challis to tell me the advantages.

"The primary object of training fruit trees in goblet form is to get the maximum of light and air. There are twelve branches to each tree; each tree is about seven feet high, and

the branches are eighteen inches from the ground. Most of the Apples grown in this manner are for late use."

"Which are the most suitable varieties?"

"Wellington, Prince Albert, Bismarck, Newton Wonder, Gascoyne's Seedling, Bramley's Seedling, Belle Pontoise, Blenheim Orange, Ontario (a new Canadian), Chelmsford Wonder, Alfriston, and Hambling's Seedling. The partitions are covered with Pears as cordons, of which the varieties are chiefly Doyenné du Comice, Marguerite Marillat, Josephine de Malines (which we get from November to the end of February), and Winter Nelis. A cage for Plums has just been planted. For six years we hardly gathered any Plums from the unprotected trees, and I am trying this system in the hope of being able to preserve the crops. I intend to do the same with Cherries as cordons, and I am trying a few Damsons on the same principle. In the kitchen garden itself there is a large cage, covering a third of an acre, filled with Currants, Gooseberries, and Cherries, trained on upright standards, and Raspberries planted right round, so as to form a hedge for protection. But I think we had better now go to the kitchen garden, and there you will see a great deal more of the methods upon which fruit is grown here."

Starting in the kitchen garden with the ranges of glass, we entered the early forcing houses, which, though erected forty-five years ago, when Mr. Challis became responsible for the gardens at Wilton, are still very useful. Here are grown Cucumbers, of which Improved Telegraph is the favourite. The Melon house was carrying a second crop, and, in reply to a question, Mr. Challis said:

"The favourite Melons are the Badsworth, Early Scarlet, Supreme, Scarlet Perfection, and Late Perfection."

Seedling Richardias.

"I notice that you have a fine collection of Richardias on the stages."

"They are seedlings, the principal being R. Elliottiana, which we bed outside; it seeds very freely, and blooms late in the autumn. I have raised several thousands of seedlings. E. Rossi is rather deeper in colour than Elliottiana. The variety with the green leaf is R. Pentlandii."

"The next little house," continued Mr. Challis, "is devoted to cool Orchids, Odontoglossums Crispum, grande, and Pescatorei. We go in for just enough Orchids for decorative purposes. This house was originally intended for a Pine pit, and the next one also. The latter has now a batch of Tuberoses and Poinsettias."

"Have you many varieties of Tuberoses?"

"No, they are all The Pearl and Excelsior. I do not care about the African varieties. They are not so useful."

Pines and Grapes.

"But you still grow Pines?"

"Yes, we have just restarted growing them in one house, and shall have three. The only varieties grown are Queen's, Cayenne, and Charlotte Rothschild. They are much better in flavour than the foreign Pines. Now we come to an early Vinery, containing Black Hamburghs, which we began to pick in May. In the next house, also devoted to Black Hamburghs, we grow Duke of Buccleuch at the back. When this variety is grown in a dry atmosphere, it usually thrives. I have tried it from time to time, and like it very much."

"Do you grow the new Grape, Melton Constable?"

"Yes, and I think it is a very useful variety, nearly allied to Gros Colmar, but with a better flavour. I also grow another comparatively new Grape, Diamond Jubilee, which is rather showy in appearance, but not of very good flavour."

"Are your Vine borders all inside?"

"Yes, I did away with the outside borders thirty years ago, covering the space with glass, and using scantlings for rafters. I suppose the entire cost of the buildings which I put up on the space did not exceed £40. Neither fresh rafters nor paint were used, and the cost of keeping them up does not exceed half a crown a year. They are a hundred feet long and fifteen feet wide. On the stages, Tomatoes and Strawberries are grown, and afterwards the Chrysanthemums come in, the Tomatoes being then turned longitudinally, in order not to shade the Chrysanthemums. Returning to Grapes, I am rather fond of growing the varieties separately—in fact, there are some which should always be cultivated alone. Hamburgh and Madresfield Court should never be grown in the same house."

Points in Grape Culture.

"That is to say, they require different conditions?"

"Precisely. The conditions which suit Hamburgh cause Madresfield Court to crack. I have seen them growing together, and the Madresfield Court were splitting because the variety would not stand the same amount of moisture which is necessary to the growth of Hamburgh. I crop Madresfield Court heavily every year, and I never have any split Grapes. Another point you may like to mention is that I always find moderate-sized bunches of Grapes the most useful."

"Do you root-prune much?"

"I root-pruned the whole of these last year, and, as you see, they have quite recovered the check. The border is very shallow, not more than eighteen inches deep. By the way, we have just been experimenting with Canon Hall Muscat, and I think I can set it as well as Muscat of Alexandria. In front of these Vineries we grow early Chrysanthemums, putting a mat across to protect them. By this means, the wall being warm, we begin to cut flowers in September, and continue until January."

"When do you begin to pick Peaches?"

"In April. Before we discuss the Peaches, I may point out that we plant the transverse way, starting with the earliest variety at one end, and continue to the other with a succession of varieties, Fig trees being planted on the back wall."

"What are the principles of the building?"

"The dry glazing method was adopted. We built the houses ourselves. The squares of glass, which are all of one size, and can be glazed on the inside if necessary (though, as you can see, we do not glaze), are supported by two copper clips. There are three trees planted on each trellis. We started with one, then tried two, found that both did as well as a single tree, and so went on to three. The primary advantage of this system over the longitudinal is that we get six times as much space for the trees, and, therefore, a far greater quantity and variety of fruit."

"What are the varieties grown in the first house?"

"Cardinal, Lord Napier and Early Rivers' Nectarines, and Royal George, Hale's Early, Waterloo, Amsden June, Grosse Mignonne, and Alexandra Noblesse Peaches. You will notice that they fruit right down to the bottom."

"How do you manage it?"

"It is simply a question of pruning and pinching."

"You grow Vines in the same range, I see."

"Yes, this is the late Vinery, in which we grow Lady Downe's Seedling. The other varieties are Gros Colmar, Alicante, and Mrs. Pince. Mrs. Pince is also grown in the next house; it is a good Grape for late use. Diamond Jubilee and Gros Colmar are grown on the back, and, seeing that, like Mrs. Pince, they were root-pruned last year, we are getting some very good crops, the bunches weighing about three pounds."

"What varieties of Peaches are in the last house?"

"Dymond, Barrington, Condor, Royal George, Violette Hative, Princess of Wales, and Duchess of Cornwall. The Nectarines are Pineapple, Humboldt, and Victoria. The four varieties of Figs are St. John's, White Marseilles, Negro Largo, and Brown Turkey, known in earlier days as Lee's Perpetual."

Houses, Ancient and Modern.

"Your Rose-houses are very much less modern than some of your fruit-houses."

"Yes, they were built a hundred and twenty years ago, and the wood of each of the fruit houses is still sound. We have Roses for cutting all through the winter, the varieties being chiefly Niphetos, Souvenir d'un Ami, L'Idéal, and Maréchal Niel. A number of Figs (in pots) are grown in these houses, the varieties, in addition to those already named, being Pingo de Mel, Grosse Verte, Col de Signora Bianca, and Bourjassotte Grisse. By way of contrast to these venerable houses, you will notice the Orchid houses, built four years ago on the same principle as the fruit houses we have just been inspecting. This is the first time that Orchids have been grown under such conditions."

"And you find they do well?"

"We are quite satisfied with the results thus far, and you can judge for yourself by some of those in flower that the system suits them. The varieties include Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Cœlogynes, Oncidiums, Lælias, Lælia anceps in baskets, and Vanda cœrulea, just imported. Amongst those in flower are Cattleya Mendelii, Mossiæ, Warneri, Lælio-Cattleya Empress Frederick, Lælias grandis, g. tenebrosa, Lælia purpurata, and Oncidium sarcodes. The whole range of houses is connected by a corridor, and we are now entering a forcing house, the pipes of which are covered with a screen, Ferns being planted along the pathway. Begonias (President Carnot) are planted to go across the roof; in winter we put the Gloire de Lorraine in little pans among the Carnot, and a very brilliant effect is produced. The Gladioli now in flower here are Colvillei, Colvillei alba, and Blushing Bride."

"Then you have a house reserved, apparently, for Dendrobiums?"

"For Dendrobiums and other Indian Orchids. You will observe that in these new Orchid houses we get ventilation from underneath the pipes in the middle, as well as at the sides. It is a distinct advantage that the plants do not get any coddling. This system was condemned when I started, on the ground that the air would be too rarified. My experience is that the plants get all the moisture they require, and that care is needed mainly in respect to shading. The Dendrobiums now in flower are Bensoniæ and primulinum. D. Dalhousieanum is just going out of flower, but was in bloom a fortnight since."

Carnations and Violets.

"Do you go in largely for Carnations?"

"We have them in the house all through the winter, and continue out of doors. The best Tree varieties are Winter Cheer, Enchantress, Harlowarden, and Lieutenant Peary. The Malmaison include Maggie Hodgson, Calypso, Duchess of Westminster, Princess of Wales, and Mercia. We go in for the sweet-scented varieties. Outside, in the frames, Violets are grown largely, and we are able to gather flowers from September to June. Marie Louise is still the favourite, but we also grow Admiral Avellan, King of Violets, Princess of Wales, and other varieties. A batch of Roses, occupying a third of an acre, chiefly of the Tea section, are grown for cutting, and you may like to mention that the Canadian Rice, with grass-like flowers, seeds itself, and comes up each year."

"Challis Fruit Arcades."

Proceeding outside, Mr. Challis said:—

"I am a great believer in the protection of fruit, and, bearing in mind the nature of our climate, I do not think that the importance of this is anything like sufficiently realised."

"You protect all your wall fruit, I see."

"Yes, the system is carried through the garden, and applies to Pears, Apricots, Peaches, Plums, Nectarines, and Cherries. There is a coping of glass, and, as you perceive, I make use of the supports to grow another set of fruit in the border. The trees on the walls do better, but the other trees yield quantities of later fruit, and give a longer succession. Over the supports, galvanised zinc netting is used. When the fruit is ripe, we can lock it up. Two or three ½-in. nets are suspended over the wire netting, to protect the trees from frosts; these are taken off early in June. The protected fruit walls are named the 'Challis Fruit Arcades.'"

"The crop of Cherries seems especially good. What are the varieties?"

"May Duke, Black Tartarian, The Noble, Late Duke, Belle d'Orleans, and Bigarreau de Schreken. Apricots are the most difficult to grow under these conditions. I have tried the protected border system for seven years, and am quite satisfied that it was worth adopting, and is worth preserving. I am afraid that there is only time to add that we have a complete system of watering. A boy can water each quarter in the kitchen garden in a couple of hours, if necessary."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 277.—RHUBARBS AND PANCRATIUMS.

Dear Kate,—Do you grow Burbank's Winter Rhubarb? We find it most useful at this time of year, as a change from Apples and Pears, for it starts its fresh growth in October, and continues to throw up stalks until the spring, when, of course, it is easy to get ordinary Rhubarb. Dr. Luther Burbank has been most successful in his work of hybridising various plants, but I think no one of his late introductions excels this new Rhubarb in practical value. It was, I believe, obtained by hybridising the seed of the Australian wild Rhubarb (a poor, thin-stalked thing) with pollen from a fine, cultivated Rhubarb, and the result is a plant which, although its stalks are not so thick as those of our finest varieties, is large enough for ordinary purposes, stews well, and is of good colour and flavour, besides which it retains its Antipodean dates of starting into growth. It is not, however, quite hardy, needing some slight protection in winter to ensure its safety from frost; this can be given by covering it with a frame, around which leaves can be heaped, and a mat should be thrown over the glass at night, although plenty of air is necessary during the daytime. Another plan, suitable for a single plant, is to place a wooden box or a small barrel (with the ends out) over it, surrounding this with leaves (for these give a slight but steady warmth as they ferment), and taking off the wooden covering every day (unless the frost is severe) for a few hours. A close, dark atmosphere is apt to bring mildew in its train, and must be avoided; yet we don't want the frost, and you will need care and judgment in sheltering this plant, adding a mat over the round wooden top, if necessary.

Rhubarb of all kinds are very hungry plants, needing plenty of feeding, which is easily explained when we consider their quick growth, large foliage, and the fact that we are constantly depriving them of their substance. The soil in which Rhubarb is planted can scarcely be too rich, and a mulch of manure should be laid around their roots just as they start their growths, *i.e.*, in September for Burbank's Winter Rhubarb, and in the early spring for other varieties.

A Good Forcing Variety.

An excellent Rhubarb for forcing is Laxton's Bedford Scarlet. It is naturally so early in growth that it is easy to obtain new stalks in January, with a little warmth. Fresh stable manure can be used to give this, at the end of November, first covering the root with a box or barrel, as it does not do to shut in new manure with the young growths. The stalks of this Rhubarb are very large, and excellent for cooking, and so are those of the Sutton Rhubarb; and Champagne Rhubarb, which quickly follows the earliest, has, perhaps, the finest flavour of any, but the stalks are not quite so large. The Victoria Rhubarb, a later spring variety, is the largest of all, but the stalks are neither so red nor so finely flavoured as the rest; it is, however, useful for preserving, and for use when the other kinds are over.

Rhubarb must not be forced every season, or it soon deteriorates; it is a good plan to have two separate plantations of it, and to give each a rest every alternate year. Another mistake is to continue to pull the stalks too long, and also to pull them before the leaf is fully expanded. Like everything else in garden work, it needs plenty of consideration to determine which leaves and how many of them should be pulled. If the plant be deprived of most of its young growth at one time, it will be seriously weakened, but a few fully-expanded stalks may safely be taken, allowing it to retain the central growths, and some of the rest. Clumps of strong roots of Rhubarb can, of course, be taken up now, and forced in a dark warm place, for early work, and you can buy them for this purpose. But they are not of much use after this process for two or three years. They should be planted out in the spring, and, if not forced again, will recover their strength in time. You can also plant Rhubarb in the open ground now, but you must not pull its leaves next spring, as it needs a year's rest after moving, in which to grow strong. Burbank's Rhubarb, however, cannot be moved now, as it is in full growth, but you should get young plants in April, which will then give you a crop the following autumn. But be sure to plant them in very rich soil, and keep them watered until they have taken to it thoroughly.

Pancratium fragrans.

Fairy Lilies.

I think the Pancratiums are amongst the finest of the Amaryllids, and they well deserve their title of Fairy Lilies. They are not often seen, unfortunately, and yet they are very easily managed—in fact, they like to be left alone, as most of the other Amaryllids do. They only need good loam and charcoal in small lumps, as soil, and, when in large pots, should not be repotted every year; and although they should never be so dry as to make the foliage droop, the evergreen varieties do not require much water after flowering, and are almost dormant in winter. Like all the Amaryllis family, they should be shaken out and repotted (if necessary) just as they show signs of starting fresh growth, after which they will need more water (always giving it in a tepid state), and should have a top-dressing of rich soil, unless they have been repotted, when this will not be required.

The king of them all is Hymenocallis Macrostephana, which blossoms in November, and has been most beautiful in the conservatory lately. It is reckoned amongst the hothouse varieties, but is not very delicate, only needing a minimum temperature of fifty degrees in winter. A commoner Pancratium is P. fragrans, and this variety is still more hardy, doing well in an ordinary greenhouse, free from frost. Its flowers, like those of H. Macrostephana, are in the purest white, fringed, and very elegant, but not nearly so large nor so deeply cupped as those of H. Macrostephana. Each bloom of this variety measures eight inches across, and as there are about a dozen of them on one stalk, their effect is grand. The Sea Daffodil, Pancratium (syn. Ismene) calathinum, is another good kind, but it only produces two flowers on the stem. Pancratium maritimum (which grows in such abundance on the shores of the Mediterranean and in Corsica) is nearly hardy and very beautiful, doing best against a south wall, where it can get well roasted with sunshine in the summer. But it should have good drainage, light soil, and the protection of a pane of glass, or a small frame light, raised over its bulbs in winter, to keep it fairly dry and free from severe frost, and the bulbs should be covered with ashes to the depth of three inches, taking these away in April, and substituting a little rich soil for them, over the roots.

A Curious Variety.

Pancratium viridiflorum is a curious variety with white flowers, centred with green. This bulb sheds its leaves after flowering, in the way of the Daffodils, whilst the more delicate varieties retain their foliage, which takes a long time to ripen away, and only disappears just as the fresh growths appear. All these Pancratiums are worth more attention than they receive, and most of them can be grown without great heat.

About this time of year a number of greenhouse plants begin their winter rest, needing but little water until spring comes again. In this category are the Phyllocacti, which need to be kept cool, as well as nearly dry, until the end of February. They are excellent window plants, and often flower better in a cottage window than in a greenhouse, where they are apt to get too much warmth and water in winter. They are natives of Africa, growing on the sides of the rapid mountain streams of that continent, which dry up completely during the hottest weather, and so give rest to the succulent plants which grow near them, until the rains come again, bringing down with them

Mr Chant

THE GARDENS AT DERBY LODGE, SUNBURY, MIDDLESEX.

AS everyone acquainted with the course of the Thames knows, Sunbury is on the banks of the river. But Derby Lodge, the residence of Mr. E. R. W. Bennett, is a charming country house, occupied by its owner all the year, and not merely during the boating season. The gardens, which, by the courtesy of the owner, I visited late in September, are not on a large scale. It will be seen, however, that they possess several features of interest, and that in the hands of Mr. Chant, who has charge of both the gardens and the farm (which forms a part of the property), they are turned to the best possible account. A striking feature which arrested my attention as soon as I entered the pleasure grounds was in the form, as it appeared in the distance, of a mass of scarlet and green in a raised bed, the effect being brilliantly successful. But, as Mr. Chant promptly informed me, the bed was not raised.

Salvias in Masses.

"It is quite level," he said, as we approached nearer, and then I saw that the contents consisted chiefly of Salvias, of quite unusual height, with magnificent trusses of flowers.

"The height of some of the plants," said Mr. Chant, "is three feet six inches, and many of the trusses are eight inches in length."

"How do you manage to get such a fine show?"

"The situation is, of course, a great help. It is south, and Salvias rejoice in the sun. The bed certainly looks as if it had been raised, and its size helps to confirm the illusion. It is eighteen feet across, and contains about three dozen plants."

"What is the variety?"

"Sutton's Fireball. I consider it to be an improvement on Glory of Zurich, both because of the blooms, and the foliage, which for cleanness could hardly be excelled. I have grown it for several seasons. My system is to throw the old plants away, and strike cuttings in the autumn. The Salvias have been in flower since July 1st, and the dot plants in the bed are Grevillea robusta and Abutilon Thompsonii, with an edging of Centaurea candidissima."

"But for the Salvias, the bed of Paul Crampel would be the most conspicuous feature on the lawns."

"Yes, I think that Paul Crampel is the best scarlet Geranium for bedding purposes. In addition to an edging of Centaureas, there is a double row of Echeverias."

"And Kochias as dot plants, which add materially to the effect of the beds."

"The effect in the original colour is the more pleasing in combination with Paul Crampel, but the change to crimson in the late summer is not unwelcome."

"Are they difficult to grow?"

"Not at all. I raise them from seed in March, grow in moderate heat, and plant out the first week in June. After that they only require to be staked, and clipped, though this year the clipping meant cutting them back to keep them in bounds. The dimensions of this bed are forty-two feet by twenty-four. Next to scarlet, pink is our most favoured colour, and the bed adjacent is filled with pink Begonias, edged with Centaureas, and dotted with Grevillea and Cordyline australis."

The Predominance of Pink.

"Then, there is a bed mainly composed of Nicotianas?"

DERBY LODGE, SUNBURY.

"Sutton's Hybrids, which are raised early in the spring, potted, and hardened off. The edging is Geranium West Brighton Gem, which does very well. Pink is again to the fore in the bed of Fuchsias Mrs. Marshall, edged with Violas Yellow Prince. There is a predominance of pink, too, in the bed chiefly occupied by Verbena Miss Willmott, edged with Begonia Fairy Queen. Scarlet again prevails in a bed of fibrous-rooted Begonias, and in a bed of Stocks."

"I should like to have an idea of your spring bedding."

"The bed of Paul Crampel will be filled in spring with Polyanthus, and Tulip Keizerskroon; that of pink Begonias with Viola Bridal Morn, and Tulip Yellow Prince—mauve and yellow. The Violas begin to flower at the end of March."

"How do you occupy the great Salvia bed?"

"With Tulip Cottage Maid; the Nicotiana bed with Wallflower Cloth of Gold; the Stock bed with Tulip Cottage Maid; and the Verbena bed and the scarlet Begonia bed with Wallflower Blood-red."

"The Roses also contribute largely to the decoration of the lawns?"

"There are about four dozen standards, and the rest are bushes, the most valuable of the latter being Frau Karl Druschki, Richmond, and the Lyon. Druschki is also useful as a standard, the others being Ulrich Brunner, Ben Cant, and Hugh Dickson. Of course, the Rose bed is not planted for spring, but in the bed of shrubs at one end of the lawns, containing Azalea mollis, Rhododendrons, Skimmias, Olearia Haastii, and Veronica Traversii, we have earlier in the season Spanish Iris."

Shrubs and Specimen Trees.

"Then, you have a bed composed exclusively of Rhododendrons facing the summerhouse."

"They are all named varieties, and do extremely well, but we have to put peat and loam in the soil, which is naturally light and sandy."

"Which do you consider the best specimen trees?"

"One of the finest is the Plane near the entrance, and amongst others is the Cupressus gigantea close to us, very erect and about fifty feet high. Cupressus Lawsoniana, Araucarias, and Pines find the soil congenial. As you can judge by the belt of trees on one side of the bowling green, we get as much shade as we require. The wall opposite is entirely covered with Ivy."

"Giving the bowling green a very pretty appearance. You have rather a nice combination in the border under the dining-room window," I remarked, as we paused to look at the house.

"It is made up of Geraniums, Mrs. Martin and Black Douglas, grown for foliage only, with, for edging, Echeverias and Lobelias. In spring we use blue and white Hyacinths. The house itself is considered very ornamental, and we only use climbing Roses as creepers, making rather a feature on the terrace outside of standard Fuchsias in Oak tubs, with a number of Agapanthus umbellatus."

Next, with a glance round the well-kept tennis and croquet lawns, we made our way to the north front. Here, there is a charming grass walk from the house, with standard Roses on either side, and a delightful corner of Ferns, underneath the Roses being a border of pink Antirrhinums. Close to the walk was a large bed of Zinnias of every variety of colour, pink again predominating.

"And in spring, too," said Mr. Chant, "pink predominates in this bed, the Tulips used being Cottage Maid. Now we come to a part of the garden which is in course of transformation. The long walk with herbaceous plants on either side will next year be a Rosery, with bushes, half-standards, and dwarfs, on either side, and standard weeping Roses at the back. The standards grown on either side, which are already in evidence, comprise Hiawatha, Lady Gay, Killarney, Gruss an Teplitz, and Climbing Devoniensis. We shall continue to grow fruit on the kitchen garden wall. The borders are about forty yards long, and we hope that the result of our plans will be quite a representative Rosery, with the end clearly marked out by a magnificent specimen of Cedar of Lebanon. Roses do quite as well in the north as in any other aspect."

"This, I conclude, disposes of your flower bedding?"

"Scarcely," rejoined Mr. Chant, as we strolled across the south lawns to a delightful orchard, adorned by a herbaceous border of considerable dimensions, the principal varieties being Sun-

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flowers and Michaelmas Daisies at the back, with a line of Pæonies, Spiræas, and Cannas, and in front salmon-pink and White Queen Antirrhinums, with an edging of Pinks, Mrs. Sinkins."

"Your fruit here is chiefly Apples?"

"Yes, and all standards. They were planted a long time ago, but include a number of trees of Cox's Orange Pippin. We do not grow anything under the Apples, because, in my experience, the ground will only do justice to one crop. Next to this is the new orchard, which was only planted four years ago, and here, again, the varieties are only standards."

"You find that they crop satisfactorily?"

"We have had very good crops hitherto, and the flavour of Apples grown as standards is certainly quite equal to any grown as cordons or pyramids. The varieties here are principally Cox's Orange, Lane's Prince Albert, Bismarck, Gascoigne's Scarlet, Emperor Alexander, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Charles Ross, Cellini, Cox's Pomona, Mannington Pearmain, and Warner's King."

"What are your varieties of Pears in a double row of pyramids, with Red and White Currants at the end?"

"Doyenne du Comice, Durondeau, Clapp's Favourite, Pitmaston Duchess, and Beurre Diel. Just behind the Pears is a wall of Runner Beans."

"And you are picking them still?"

"I have been picking since the middle of June, and they will last until cut down by the frost. I have picked plenty of them a foot long, and have not had any of them stringy. The secret of good Runner Beans is deep cultivation; in fact, that is the secret of most successful vegetable cultivation."

"You go in largely for vegetables?"

"Well, we have three gardens in which they are grown in quantity. In the piece of ground beyond this orchard, Broccoli, Kale, Spinach, Winter Turnips, and Brussels Sprouts occupy a good deal of space."

Asparagus and Late Cutting.

"How old is your Asparagus bed?"

"Quite twenty years, and we still get very good crops from it. A very important point in Asparagus cultivation is not to cut late. I seldom cut after the beginning of June. I have known in many cases beds utterly ruined by late cutting. Between the rows of Celery—Solid White and Major Clark (red)—we grow Lettuce, and elsewhere Leeks, but the latter do not like dry and hot weather. A portion of this plot is utilised for Black Currants, Boskoop Giant, from which we get very good crops, exempt, so far, from the dreadful pest. But now we enter the original walled kitchen garden, which also contains the glasshouses."

"I suppose your flowering house will be filled during the ensuing months with Chrysanthemums?"

"Practically. We grow about two hundred. At present the house contains two or three dozen Impatiens Holstii, whose scarlet flowers are very acceptable; Zonal Pelargoniums, of which the Rev. Dr. Morris, Beauty of Kent, King of Denmark, and Turtle's Surprise (a good double scarlet), are the best; and Primulas of various sections, sinensis being, in my opinion, the best, as it is the most compact."

"How old is your Vinery?"

"Quite forty years. The varieties are Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, and Black Alicante."

"But the feature of your Vinery at the present moment is the collection of Gloxinias, which I believe you have shown with much success."

"I have exhibited them three times at Richmond, winning respectively second once, first twice, and gold medal. About eighty plants are grown, and all shades of colour are represented."

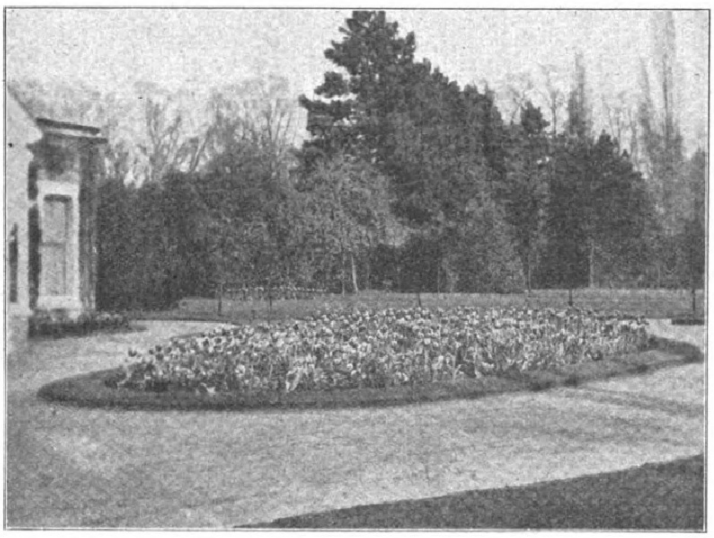
The Treatment of Gloxinias.

"It is not only the flowers, but the wonderful leaves which render them particularly striking."

"The leaves are fifteen inches in length and thirteen in width. I usually grow about eighty plants."

"Do you care to tell me how you treat them?"

"I usually start them on February 10th, in about sixty degrees of heat. I put them in boxes in cocoanut fibre, and keep them well syringed until they have made good growth. They are then transferred to their flowering pots, the compost used being one part each of good wood ashes, dried cow droppings, and peat; also three pounds of bonemeal, and four bushels of good loam. The syringe is kept going every bright day until the buds begin to show, and then the floors and the stage are kept damp by the use of the water-can."



SPRING BEDDING AT DERBY LODGE, SUNBURY.

"Is there anything notable in the stove house?"

"Its age is rather notable, for it dates back fifty-six years, and still answers its purpose admirably. The Allamanda Hendersonii on the wall was struck as a cutting five years ago, and gives plenty of bloom. The stage is chiefly filled with Crotons and Dracænas, of one division, the other being devoted to Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, Streptocarpus, and more Crotons. We shall finish with the Carnation house."

"In which also you grow Tomatoes?"

"The only variety of Tomato is Best of All, which I have grown for about five years. I have fruit weighing half a pound each, and it is good not only in size and appearance, but also in flavour. We have a long Carnation season. One of the favourite Trees is May Day, a very light pink, and the others are Britannia, Winsor, White Perfection, White Enchantress, Mrs. Burnett, Mrs. W. Riley, and Fortuna. Of Malmaisons, we have only a few, the varieties being Thora, Churchwarden, H. J. Jones, King Oscar, Sault, and Lady Grimston. But I vastly prefer Trees. You can cut more from one plant of a Tree than from five or six Malmaisons."

"I should like to know something about your Sweet Peas."

"The varieties are selected entirely because of their value for cutting. They are Dorothy Eckford, Gladys Unwin, King Edward VII., Clara Curtis, Countess Spencer, Etta Dyke, Helen Lewis, Chrissie Unwin, America Spencer, Evelyn Hemus, George Herbert, Mrs. Charles Foster, Sunproof Crimson, Paradise Ivory, Mrs. Henry Bell, and Constance Oliver."

"You have some fine fruit on your walls?"

"Not only is it fine, but we gather Peaches, Princess of Wales, as late as October. This year we have had a splendid crop. The varieties are Early Rivers, Royal George, Condor, and Nectarine Stanwick Elruge. The Peaches are protected at the top of the high wall by coping, which keeps the rain off, and saves the fruit from a good deal of damage."

"I see that you have a standard Pear tree laden with fruit of extraordinary size, including a cluster of six enormous fruits."

"The variety is Uvedale St. Germain, which always crops well. Kept late, it is a very fine stewing Pear. As to other hardy fruit, Plums and Morello Cherries do well on a north wall, and a plantation of Gooseberries yields an enormous crop. The fruit is all stored in a room which was formerly an ice-house, and which is always cool in summer and warm in winter. The Potatoes are housed below in the same building, the varieties being Factor, Up-to-Date, and May Queen."

"How long have you been in charge of the gardens, Mr. Chant?"

"Fourteen years. For the first nine my employer was Mr. John Fletcher, who owned the property for fifty years. For the last five it has belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, who take the keenest interest in their gardens, and have made many improvements. Before I came here, I was foreman for eight years at Claremont, and previously I was at Melksham Court, Hampshire. So it cannot be said that I have been a rolling stone."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week the gardens at The Grange, Askham Richard, Yorkshire, will be described.

TOMATOES IN FRAMES.

GROWING Tomatoes in frames is a common practice where a house is not available. Most of those who so cultivate them plant near the front of the frame, and train the stems, on wires or otherwise, from front to back beneath the glass. Without dwelling on details of comparison, another method may be put forward as having advantages.

Where the frame is backed by a wall of some five feet, or over, the young plants are put in close to the wall, that is, six inches to one foot from the wall, and allowed to grow upright, with such support as may be necessary, till they touch the glass. The lights are then drawn down a few inches, and the tops of the Tomato plants brought above the frame, and secured to the wall as they grow.

The frame should be of sufficient depth to

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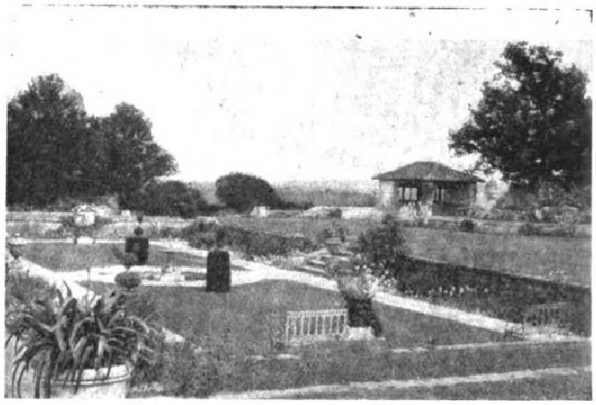
Mr Chapman

SOUTH SIDE OF ORCHARDS, EAST GRINSTEAD.



THE SUNK GARDEN AT ORCHARDS.

The Gardens at Orchards, East Grinstead.

TWO miles from East Grinstead, in the heart of the loveliest English scenery, there has been built and laid out during the last four years, a delightful country house, with a setting of a series of gardens already most fascinating, and affording promises of richer developments. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard F. Harrison, Orchards, is situated on high ground four hundred and fifty feet above sea level, on the borders of Sussex and Surrey, commanding on one side a fine view of Crowborough, while all round the attractions of the prospect are enhanced by the charms of Ashdown Forest. The whole of the district is well wooded, and the numbers of magnificent Oaks constitute a feature of the landscape. The pleasure grounds are nearly a quarter of a mile long, and the gardens cover about ten acres, of which every corner has been turned to good account. My visit was paid at the end of January, in inauspicious weather, and Mr. Chapman, who has been in charge of the gardens from the outset, expressed his regret that I had not chosen a later period. But there was not the slightest difficulty in realising the wonder of the work which has been accomplished, with the result that Orchards to-day, in most modern dress, will bear comparison with demesnes which date back for many decades. It is at once apparent that skill and sound judgment have been exercised in making the most of the conditions, and great credit is due to the designer, Mr. E. T. Lingwood, of Saxmundham. The mansion, which is of fine proportions, is adorned by a representative collection of creepers. The formal water, enclosed by a Yew hedge, contains a number of good varieties of Nymphæas, and the banks are ornamented by Rushes. The Lilies in the water are chiefly Frœbelli gloriosa, James Brydon, Marliacea chromatella and M. carnea, W. Falconer, alba, and odorata sulphurea grandiflora.

THE ROSE GARDEN.

"One of your great features," I remarked to Mr. Chapman, "is the rosery on the other side of the drive?"

"Yes; there is nothing of greater interest. But it was only made three years ago, and therefore must still be reckoned as in process of development. The length is one hundred and twenty feet and the width sixty feet. The pergola, which runs up each side, consists chiefly of Roses, but they are interspersed with Wistarias and Clematis. As to the beds, there are nine containing one variety only, the respective contents being, Madame Abel Chatenay, Madame Ravary, Le Progres, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Liberty, Richmond, Lady Ashtown, Elizabeth Barnes, and Lady Battersea. The mixed beds include Marie Baumann, Ulrich Brunner, Hugh Dickson, and Frau Karl Druschki; and Caroline Testout supplies a length of pink on each side of the Rose garden. The number of plants is quite a hundred and fifty. The paving is laid down in broken pieces quite informally, and, in fact, there is nothing conventional about the rosery. The temple at the end is already an interesting piece of architecture, and when the walls are clothed with creepers, will be of a highly decorative character."

"Are there any favourite colours?"

THE PERGOLA AT ORCHARDS, EAST GRINSTEAD.

A CORNER IN THE ROCK GARDEN AT ORCHARDS.

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"You may judge by the prominence of Caroline Testout and Madame Abel Chatenay that pink is one of the favourite colours. Yellow and crimson are also much appreciated, and the beds at the top consist exclusively of white Roses. The natural soil was sandy clay, which was very difficult to treat, but when we added some good loam and manure, it made rapid progress. The best show of Roses is, of course, at the end of June and the beginning of July, but the varieties on the pergola give a succession of blooms right into the autumn."

THE AUTUMN GARDEN.

"Close to the Rose garden is a later addition, the autumn garden, which is approached by a flight of steps, has a dry wall three feet high filled in with Alpines, and a Lavender hedge running along the top one hundred and twenty feet long. The Lavender does well on the sandy soil. Heleniums are grown in clumps; Michaelmas Daisies are largely used in the beds. One long, narrow bed is filled in the spring with Canterbury Bells and a few early-flowering annuals, and in the autumn with Chrysanthemums. But the most striking show in the autumn garden is made by Dahlias. Nearly all varieties of the Cactus section are represented, and far into November last year we obtained a bright display of crimson, yellow, white, and pink.

"The autumn garden is divided from the sunk garden by the long summer-house. A nice collection of pigeons form a picturesque feature at this stage. Underneath the summer-house are China Roses and Lavender in combination. On the same level is a bed with Spanish and English Iris in the centre, and at the back are Delphiniums and Liliums. In the sunk garden with a fountain in the centre are large clumps of Rosemary, different varieties of German Iris, Pæonies, and Statice latifolia. Here, in the spring, are numerous early-flowering and Darwin Tulips, followed by Pentstemons, Salpiglossis, Ten-week Stocks, and other half-hardy annuals, all grown in large clumps about level with the wall. The tall-growing varieties are not used.

"In the adjoining shrubbery, which is approached by a little terrace, the feature is a half-circle border, maintained by a dry wall about two feet high planted with Alpines. In the half-circle border is a collection of flowering shrubs, embracing most of the best species."

MR. CHAPMAN.

THE DUTCH GARDEN.

Passing by another little summer-house we proceeded down steps to the principal lawn. On the right hand side is the Dutch garden, which was added two years ago.

"This," said Mr. Chapman, "is quite formal, the garden being raised off the lawn and paved inside with stone put up on edge all round. The spring bedding consists of Narcissus poeticus, Tulips in variety, Myosotis, and Violas. The long border is filled in at the back with Gypsophila paniculata, planted in between with Tulips Cottage Maid in the spring, pink Gladiolus America taking their place later on. Two of the beds are filled out with blue and white Nemesias, and pale pink Phlox, and two others with Arctotis grandis, interspersed with Lobelia ramosa, edged with blue Pimpernel. The Arctotis is a West African plant resembling a Daisy, with a blue disc, a mauve back, and a white shade of foliage. For decorative purposes many hardy annuals are employed, one of the most beautiful being Phacelia campanularia. It is a lovely shade of blue. We grow a certain number in pots for its colour, but we grow it on generally as a hardy annual. On the extreme left side of the terrace, the garden is entirely given up to annuals."

THE ROCKERY.

"Now we come to the rockery, which was only made last year. It is on the site of an old clay pit, except the flat part on the top, which is part of an old orchard. Before we could start, we had to clear the top spit from the clay pit right away, and to make the pond at the bottom."

"You have succeeded wonderfully well, for the rockery conveys the impression of considerably greater age than twelve months. What position does it occupy?"

"It faces south-east on one side and north the other. The collection of Alpines is a large one, and includes most of the choice varieties, which are nearly all doing well, though it is rather too soon to judge. The rockery covers about a quarter of an acre. Its position is very fine, and the general appearance I think effective, and there is a pretty waterfall which flows into the pond at the bottom. On the side of the stream are quantities of Primulas, all of which are flourishing. I raised them from seed, and have never had any difficulty in growing them. The outskirts of the shrubbery consist in the main of flowering shrubs."

THE WILD GARDEN.

From the rockery we approach the wild garden, with its flowering shrubs and ornamental water, the banks of which are clothed in spring with Daffodils, Primroses, and Bluebells. One of the features is a bog bed, with Senecios, Lythrums, Epilobiums, Gunneras with some very fine leaves, and the common Yellow Iris. On the banks of the pond, in which are Lilies and a number of goldfish, are Japanese Iris, Osmunda Ferns, and a general collection of water plants. Bamboos and Spiræas are doing exceedingly well in the copse."

HERBACEOUS BORDERS.

"What is the extent of the kitchen garden?" I enquired, as we entered an enclosure with houses running the whole length of the end, with a high wall behind.

"About an acre inside. Considering that in 1910 it was a rough field, we have not, I think, done amiss with the various departments of the kitchen garden. To take the artistic features first, the herbaceous borders, with a grass walk nine feet wide, run the whole length of the garden. They are eight feet wide, and are backed by a wooden fence clothed with Roses and Clematis. The borders are planted so as to provide a succession of blooms from March until the frost cuts them down."

"Do you go in largely for Sweet Peas?"

"Yes, they are grown in quantity, so as to furnish a plentiful supply of blooms from early summer right into the autumn. We sow the first batch in October, the second in February, and the third outside in April.

"All round the paths and borders in front of the glasshouses, flowers are grown for cutting, Border Carnations and Antirrhinums being two of the features. The frames are used chiefly for Violets, which do remarkably well, and are afterwards used for bedding-out stuff. The Chrysanthemums are chiefly Singles. In showing these we have been most successful. In 1912 we won three Awards of Merit with Miss M. Borrer, Leonard Harrison, and Michael Harrison, which were raised here; and at East Grinstead last year we took three firsts and two third prizes out of six entries for Chrysanthemums, which were not really grown for exhibition purposes.

"Most vegetables do extremely well, especially Peas, Celery and Onions, which took second prize at East Grinstead last season. The various tribes of Brassicas thrive on the stiff, sandy clay soil, and the Asparagus beds look very promising for the coming season.

"Two favourite Melons here are Ringleader and a seedling, a cross between Ringleader and Hero of Lockinge, raised here. Messrs. Sutton and Sons have kindly included the latter in their trials for 1914."

MR. CHAPMAN'S CAREER.

"In conclusion, I should like to have a few particulars of your own career."

"I was practically brought up in the garden, with my father, who is a gardener, whom I left when sixteen years of age. Since then I have lived in several counties. This is my first situation as head gardener. Previously I was foreman for six years at The Hollies, Weybridge. I am very fond of gardening, and take a great interest in anything connected with it."

Alfred Wilcox.

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thousand seedlings raised from the seed, all were destroyed except one, and this hybrid, a very handsome one, is now on the market under the name of Lady Dixon. Now that a beginning has been made, we shall probably hear of others. The Pink can also be crossed with the Sweet William, though, so far, no very remarkable hybrids have been produced in this way. So little is known about the conditions that, in most cases, it is practically impossible to say beforehand whether one plant can or cannot be fertilised with pollen from another of the same family. The only way to test the question is by experiment, and even that may not be conclusive, for it is impossible to prove a general negative. The shrubby Begonia, it was supposed until recently, could not be crossed with the tuberous, and then Messrs. Veitch succeeded in doing it, fertilising one of the latter with pollen from B. Socotrana, a very handsome race being the result—witness, Mrs. Heal.

Mr. J. Charlton.

July 20th.—I have alluded to the fact that the blue tit serves a useful purpose in the garden by keeping down woolly aphis. The fact is worth emphasising, for many persons regard this pretty little bird as a very destructive one, and do all in their power to drive it away. That it sometimes pecks off the buds must be admitted, but if an opportunity of examining them occurs, it will almost invariably be found that they contain insects. All the tits are insect feeders, and it is very rarely that they show any disposition to vary their diet. There is, however, one thing that they cannot resist—the seeds of the Sunflower. So if there is any fear that they may attack the fruit—and it is alleged that they sometimes make small holes at the base of Apples and Pears—it may easily be protected by growing some Sunflowers near. In any case, the good these birds do in a garden far outweighs the harm. As the result of close observation, it has been found that both the blue tit and the great tit feed their young on nothing but grubs, caterpillars and other insects, and the number a pair can destroy in the course of a season must be enormous. Late in autumn and in winter, when insects are scarce, they may turn their attention to seeds and fruit, but "so beneficial in every sense are the tits," says the Board of Agriculture, "that everything possible should be done to encourage their increase. In winter, during severe weather, they should be supplied with some food, *e.g.*, fat, acorns, or Beech Nuts." And, in spring, nesting-boxes should be arranged for them.

July 21st.—A fortnight ago I showed Rhododendrons grown in a mass; in the present illustration they are arranged as shrubbery plants, for which purpose they are far more beautiful than the common Laurels. Now that peat has been shown to be not essential to their cultivation, it is to be hoped that they will be planted much more freely than they have hitherto been.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 199.—Mr. J. Charlton, at the Gardens, Davenham, Malvern.

Under the shadow of the Worcestershire Beacon and the Great North Hill, the two most notable of the range of Malvern Hills, is the beautiful residence of Mr. Dyson Perrins, and, by his permission, I paid a visit to Davenham early in June, in order to see the gardens. They are extensive, as well as noteworthy, and, on my arrival, Mr. Charlton, the head gardener, at once proceeded to bring to my notice some of their most interesting features.

One of these, which was only made two years ago, is a charming bank of flowers facing the asphalte tennis court, while round the court are Roses—Alister Stella Gray and Crimson Rambler. On the pretty pergola facing the pavilion are Queen Alexandra Roses, and an old stump has been turned to excellent account, being covered with Clematis montana and Crimson Rambler. Opposite are shady trees, including some excellent specimens of Copper Beech. In fact, the taste and ingenuity displayed in these arrangements quite prepared me to find much to admire at Davenham. A subway connects the three acres of kitchen garden with the seven acres of pleasure grounds, and, passing under it, after pausing to observe the careful manner in which the work was done, we came on the other side to a fine old rockery. It was made out of huge stones, and in addition to a general collection of Alpine plants, there are Japanese Maples and Bamboos.

"Bamboos," said Mr. Charlton, in reply to my inquiry, "do exceedingly well, though they require a little more water than in some places."

Here we entered the Fernery, which is remarkably handsome and well stocked. My attention was attracted at once by some fine examples of the Killarney Fern.

"Although we have some of the best specimens of Ferns," continued Mr. Charlton, "the most tender varieties will not grow here, because this is a cool Fernery, and we only just keep out the frost. There are many Tree Ferns—Dicksonia antarctica. One which has now a stem of five feet was quite small when I came, ten years ago, and I have taken out some with stems ten feet high. The varieties, which are very numerous, include Aspleniums, Davallias, Gleichenias, Lastreas, Lomarias, Nephrolepis, Pteris, Platyceriums, and Woodwardias."

Near the Fernery is a grand Weeping Beech, and in this locality I first saw one of the representatives of Japanese dogs, which came from a Japanese Temple, and are remarkably realistic. The lawns are undulating, and outside the Fernery a peep of the house and conservatory only can be had. But we stayed at this point to look at some of the numerous beds, the first being Calceolarias (Golden Gem), edged with Dactylis glomerata. Next was a very effective bed of about thirty plants of one variety of Roses—Victor Verdier—on their own roots, which, at Davenham, is found to be the better plan.

Seeing so many Roses, I asked if this part of the garden was not entitled to be called the Rosery, and Mr. Charlton said it was known as such. In the centre is a summer-house covered by Gloire de Dijon, Dundee Rambler, and Crimson Rambler; but the beds consist mainly of a single variety of Roses, standards being grown between them. Fortunately, it was not too late in the year to see a magnificent show of Tulips with lovely green foliage, and I inquired the names of the varieties in the two beds.

"The crimson Tulips are Gesneriana major, or

The Fernery at Davenham.

The assertion that this Fernery is "remarkably handsome and well stocked" is abundantly justified. In the foreground is seen a fine specimen of the Tree Fern, Dicksonia antarctica, and among other varieties are Aspleniums, Lomarias, Pteris and Nephrolepis.

spathulata; the almost blue shade is The Sultan, a late Tulip; the rose, flaked crimson and white, Summer Beauty; the white, Kate Greenaway; the rich lemon, with orange centre, Parisian Yellow; the combination of blue and mauve, a double, Blue Stag; and the golden-yellow, Double Crown."

"From whom did you get the bulbs?"

"Messrs. Smith, of Worcester. They have been in flower three weeks. Next season I shall have more, because I am so pleased with these."

"We have not yet exhausted the list?"

"No. There is La Merveille, a May-flowering Tulip, with terra-cotta flowers, also Parisian White and Sutton King. We treat them all in just the ordinary way."

"Then you have some beds of Geraniums?"

"Chiefly West Brighton Gem, edged with Alyssum maritima, and there is one bed of Henry Jacoby. The central arch has round it Begonia floribunda (rose), edged with Geranium Bijou."

Proceeding, we arrived at another rockery, and I asked when it was made.

"Only last summer, and planted in the autumn. It is on the site of an old Rose garden, and, as you see, has trees all round, with a summer-house looking on to it. The walks are made of Malvern Hill stone, crushed, and the rockery was built of the same material. The varieties planted, some of them in flower, are Primula japonica, Silene acaulis, Iberis, Veronicas in variety, Megasea crassifolia, Lychnis splendens, Alyssum saxatile, Heuchera sanguinea, many varieties of Saxifraga and Sedum, and the double white Arabis. In the pools are Water Lilies, edged with Japanese Iris."

From the new rockery we crossed over to the house, on the front of which is Ceanothus, flowering beautifully, and Ivy, while the front drive is adorned with some of the most effective of scarlet Geraniums, with fine foliage.

"The Geraniums," said Mr. Charlton, "are Malvern Beauty, and were raised by a local nurseryman—Mr. Towndrew, of Malvern Link. It is really a splendid variety, of dwarf habit, and is nearly always in flower. I find that it is one of the best for flowering in pots in winter. It never requires stopping, but breaks naturally. I have never had a Geranium which was more satisfactory."

"Another feature of the drive is the Rhododendrons?"

"Yes, we have a number of the best of the named varieties, as well as the ponticum. Rhododendrons will not do on the natural soil; it is too heavy. We have, therefore, to prepare soil, and to use peat freely."

"On the south-east front of the house I notice you have Magnolia grandiflora."

"And borders of Geranium Madame Crousse below; also near the house is a bed of Malvern Beauty, while opposite is a bed of Begonia Worthiana. Another bed contains herbaceous Poppies, Pæonies, and Wallflowers. You observe that we have pigeons in a cot, and underneath is a Japanese Pæony, white and crimson."

"The collection of Poppies on the lawn is very brilliant, and underneath the conservatory I see you have Auriculas."

"Yes, they are border varieties of one colour."

In the noble conservatory, Mr. Charlton pointed out some very thriving plants of Schizanthus, but these were quite eclipsed in splendour by a glorious mass of Calceolaria Golden Gem.

"How do you manage to grow them to such perfection?" I inquired.

"The plants are lifted from the borders in the autumn, kept in a Peach house all the winter, and they begin to flower in April, lasting more than two months, especially if they are shaded a little. I consider that we get a better return from Golden Gem Calceolarias than from anything we grow for purposes of decoration, considering their easy culture. With respect to the greenhouse Calceolarias, they are Veitch's strain of every colour, and about a hundred pots in all. There are eighty pots of the herbaceous Calceolarias."

"What was the rockwork made from?"

"Derbyshire stone. One of the stoves adjoining the conservatory, with a waterfall and mirror at the end, contains, on one side, Ferns, Pandanus, Dracænas, Crotons, and Begonias (President Carnot), while on the other is a large collection of Caladiums."

"You have more Ferns in the other stove?"

"Chiefly Maidenhair. Here there are some Gloxinias and Arums; also Begonia President Carnot on the roof. At the end is a fine show of Anthuriums, which last from two to three months."

"How many Cyclamens do you grow?"

"About two hundred seedlings. I keep the smallest of last year's bulbs, and grow them on the next year without potting. They do much better in this way than if they were repotted. We grow a quantity of Celosias, giving them just ordinary treatment. When they are further advanced they will go to the conservatory."

"Do you go in largely for Orchids?"

"No, but last year I had two pieces of Coelogyne cristata with upwards of a hundred and fifty spikes on them. There are now between twenty and thirty Miltonia vexillarium in flower; they last about six weeks. We have also some Odontoglossum citrosmum, Cypripediums, and a few Dendrobiums."

"Which do you consider the best of the Tree Carnations?"

"Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild is one of the best, and Duchess of Devonshire, C. A. Dana, and G. Pierri Ruegues (scarlet) are particularly good. We have had some very fine flowers. Fuchsias are grown on the roof. The Shah is one of the best, and The Doctor, General Greenfell, and Mrs. Todman are among other good varieties."

"You have some nice varieties of Pelargoniums."

"If I were asked to name half a dozen of the best, I should say Mrs. Coombes, Sir Victor, Murmeris, Duchess of Fife, Pilgrim, and Ethel."

"How many houses are there in all?"

"Twenty-seven, but several are in the kitchen garden close to my house. In the cool greenhouse we have four varieties of Spanish Iris—gold, pale yellow, white, and blue; also late-flowering Liliums and The Bride Gladiolus."

In the kitchen garden, which has a separate entrance, and is no less ornamental than useful, we started with the five Peach and Nectarine houses.

"The Nectarines," said Mr. Charlton, "are Early Rivers, Victoria, and Lord Napier; and the Peaches, Hale's Early, Princess of Wales, Dymond, Walburton Admirable, and Stirling Castle. We force about a thousand Royal Sovereign Strawberries on the shelves. I think Royal Sovereign is the Strawberry of all others. The Melons are Blenheim Orange, and a seedling of our own for the main crop. The Cucumber is Lockie's Perfection."

"And Grapes?"

"The principal of the earlier kinds are Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, and Madresfield Court. The last does very well here. There are four Vines of Madresfield Court, with fruit just colouring. We never have any split berries, and the growth is perfect. In the late Vinery we grow Mrs. Pince and Lady Downe's Seedling."

"Do you grow French Beans in the pits?"

"Yes, and also Tomatoes—Sutton's Earliest of All, the best for early work. In the Fig house we have two varieties, Brown Turkey and Prolific; and there is one house containing a tree of Early Rivers' Nectarine about eleven years old, with nice fruit on it."

"Then you have a house devoted to bedding plants in winter?"

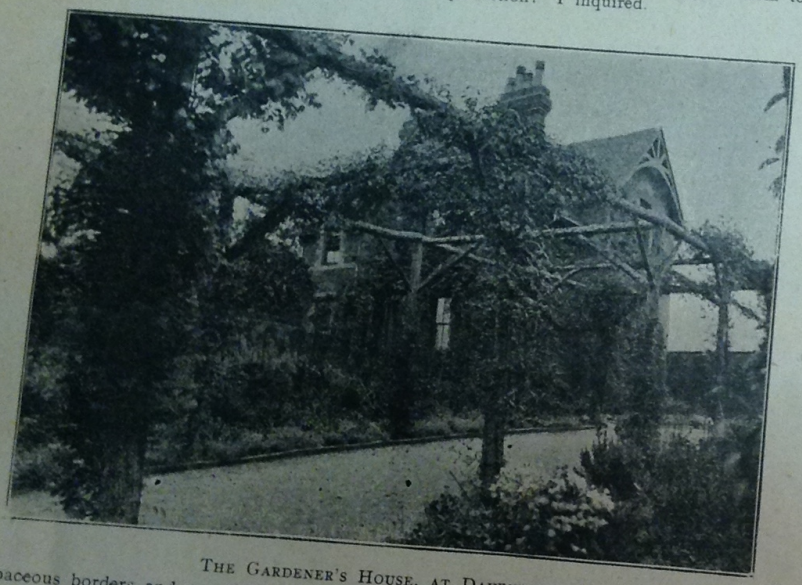
"Entirely. Here we have a number of Marguerites. I prefer the smaller variety. It does not get the maggot in the leaf. Tea Roses in pots are grown here, and more Tomatoes—Duke of York and Frogmore Selected."

"You have a house for Malmaison Carnations?"

"I think that it is essential for them to have a house to themselves. The best is the Princess of Wales, but the Old Blush and Florizel are nearly as good. Florizel is a killing colour with others, but arranged by itself it is grand. The Malmaisons make a great display in the conservatory, and I keep them there about three weeks. The number in pots is between three and four hundred."

"Now, as to some of the vegetables?"

"Of Potatoes, Sutton's Ringleader does best in pits, and for early work. Duke of York is the best outside. I think that the best varieties of Peas are Chelsea Gem, Dr. Maclean, Veitch's Main Crop, Ne Plus Ultra, and Duke of Albany."



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE, AT DAVENHAM.

Herbaceous borders and pergola-covered walks are becoming and picturesque adjuncts to the kitchen garden, imparting beauty to what has hitherto been looked upon as a necessary but decidedly uninteresting portion of "the grounds."

"Which varieties of Apples do best with you?"

"Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, Boston Russett (a very late Apple), Duke of Devonshire, Cockle's Pippin, and Ribston Pippin. The crop of Apples, Pears, and Plums is very light, owing to the cold winds which have done so much damage. The kitchen garden is entirely exposed to the east wind. The best Pears include Williams's Bon Chrétien, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Doyenné du Comice, Thompson (a very good Pear), Beurré Rance, and Glou Morceau."

"Can you tell me the length of the pergola, which is such an attractive feature of the kitchen garden?"

"About a hundred yards. It was put up six years ago, but some of the Roses growing on it have only been planted quite recently. The Roses are Gloire de Dijon, Crimson Rambler, The Garland, Bouquet d'Or, Cheshunt Hybrid, Longworth Rambler, and Gloire des Rosamanes. Apples and Pears are grown between; and Border Carnations in front. Behind the pergola is a bed of Hybrid Perpetuals on their own roots, and on the other side a bed of Teas and Hybrid Teas in variety, Lilies being in the centre."

"You grow Currants and Gooseberries as cordons on wires?"

"Also Cherries and Raspberries, all protected by bird-proof netting. They are much easier to manage, because they take up less room, and can be gathered with less trouble. We grow Strawberries between them—Laxton's Noble; Royal Sovereign will not do in this garden."

"Is the netting always kept up?"

"Yes, but the gates are opened when the fruit has been picked."

I should have been glad to add some details about Mr. Charlton's own career, but, though quite willing to tell me all about the gardens, he was very unwilling to talk about himself, and it only remains for me to add that in the decade he has been in charge at Davenham he appears to have been singularly successful in his methods of cultivation.

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 155.—BLUE FLOWERS, AND DRY BORDERS.

Dear Kate,—Have you plenty of blue flowers in your garden? Red, yellow and pink are fully represented in every possible shade amongst our summer flowers, but a certain amount of blue, and plenty of white flowers, too, are needed to show off the warm tints to the best advantage. Many gardens are almost lacking in blue shades, except, of course, in Lobelia, which makes a pretty edging, especially for a warm and sunny border. But I like to have taller blue flowers, and the splendid spikes of the blue Delphinium are grand in the summer garden. If you have not yet planted clumps of them (in October or in March), you might sow some seed at once, in a broad, well-drained box of light soil in the greenhouse (or in any rather shady corner of the garden), and keep it moist until the autumn, when the plants go to rest for the winter. The little plants can be put into the borders in the early spring, just as they show signs of starting, and they should have deeply-trenched and rich soil, as they root

Flowers in a Dry Border.

For such a border as this, Geranium pratense—a British wild flower—is a suitable subject. It forms great tufts of handsome foliage, which is almost covered with blue flowers in June.

Another beautiful blue flower which is very useful (for it will grow on a dry border) is Geranium pratense, a British wild flower, which forms great tufts of handsome foliage, almost covered in June with its amethyst-blue flowers, each about two inches across, and in nice sprays for cutting. The leaves of this Geranium turn brilliant colours in the autumn, too, and we should give them a mulch of manure every year, in spring. You should plant them in clumps (*i.e.*, from five to seven plants, each eight inches from the next) at the back of the border, for they grow, in a year or two, to the height of about eight feet, and they will need careful staking before they are as tall as that, for they are much damaged by wind. As soon as the flowers are over, we cut them down, when fresh growths appear very quickly, and we get smaller spikes for cutting with the Chrysanthemums in October and November. You can sow the seed early in June in the open ground, but a box is better, so late as this, for the safety of the young plants during their first winter.

vessels should be cut off (unless you want the seed) directly after the flowers are over. For the rock border, the rich blue of the Gromwell (Lithospermum purpureo-cœruleum) is very good. This is a dwarf, creeping thing, which is also amongst our indigenous plants; and the blue Italian Pimpernel (Anagallis) makes a good edging plant for a herbaceous border. The glorious colour of the Gentianella (Acaulis) is over; this lovely Alpine plant is not too easy to grow, as it will not stand being constantly interfered with, and likes a well-drained soil. But unless it gets a mulch of old hotbed stuff every spring, the roots gradually dwindle away; with this little attention, however, it forms a grand mass of its splendid blue trumpet-flowers in the early spring. Then there is Salvia patens, just now in great beauty in the borders, with blossoms to which "Reckitt's Blue" is dim! No purer blue is possible, perhaps, but all the lighter shades of this colour are lovely, too; and the new variety of Love-in-a-Mist, called after Miss Jekyll, is one of these. There is an old-fashioned little flower which blooms in February (one of the Borage order, all of which are in some shade of blue), the dwarf Alkanet, Anchusa tinctoria, a most beautiful little herbaceous perennial. It is seldom seen now, but is worth preserving, for its sky-blue flowers are like large Forget-me-nots, only with a white raised eye, and the whole plant is only four inches high.

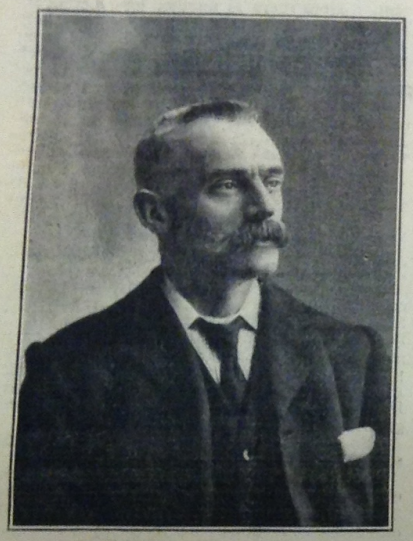
Forget-me-nots (Myosotis), of course, you have in plenty, and the evergreen Alkanet (Anchusa sempervirens) is lovely, too, for its intense azure-blue; the hedges here are adorned with this flower, but it is not really a British plant, I believe, but an "escape" which has come to stay. Another richly-tinted blue flower is Commelina cœlestis, the blue Spiderwort; there are several shades of blue amongst the Tradescantias (Commelinæ), but all are good. The tuberous roots of this plant are not, however, hardy enough to survive a severe winter, even in Devonshire, and they should be taken up in October, with the Dahlias and the blue Salvias, and wintered in boxes of sand or soil in the cellar, starting them again in March.

The Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus) which is named after the Emperor William is delightful in the garden, especially when growing amongst Shirley Poppies and white Marguerites, for these three flowers enhance each other's beauty, whether in a bouquet or in the border. Cornflowers sow themselves in abundance here from year to year, and we only have to thin them out; but this is on a rather dry, sunny border, and the soil is gravelly, so that many seeds survive in it which would rot in a clay soil in winter. But, as you have a dry border on your terrace, you may like to know what plants I find do best without much water in summer, *i.e.*, in a raised and well-drained position, a great advantage during the winter, but not always so in summer. Early-flowering Gladioli (of which I wrote to you on June 10th) do extremely well there, as you will see by those on the left of the photograph; these are Bride Gladioli, and they increase and multiply yearly, giving no trouble.

Pinks, such as Mrs. Sinkins (white), and Old Chelsea (white, laced with crimson), etc., make enormous tufts, and need to be taken up and divided every fourth year, in October; Irises of many kinds (Spanish, English, German, and Italian) all do well—you may distinguish a group of them in the upper right-hand corner of the photograph; blue Delphiniums (which root very deeply, and seem independent of dry weather), stand well at the back, and Aquilegias, too, in variety.

The winter Gladiolus (or Kaffir Lily), Schizostylis coccinea, makes this border gay in October and November, and increases itself mightily, needing to be taken up and replanted in March every third year, as the bulbs become too thick, and need more room. The same may be said of the Montbretias, which sometimes become a nuisance, as they throw their long, underground stems all over the place, and we have to pull them up wholesale in the spring, but some of

themselves the best. Among Hybrid Teas were: "Camoens, bright rose, one mass of lovely buds; Clara Watson, salmon-pink, very free; Gruss an Teplitz, one sheet of bright scarlet, both in bush form and as a climber; Lady Henry Grosvenor, soft pink, a very fine variety; Caroline Testout, not only covered with flowers, but most of them fit for the exhibition table; Mrs. W. J. Grant, with its lovely pink flowers, equal to any in all respects; all the Waltham Climbers, viz., Nos. 1, 2 and 3, very fine as bush or pillar varieties, No. 1 being the deepest



Mr. George Cheal.

crimson. Among Teas, Comtesse de Nadaillac (orange-copper and salmon), Enchantress (white), Ma Capucine (orange-yellow), Maman Cochet (flesh-colour) and its white form, Muriel Graham (pale cream), and Mrs. Edward Mawley were all first-class." This is certainly a list to keep for future reference. Some of these Roses are already in most collections; the others should be added at the first opportunity.

April 28th.—I have just looked to see whether Parsons mentions the Euonymus. Speaking about lawn-planting for autumn effect, he says: "First and foremost are the Euonymuses, with brilliant scarlet four or five-hooded seed vessels that hang on far into November and even December. A good specimen of E. latifolius, for instance, presents one of the most splendid sights of the year, with its dark green foliage literally studded with scarlet or crimson fruit. The European Euonymus and its varieties display the finest masses of colour, although the American kinds have very attractive fruit."

April 29th.—The Amaryllis is often a conspicuous object in a cottage window, but it is when several bulbs are grown in the same pot that it is seen at its best. Unfortunately, it does not like disturbance, and it seldom flowers well until the roots are pot-bound. A shift into a larger pot should, therefore, be postponed as long as possible, feeding being resorted to instead.

H. C. Davidson.

Always take great care to harden your bedding-out plants off well, those of a comparatively tender nature more particularly. If planted out directly from a warm house, or frame, the foliage will go all manner of colours (especially if the weather is at all cold), and the plants stop growing for perhaps a month.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 187.—Mr. GEORGE CHEAL, AT THE GARDENS, UNDERMOUNT, BONCHURCH.

THE gardens of Undermount, Bonchurch, the picturesque residence of Mr. Henry Michell, have the reputation of being second to none, even in the Isle of Wight. This is a great reputation, and it is doubtless due, in the first place, to the fact that Mr. Michell himself is not only keenly interested in horticulture, but understands the cultivation of plants, as well as loves to see them at their best. In the second place, Mr. Michell is happy in having, in the person of Mr. George Cheal, a singularly capable and intelligent head gardener, who takes a legitimate pride in making every department as excellent as possible.

"The cultivation of indoor and outside plants," he said, when, by Mr. Michell's courtesy, I paid a visit, on a glorious spring day in the middle of March, to Undermount, "has a special attraction for me, though, of course, we pay close attention to every feature of the gardens."

As I remarked upon the singularly beautiful and striking entrance under the cliff, Mr. Cheal explained that it suggested the name of the place, and, after pausing a moment to admire the prospect from the Mount, we proceeded to what is quite one of the features of the gardens, namely, the conservatory bank. Here were Ericas in abundance, and Mr. Cheal informed me that there are always Heaths in bloom at Undermount.

"Some of them have flowered for four or five seasons," he said, "others are just established, and others have been in their present position a number of years."

"What is the name of the variety between four and five feet in height?"

"Erica mediterranea. The other varieties on the conservatory bank are E. perspicua nana, E. coccinea minor, E. carnea, E. Cavendishii, E. magnifica, E. Caffra, and E. Bothwelliana. At this point you see clumps of Megasea crassifolia, which have been in flower since the end of January. The blooms last until April."

"What is the treatment?"

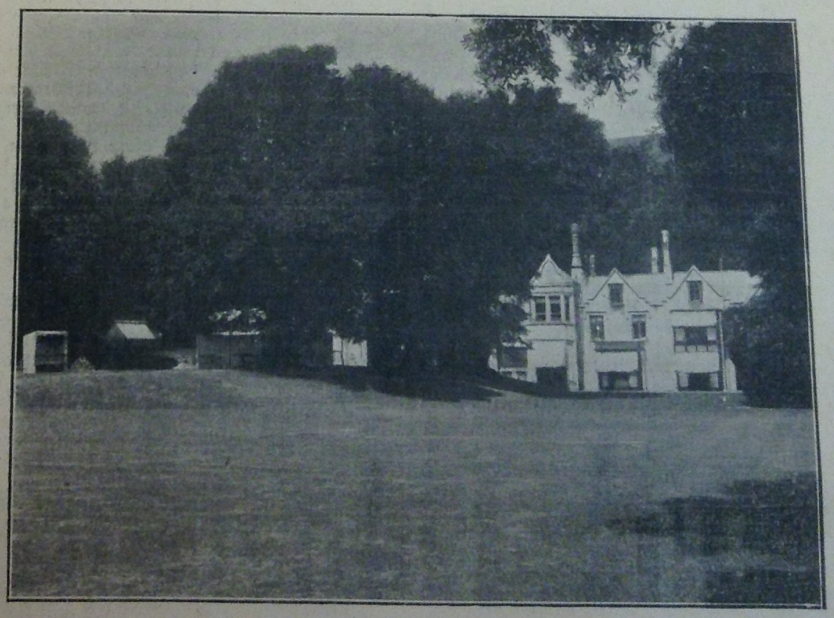


Photo by] Undermount, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight. [*J. M. Allen, Ventnor.*

"It is only roughly planted in the bank, and wants no looking after subsequently—it does not even require to be watered."

"When did the Primroses come into flower?"

"Before Christmas, and Crocuses soon after. Snowdrops were rather earlier. Acacia armata is just coming into bloom on the bank, and they grow quite freely."

"I also observe that the Genista is in flower."

"It has been in flower for some time. The variety is G. racemosa. The Coronilla glauca has been in flower all the winter, and the Choisya ternata is already in bloom. It flowers luxuriantly. The New Zealand Flax—Phormium tenax—grows well in this locality."

"You have a splendid specimen?"

"Yes, and it is an effective contrast to the flowering Almond close by. Just here we started, three weeks ago, a new venture. Mr. Michell sent from the South of France twenty-four trees of Nandina domestica, six of which are planted on the bank, and eighteen in other parts of the gardens. The foliage is very pretty—like autumn tints all the year round."

Proceeding to the west walk, and leaving the conservatory until we had finished our inspection outside, Mr. Cheal pointed out the Jerusalem Sage—Phlomis fruticosa—which he has propagated, and Abutilon vitifolium, which flowers beautifully out of doors in May and June. The herbaceous border in the walk includes Calceolarias, which, with Pentstemons and Cape Pelargoniums, were out all the winter, Geraniums Henry Jacoby having been out for five or six seasons. Other subjects are Anemone japonica, Lilium candidum, Hydrangea Hortensia, Delphiniums, Anemone fulgens, Thalictrum, Aquilegias, Incarvillea Delavayii, Heuchera, and Montbretias.

"In the summer," resumed Mr. Cheal, "we fill up the intermediate spaces with annuals and other summer-flowering subjects. At one end of this border is a group of Her Majesty Pink, with Tulips of various varieties between. The Hydrangeas and Fuchsias are established in the border, and remain out in winter."

"What do you cover the posts and wires along the border with?"

"The ordinary Hop, which looks very nice, especially from the other side of the lawn. Beyond the border is an entire bed of Crimson Powellii, and in the sunk bed, close to the memorial stone, erected in memory of four pet dogs, are a certain number of Incarvilleas, the intervening space being filled out with Pentste

mons. At the bottom of the lawn are mixed Hyacinths, with beds of Polyanthus on either side, and at the south end a bed of Wallflowers, Sutton's Cloth of Gold. There are about two hundred plants, with magnificent foliage, just beginning to bloom."

Next we made our way down a flight of stone steps to a very sheltered border, such as can rarely be seen, even in the Isle of Wight, which is suitably called "The South of France," with Primroses and Veronicas growing from the steps. At the end is an arch covered with white and blue Clematis.

"'The South of France' is certainly our most sheltered spot," said Mr. Cheal, "and here Acacia floribunda grows so luxuriantly that we have been obliged to take the tops off, so as not to obstruct the view from the house. Here, too, in flower, and very fragrant, are a number of Coronilla glauca; and other subjects are Agathæa cœlestis, Opuntias, Gazania splendens, Aloes of sorts, Buddleia globosa, Escallonia macrantha, Genista racemosa, and Mesembryanthemums in variety. In our favoured climate we are able to venture upon growing these somewhat tender subjects out of doors."

When we arrived at a bank with a westerly aspect, I found such a remarkable collection of Mesembryanthemums that I asked Mr. Cheal to give me a list of the names.

"Aurantiacum, coccinea, rubro tinctum, caulescens, blandum, productum, Polyantha, mucronatum, edulis, sanguinea, spectabilis, uncinatum, stellaris, linquæformis, agnium, Cooperii, candens rosea, Bolusii and rhomboideum. Mesembryanthemums flourish at Undermount exceedingly, and, mixed with Gazanias, Wallflowers, double and single Arabis, and Ivy-leaved Geraniums, they look remarkably well later."

"What do you consider the most showy varieties of Mesembryanthemum?"

"Polyantha (pink), and spectabilis (red). They are quite hardy, and some varieties are always in bloom. No special treatment is required for Mesembryanthemums. They merely want shelter, and in the summer a quantity of water."

From this bank we strolled to "the Meadow," which is gradually being converted into an extension of the gardens. New beds are constantly made, one of the newest consisting of Rhododendrons, and when I had noticed the specimens of Albizzia lophantha, which were in flower more or less all the winter, I inquired whether Mr. Cheal found it easy to grow Rhododendrons.

"They entail a lot of labour," replied Mr. Cheal, "as the peat has to be brought from the other side of the island. They are all named varieties, and include the very best, such as Nobleanum, maximum triumphans, Southamptonia, delicatissimum, Duc de Brabant, Lady C. Neville, Soleil d'Austerlitz, congestum roseum, Bodartianum, Comte de Gomer, George Hardy, Michael Waterer, Mrs. J. A. Sellar, Helen Rogers, Lady Frances Crossley, album grandiflorum, Alarm, Nelsonii, Victoria, concessum, Jewess, fastuosum, stella, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Queen, Prince Albert, Prince Arthur, Perfection, Minnie, James Mason, Mrs. Milton, Garibaldii, and Kalmioides."

"I see that you have a little rockery between the Rhododendron beds."

"It is simply a heap of stones laid in the turf, filled in with earth below the stones. Mr. Michell took an active part in making it. The plants include the Mesembryanthemums, Dianthus, Rock Cistus, Grape Hyacinths, Thyme, and Gentians. At the back of the rockery, in the shade, is a clump of Cypripedium spectabile. We are just trying it in this position; in another part of the gardens it does well."

"And in 'the Meadow' itself?"

"Opposite the summer-house, from which the outlook over the sea is very fine, there is a clump of single and double Gorse. The meadow contains two new Rose beds, one made last year, and one in 1903."

"But you have Roses in other parts of the gardens?"

"Yes, and we have had stray Roses in bloom all the winter. I pruned the Roses last week, and cut off some flowers at the same time. Mrs. Michell takes a particular interest in the Roses."

"It would be a convenient moment for you to give me the names of some of the varieties."

"The Hybrid Perpetuals are Frau Karl Druschki, Duchess de Morny, General Jacqueminot, Her Majesty, Marie Baumann, Senateur Vaisse, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Mrs. John Laing, A. K. Williams, Gustave Piganeau, and Boule de Neige."

"Do you go in largely for Hybrid Teas?"

"The varieties are Killarney, La France, Lady Moyra Beauclerc, Viscountess Folkestone, Grace Darling, Gustave Regis, Caroline Testout, Marquise de Salisbury, and Lady Battersea. The Teas are Catherine Mermet, Anna Olivier, Devoniensis, Etoile de Lyon, Madame Lambard, Madame Hoste, Niphetos, Jean Ducher, Homere, Hon. Edith Gifford, Perle des Jardins, Madame Falcot, Madame Berard, Bridesmaid, Madame de Watteville, Maman Cochet, White Maman Cochet, Marie van Houtte, Safrano, Souvenir de Catherine Guillot, Madame Cusin, and Gloire de Dijon."

"The Meadow," continued Mr. Cheal, "also contains half a dozen Apple trees, three of Cox's Orange Pippin and three of Wellington, which are placed in the centre of beds of Carnations of various kinds, including a white seedling, very sweet in perfume, and good in every way, which was raised at Undermount four years ago from seed supplied by Mr. Douglas, of Great Bookham."

"You have a bed of Tree Pæonies in a corner?"

"Yes, mixed with Irises, which have been in bloom for two months, and a groundwork of Arabis. The latter helps to keep weeds under. The Pæonies are protected by hurdles from wind. Another bed is filled with Spiræa rubra, which came from Scotland, and Anemone fulgens as a border. One corner is occupied by a little nursery, the contents of which include Veronicas, Aucubas, Euonymus, Laurustinus, Lavender, Buddleia, and cuttings of Gooseberries. We propagate a number of our own plants. Close by we have just planted Fabiana imbricata, and we are about to put out a clump of Bamboos."

"There are herbaceous Pæonies also?"

"The bed contains about a dozen varieties. Another bed consists of Azaleas—mollis and Ghent varieties. We have to make the soil to suit them. A large bed in the centre of 'the Meadow' is Lythrum roseum, which came from Scotland, and was only planted last year. Then, there is a bed of the old-fashioned Maiden's Blush Rose, a bed of Tritomas and Campanulas, and, at the end of 'the Meadow,' a number of Escallonia macrantha."

In the kitchen garden, close to the sea, with just a cliff intervening, is a herbaceous border running the full length, and containing some good-sized bushes of Lavender; also a new bed of Gazania splendens, and on the bank are Mesembryanthemums and Oleanders.

"We ought to have a few notes of the vegetables," I remarked.

"There are three large beds of Asparagus; Lettuce is grown all the year round, the Tom Thumb variety and All the Year Round. The Parsley is Sutton's Imperial Curled, the three varieties of Broccoli are Superb Early White, Sutton's Perfection, and Sutton's Late Queen—we have finished Sutton's Xmas White and Autumn Protecting—the Brussels Sprouts, Sutton's Exhibition, with Cabbages of several varieties."

"I believe that your Spring Cabbages are exceptionally early?"

"They were ready to cut at Christmas."

"How did you manage it?"

"The treatment was quite ordinary. Seed was sown on July 28th, and we planted out at the beginning of September. The varieties are Ellam's Early, Flower of Spring, and Sutton's April, all about equally early. We think that the appearance of the kitchen garden is greatly improved by the bank at the back being studded with Wallflowers and Narcissi of various sorts."

From the lower kitchen garden we proceeded to the principal orchard in 'the Dell,' protected by Pines on the north side, and by evergreen Oaks and Elms on the front towards the sea, all the Apples being grown on the pyramid system. In the higher part of the kitchen garden are Apple arches, and here the espalier system is in vogue. Gooseberries and Red Currants are grown on the standard and the bush principles, but the trees are only partially covered with netting during the winter months, the explanation being that the birds should have free access to destroy vermin, and that if they kill the vermin in the winter they deserve to get a little fruit in summer. The Raspberries are Superlatives, and the Strawberries Royal Sovereign and President. Here there is another long herbaceous border, of which a feature is the Helleborus orientalis in flower during Lent. In the frames are Violets, which are in flower through the winter; and the variety La France grown in pots is so successful that I saw flowers as large as a five-shilling piece. Persian Cyclamens grow in the open, and Sweet Peas, sown in the autumn, were six inches high, ready for sticking. Then, with a glance at the Plums (Victoria, Green-gage, Prince of Wales, and Magnum Bonum), and Apricots (Moor Park), growing on the walls, and the Pears (American Wonder and Sutton's Harbinger), which come in about the end of May, we arrived at the conservatory.

"What is the extent of this grand building?" I inquired.

"It has a capacity of some fifty thousand cubic feet. The Palms are Chamærops excelsa, Seaforthia elegans, Latania borbonica, Kentias and Coryphas; and the Tree Ferns, which are grown twelve to fourteen feet high, are Alsophila excelsa and Dicksonia antarctica. Planted out in the border are Strelitza Regina, Ferns in variety, Begonia Rex, and two very good specimens of Araucaria excelsa."

"You have a beautiful example of Datura suaveolens in one corner?"

"Yes, the white flowers are considered very charming, and the two baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri, with their long trails, are rather effective."

"I admire very much the white flower growing in the fountains."

"That is Aponogeton distachyon. The creepers suspended from the roof, or growing from it, include Abutilon variegatum, with trails twenty feet long, Tacsonias, Plumbago, Citrus, with, as you see, a number of fruit upon it, Tecomas, Fuchsias, Bougainvilleas, Wistaria sinensis, Pleroma macrantha, Cestrums elegans and aurantiacus, and Jasminum."

"You have a brave show of groups of flowering plants on either side of the dining-room window. What are the principal varieties?"

"Azaleas in variety, Cinerarias, Genistas, Arum Lilies, Deutzias, Spiræas, Eupatoriums, Narcissus, Tulips, Hyacinths and Coleus, backed by Camellias, and set off with a margin of Maidenhair Fern."

"And the plants and creepers on the pillars outside?"

"Roses, Pittosporum tobira (sixteen feet high), Jasminum, Chimonanthus fragrans, Lonicera aurea reticulata, Forsythia suspensa, Cotoneasters, Berberis, and Myrtles."

"Before we go into the Vinery and Peach houses I should like to know what is growing in the border running the entire length of them?"

"Freesias, Clivias, Aloysia citriodora, Myrtles, Crinums, Alstrœmeria, Eucomis punctata, Dimorphotheca Ecklonis, Liliums, Belladonna Lilies, Cineraria stellata, Francoa ramosa, Persian Cyclamens, and various spring-flowering bulbs. In the corner close by are Hedychium Gardnerianum, Solanum jasminioides, Cannas, and more Freesias and Crinums established; with Maidenhair and Pteris Ferns growing in the joints of the walls quite freely."

"Do you grow many varieties of Peaches and Nectarines?"

"Only Royal George and Gros Mignon Peaches, and in this house Early Rivers' Nectarine. The Nectarine tree was planted four years ago, and is trained from the front to the back of the house, almost in the shape of the roof."

"How long has the Lobelia Cavanillesiana been in flower?"

"Four months. It was raised from seed last spring, planted out in a border, and lifted in the autumn. It is a very graceful plant."

"You have Strawberries in the Vinery?"

"Yes, Royal Sovereign, just getting ripe. The only Grapes grown are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. The flower-spikes of a nice batch of Hymenocallis macrostephana are just pushing up."

Pursuing our course through the greenhouses, I noticed in one Palms in variety, Pancratiums, Acalypha Sanderæ, Billbergias, Antirrhinums, etc., with Stephanotis and Allamanda trained to wires on the roof; and, in another house, double white Primulas, Primula stellata, Cineraria stellata, and large-flowered Lachenalias tricolor and Nelsonii, Malmaison Carnations, Ericas and Azaleas, with Lapageria alba on the roof. To give some idea of the success with which Primulas are grown at Undermount, I may mention that I saw one plant (double white grandiflora) in a 7-in. pot carrying two hundred and twenty-six blooms."

In the stove I asked Mr. Cheal which he considered the features.

"We grow four dozen Gardenias," he replied, "and the rest of the plants are made up of Crotons, Dracænas, Ixoras, Eranthemums, Pandanus Veitchii, Hisbiscus, Centropogon lucianus, Gloxinias, etc. The Orchid house, as you observe, is small, but the Fernery is large. Here we have a batch of Callas (The Godfrey) doing well. As to the other houses, in the Intermediate are Amaryllis seedlings and named varieties, including Sydonie, Nesta, Lubertia, Prolonig, and Jadera, in all about forty; Begonias Gloire de Lorraine, Gloire de Sceaux, and President Carnot, and about a dozen Celsia arcturus. In another greenhouse are batches of Primula—The Duchess, stellata, and others—with some very good Daffodils, and a fine plant of Euphorbia splendens."

"Then there is the Nectarine house."

"We have two varieties of Nectarines there, Victoria and Rivers' Orange. About a hundred Freesias are grown here—refracta alba and Leichtlini major—also Fuchsias and Crassulas, etc."

"You have some well-established Cucumbers in the propagating houses?"

"Yes, and here also we have growing batches of Caladiums—argyrites, Muries erubescens, and other named varieties, with about six dozen of the new Nicotiana Sanderæ."

Several of these houses are situated above the kitchen garden, and past the bank going to the Mount, along which are clumps of Wallflowers of different shades of colour growing in among the Winter Heliotropes; but I must not omit to mention the wire arches in front of the range of fruit houses near the conservatory, which are clothed in summer with Roses and Clematis. To each upright there is a little bed, filled at the time of my visit with various spring flowers.

When, as far as possible, we had gone the round, I asked Mr. Cheal how long he had held his present position.

"For five years," he rejoined. "My previous appointments have included that of head gardener at Polesden Lacey, Dorking, and I was head for a short time at Grove House, Westgate. I was also a foreman for three years at Loseley Park, Guildford."

"What is the extent of these gardens?"

"About eleven acres, including the meadow. The number employed in them is seven. I consider that I am very fortunate in my position as gardener to Mr. Michell, because he takes so much interest in all the details, gives me a plentiful supply of material to deal with, and, in fact, does a good deal of gardening himself.

"And I think," concluded Mr. Cheal, "that the horticultural press is helping gardeners very considerably in these days. I have no doubt that some of the successes upon which you have been good enough to congratulate me this afternoon are due to what I have read in the columns of GARDEN LIFE, to which I have been a subscriber from the time it started."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 143.—SPRING BLOSSOMS.

DEAR KATE,—A garden is always delightful, but especially so, I think, when well furnished with spring flowers, which are so doubly welcome after the want of colour in the winter borders. There are three flowers of something the same type, which are so charming mixed together (especially on a raised or rock border) that they should always be arranged in this way; I call them the three A's, Arabis, Aubrietia, and Alyssum.

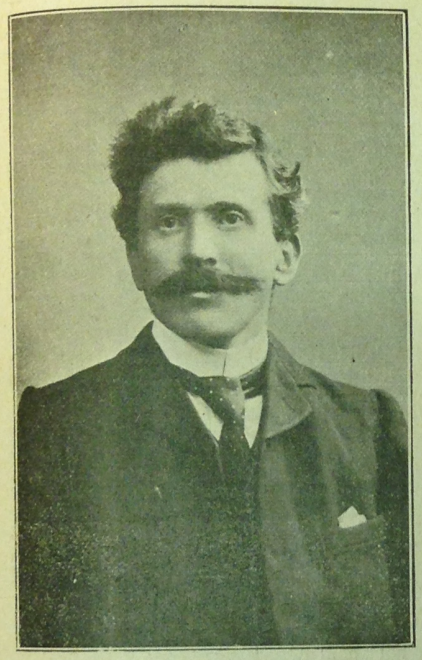
At one side of the entrance drive here there is a wall about four feet high, and behind it a broad, raised border, containing various beautiful Pæonies, with shrubs behind them. In front of the deep crimson foliage of the Pæonies there are now Wallflowers in many tints, including pale creamy-yellow (Fairy Queen), pink and apricot mixed (Eastern Queen), and the crimson-purple of Purple Queen, besides the deepest red-brown and golden-yellow. All are sturdy, dwarf plants sown last May, planted out in a nursery bed in July, and placed in this border last October; and they are all covered with blossom. In front of them, again, are hanging masses of snow-white Arabis albida, the double variety of which is such a great improvement on the older single form, for each flower is like a cluster of tiny Roses, instead of being simply cruciform. Aubrietia græca, in the richest violet, makes broad masses of colour amongst the white, and above it grows Alyssum saxatile, the gold-dust flower, which adds the needed brilliance to the rest. Tulips in various tints, Anemones in variety, and other spring flowers add to the show at intervals, but it is the three A's, backed by the Wallflowers, which greet all comers with their abundant blossoms, and give a draped and wreathed effect to the grey granite wall.

Later on, when the Wallflowers are over, these will be pulled up, and their places filled with Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums, blue Lobelia, and other flowers which will stand a warm, dry border, and at the end of May the splendid specimen of the Golden-ball tree (Buddleia globosa), which backs the Pæonies, will be a perfect hive of bees, for every bee in the neighbourhood knows that the myriad balls of this bush are full of honey, so that it scents the air. This fine shrub is about seventeen feet high, and it extends to the same distance; I attribute its wonderful prosperity to the fact that it is thoroughly sheltered from the north and east by trees, and rising ground behind it, and it never suffers from the cold, and probably imagines it is growing in its native Japan, for the summer heat on that raised border is almost tropical, so that its new wood becomes perfectly ripened each year. Another plant of the same kind (I raised them both from cuttings, put into a frame in October some ten years ago) is not half the height of this grand specimen, for it gets the full force of the terribly cold winds which afflict us at this time yearly, and looks pinched, poor thing, as it is growing in a more exposed situation in the garden. The moral of this is be sure to plant your flowering shrubs in positions which will suit their needs, if you want them to do you credit, and flourish.

ARABIS ALBIDA.

How beautiful they are in spring! On the walls, the carmine of Pyrus (Cydonia) japonica and the delicate pink of its paler variety (alba) mingle delightfully, and the apricot rosettes of our old favourite, Kerria japonica, have been open since the beginning of March. This is a most obliging plant, which will grow at any aspect, and is sure to blossom and do well; for bouquets in early spring it is most effective, especially when mixed with the carmine-splashed shining foliage of Mahonia (Berberis) aquifolia, which is now covered with its own pale yellow clusters of Barberry blossom. Berberis Darwinii, growing on a warm terrace, looks now as if on fire, for every tiny spray is hidden by a mass of orange-coloured blossoms, shading to scarlet. This shrub only needs to be well ripened by sunshine in summer to produce this gorgeous effect in spring; it is one of the best of the beautiful Barberry group, and should be in every garden, with B. stenophylla (which is covered with scarlet berries in autumn), and Mahonia aquifolia. The purple berries of B. Darwinii are devoured by the birds in summer; directly the Barberries are ripe, the bush becomes the resort of all the blackbirds, titmice, and chaffinches in the garden, so that a flight

into friends. This surprising conversion deserves the serious consideration of every farmer and gardener. It occurred in a field of Barley, which was over-run with weeds. Artificial manure was drilled in with the seeds, and the acid in it protected them from the wireworms, which were consequently driven to feed upon the weeds, and ended by almost completely demolishing them. "Since that time," says Mr. Moss, "I have had no fear of wireworms in a Corn crop. I have simply used a fertiliser-drill, and deposited the artificial manure down



MR. ALFRED CHEFFINS.

the coulters with the Corn, and the wireworms have helped to clear the field of weeds. I have not proved that artificial manure is inimical to wireworms, but this is not important if the presence of the creature can be made to assist in the economy of the farm, and the pest be converted into a friend. I believe superphosphate is sufficient for the purpose, but I have found a complete manure the best to adopt, and the most economical, as the increased yield obtained invariably more than compensates for the increased outlay." If this method succeeds with Corn, there seems no reason why it should not succeed with other plants which are liable to be attacked by wireworms. The fact that these pests are less prevalent in land where an artificial fertiliser has been strewn in the ordinary way has long been known, but it does not seem to have occurred to anyone before to try the effect of concentrating it in the drills.

Vegetables and Trees.

February 23rd.—In many gardens fruit trees are planted in the part allotted to vegetables, and every spring the question crops up, What is to be done with the ground under the trees? Quite the best plan is to leave it unplanted. Apart from any injury to the trees, nothing will grow there in a satisfactory manner. I have seen Potatoes, for example, tried again and again—merely because a gardener did not like to leave a bare patch in the middle of a plot—but the invariable result has been failure. As the result of a series of experiments on the Continent, Mr. E. Oven finds that this is due to the reduction in the temperature and deficiency of light and moisture. He states that the temperature under a large Cherry is, on the average, three degrees C. lower than it is in the open, while the dryness of the soil, owing to the absorption of moisture by the tree roots, is even more serious. He considers, however, that the most important factor is the deficiency of light. He estimated a crop grown in the shade to be only one-fifth what it would be if grown in the open.

A Rose Garden.

February 24th.—The photograph of an old-fashioned Rose garden is a fitting companion to that of a Rose walk which appeared last week. If the old sundial in the centre could speak, it could tell of many changes since it was first erected. The old Cabbage Roses and many others, which our forbears loved, have gone, and their place has been taken by Teas and Hybrid Teas. We have gained in shape and colour, but have we not lost somewhat in scent?

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

NO. 229.—MR. ALFRED CHEFFINS, AT THE GARDENS, NEWBOLD REVEL, RUGBY.

THE seat of Mr. Arthur Howard Heath, in Warwickshire, which bears the name of Newbold Revel, is of considerable antiquity, and the gardens, which, by the courtesy of the owner, I had the opportunity of going over during the first week in January, present several features of interest. The head gardener, Mr. Cheffins, may fairly be regarded as in the front rank of the younger generation. Before his appointment (three years ago) to his present important position, where he has under him a staff of about a score, he was foreman at Newbold Revel, his previous experience being gained at Spalding (where he started in the gardens of the Head-master of the Grammar School), Wellsby Hall, near Grimsby, Wentworth Castle, Yorkshire (where he was two years in the kitchen and flower gardens, and two years in the glass department), and Shipley Hall, Derbyshire. So much for the man; now for his work. Proceeding from his pleasant house, at the end of the kitchen garden, we commenced our rounds in one of the Peach cases.

Peaches and Strawberries.

"Here," said Mr. Cheffins, "we grow Peaches (Hale's Early, Crimson Galande, Dymond, and Princess of Wales), Nectarines (Lord Napier and Elruge), and Pears (Marguerite Marillat and Pitmaston Duchess), besides Gooseberries and Cherries. With regard to Peaches, we find that the buds do not drop nearly as much if we syringe thoroughly in the autumn and winter, as well as in the summer, when they are growing, this applying especially to trees that are forced."

"When do you close your early Peach house for forcing?"

"On New Year's Day; and we commence to gather Peaches, from a tree of Hale's Early, in the middle of May. Other varieties in this house are Amsden June and Royal George, and Early Rivers, Lord Napier and Elruge Nectarines. We force all our Strawberries on shelves in fruit and forcing houses. They are brought into gentle warmth in November, and we commence to gather ripe fruit about the middle of March—a thousand plants are grown in this way."

Vine Cultivation.

"Do you commence to force your Vines at the same date as early Peaches?" I inquired, as we entered the early Vinery.

"Yes, the first week in January. In this house we have Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, and Gros Colmar. The first is the best all-round Grape. In the next house we grow Madresfield Court only. This fine Grape can thus be treated effectively with regard to the berries splitting by keeping the air moving and suppressing the stopping of young growth during the colouring period. I consider it very important to grow Madresfield Court in a house alone."

"Do you adopt the same plan with respect to the White Muscats?"

"No, only that they are in a house to themselves. We give them a higher temperature, and close the house when charged with moisture. In the late Vinery the varieties grown are Mrs. Pince, Black Alicante, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Gros Colmar. The last is a great favourite here. The Vineries here were all planted about twenty years ago, and bear fine crops of fruit."

"And also the Figs."

"Figs succeed admirably with us. One large tree of Brown Turkey produced nearly five hun-

NEWBOLD REVEL, RUGBY.

dred fruits in last year's first crop, and as many more in the second. Another variety is Pingo de Mel. This house is closed for forcing the first week in January."

English and American Carnations.

Then we entered the house devoted to Tree Carnations, which are one of the most notable features at Newbold Revel.

"When do they begin to flower?" I asked, as I admired some of the blooms.

"About the middle of October, and we clear them out about the end of February. During that period they are a mass of many thousands of blooms."

"What is the number of plants grown?"

"About eight hundred. Madame L. Rothschild is the best all round; it is free-flowering and continuous. Other very good varieties are Reginald Godfrey, Miss M. Godfrey, Royalty, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Enchantress, Mrs. G. Roosevelt, Nelson Fisher, Alpine Glow, The Belle, Governor Roosevelt, Harlowarden, and Harry Fenn."

"As you grow both English and American varieties, I should like to know which you prefer."

"American are not so free-flowering as the English, but the stems are long and stout. The flowers last about the same time. I may say that we do not disbud so vigorously as some people. Many of the plants have forty blooms upon them under our present system, whereas the disbudded plants would only give us from eight to a dozen, and we find that the blooms are nearly if not quite as large by practising the former method. Of course, they have to be well fed up with stimulants. Drainings from the farmyard are best, and soot water, but we also use a fair quantity of artificial manure."

"What temperature do you keep up in the winter?"

"From forty-eight to fifty-five degrees—a little lower in frosty weather. If it gets too low, the flowers do not open kindly. It is of great importance to have a house devoted to Tree Carnations during the flowering period. They cannot be grown to perfection under any other conditions."

"When do you put them out of doors?"

"About the end of June, and we keep them out until October. The rain seems to suit them, but in dry weather we have to syringe them many times during the day. We are not, however, at all troubled with rust."

"Why not?"

"We have done nothing in particular to prevent it, but I think that growing them as far as possible in the open checks the rust better than anything else."

The Value of Farmyard Manure.

Then, Mr. Cheffins having pointed out a pink seedling of great beauty, we went into the stove house. Here are Orchids, notably Cœlogyne cristata, which were split up three seasons ago, eight bulbs being put into a pot; each of these now averages twenty-four spikes.

"Do you feed them?"

"Yes, with weak liquid manure from the farmyard in the summer season, and, as you can judge for yourself, it suits them. Here, also, we grow Gardenias in two varieties—Florida and the Intermediate. They are the same in colour, but the flower of the Intermediate is larger. They commence flowering in February, and continue for a long season."

"What is your treatment of them?"

"They require plenty of heat and moisture, and must be kept free from all insect pests, which soon attack them if they are not closely watched. In propagating we just take a large branch with plenty of growths on it, putting it in Cocoanut fibre in a propagating frame, where it readily takes root, and is a plant to commence with."

"You have a considerable number of Poinsettias in the Palm house. Can you tell me how much the bracts measure in diameter?"

"Over a foot. We do not take cuttings of Poinsettias until June. They are grown near the glass, and in a good heat, until the bracts are formed in November. Then, when the bracts are fully developed, they are transferred to a rather cooler atmosphere. The other contents of this house are chiefly Bamboos; Arundinaria falcata, which are highly ornamental and useful for the corners of rooms; Palms, mainly Kentias and Phœnix; and Ferns.

The Best Malmaison.

"You, also, I see, go in very largely for Malmaison Carnations."

"Yes, we grow in this house about a thousand plants in pots, ranging from five to twelve inches in diameter. The varieties include Princess of Wales, Prime Minister, Florizel, Calypso, Thora, Sault, Grace, Mrs. Trelawney, Jubilee, and Duchess of Westminster, which latter, in my opinion, is the best Malmaison sent out. Yeller Gal also promises to be good. We are not troubled with the rust, and I think that if Carnations are cultivated well there is no danger of it, one essential being the exclusion from the house of any other plant, and giving plenty of fresh air at all times. During the flowering time we have a few of the Border varieties, such as H. J. Cutbush and Agnes Sorrel, in order to lighten up the Malmaisons."

"You have a little house with more Orchids."

"There are about two hundred and fifty plants here, but the best time to see them in flower is in May and June. They are all Odontoglossums, chiefly O. crispum. Some good spikes of O. Pescatorei are showing at the present time. We keep the house between fifty and fifty-five degrees, and the plants are potted in nothing more than sphagnum moss and peat, in which they appear to be quite happy. The house has a northern aspect."

"How many plants are there in the Pelargonium house?"

"About two hundred Zonals for winter flowering. The Fancy section are also grown for cutting and decorative purposes. In the next house we grow only Tomatoes for winter. The variety is Sutton's Perfection."

"When do you sow the seed?"

"On July 1st, and we stop the plants after the fourth truss is formed. We begin to gather about the middle of November, and go on until the middle of February."

Begonias and Calanthes.

"You have a fine show of Begonia Gloire de Sceaux. How do you treat these?"

"We give them plenty of heat and moisture in the growing season, syringing them many times in the day overhead with soft water, an important point being to keep them in the shade. Their growth is remarkable; plants in 6-in. pots grow to the extent of three and a half feet wide and four and a half feet high. It therefore takes very few to fill a small house, and the blending of colours (the dark, metallic foliage and the pink flower) is very fine."

"Another house appears to be entirely devoted to Calanthes."

"It contains about a hundred and fifty plants of C. Veitchii, which begin to flower early in December. Calanthes also require plenty of heat and moisture during the summer, and we feed them towards the autumn with weak manure water. By the way, all the rainwater is caught from the roofs of the houses, and each is therefore supplied with both soft and hard water."

"How many varieties of Callas do you grow in the house? It seems full of them."

"Only one, Calla Æthiopica. We grow about two hundred potted in loam. We plant them out in the open every year, about the end of June, and take them up at the end of August. They begin to bloom freely at Christmas, some of them sending up two spathes to a leaf. They follow the Chrysanthemums, and continue flowering until after Easter. In the house devoted to Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall there are several plants over three feet in width."

The Propagating House.

"And here I notice you have Daffodils in flower."

"Yes, they have been in flower a fortnight. The variety is Obvallaris, which is splendid for forcing. It can easily be got to flower by Christmas. In the nursery or propagating house we have at present a quantity of Coleus thyrsoides, but are discarding them; the flowers are good by daylight, but show off badly under artificial light. Begonias of the Rex family are propagated here, and Tree Carnations, etc. We propagate Chrysanthemums in the cool house, and in close frames. I do not recommend the early striking of cuttings. The end of December is the best time, and later still for the decorative varieties. About five hundred Chrysanthemums are grown, mainly for cutting purposes."

"Which do you consider the best amongst the large blooms?"

"Valerie Greenham, Mrs. J. Dunn, Mrs. Greenfield, Viviand Morel, Godfrey's Pride, W. Duckham, Guy Hamilton, Ben Wells, Miss A. Byron, General Hutton, Mrs. G. Milcham, Miss O. Miller, Mrs. F. S. Vallis, Madame Gustave Henry, and Mr. L. Rémy. The best bush varieties are Lady Selborne, Scarlet Gem, Source d'Or, Phœbus, Miss M. Anderson, Miss A. Holden, W. H. Lincoln, and Miss Nellie Pockett, the last being an excellent companion to W. H. Lincoln."

"Do you go in largely for Violets?"

"Only two varieties are grown, Marie Louise and Princess of Wales. We have a continuous supply during the autumn and winter months. In the Mushroom house we force quantities of Seakale crowns, and a considerable quantity of Rhubarb. Lettuce is grown in cold frames; for winter use the varieties are Hicks' Hardy, and Veitch's Golden Queen is excellent for early spring.

Asparagus and Melons.

"What about Asparagus?"

"We force a good deal in frames on hotbed, commencing to cut before Christmas, and continuing until we can gather outside. The variety is Connover's Colossal; we have sown the seed of the French variety, and had it planted out, but as it takes three years to get it fit for forcing we have not yet tested it. In the season we have five houses of Melons; the varieties grown are Blenheim Orange, Reid's Scarlet Flesh, and a seedling of our own, not yet named; the latter is similar to Countess. We sometimes have an entire house of one kind only."

"Do you care to say how you grow Melons?"

"They are grown on a hotbed in loam made firm, planted about eighteen inches apart, with two or three fruits to the plant. They require abundance of heat and moisture till they show signs of ripening, when the atmosphere should be drier and more air admitted."

Next we strolled into the kitchen gardens, of which there are two, one of about two acres, the other one and a half acres in extent.

The Herbaceous Borders.

"In what we call the home garden," said Mr. Cheffins, "we grow the summer vegetables, Asparagus, Strawberries, etc.; the latter include Royal Sovereign, Monarch, The Viscountess, Latest of All, and Waterloo. The central walk in this garden is bounded on either side by a herbaceous border, planted with the idea of having a succession of flowers during the whole of the season. Amongst other subjects grown are Doronicums, Pinks, Pæonies, Delphiniums, hybrid Aquilegias (these should be in every garden), Pyrethrums, Anemone japonica, Rudbeckias, Michaelmas Daisies, and autumn Phlox, the last including Etna, Coquelicot, Brilliante, St. Gregory, and Lamartine."

"Have you any particular method as regards the arrangement of Sweet Peas?"

"We plant them in clumps on either side of one of the cross walks, the colours being kept together. The varieties are Miss Willmott,

Lovely, Scarlet Gem, Emily Eckford, Gladys Unwin, Lady G. Hamilton, and Sadie Burpee."

"You might give me a few details about the fruit on the walls."

"The west wall here is devoted entirely to Pears grown on the single cordon system, which I consider is the best method, because the trees can thus be easily dealt with in regard to root

A GOOD TYPE OF MICHAELMAS DAISY.

pruning, etc. I agree with 'pinching,' and the summer pruning of most of the hardy fruits, though shallow planting and root pruning are quite as important as summer pruning, if not more so. The principal varieties of Pears are Jargonelle, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Doyenné du Comice, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurré Rance, Passe Colmar, Glou Morceau, and Winter Nelis."

Hardy Fruit.

"What do you grow on the south walls?"

"Plums and Apricots. Varieties of the former are Greengage and Jeffersons, and Moor Park and Hemskirk Apricots. On a north wall Gooseberries are grown. This situation appears to suit them well, the varieties being Dan's Mistake, Crown Bob, Whinham's Industry, Broom Girl, Berry's Late Kent and Langley Gage. Morello Cherries are also on the north wall."

"Apples are the principal feature in the second garden," I said.

"The principal hardy fruit; but we also grow here Winter Greens, Celery, Seakale (Lilywhite and Beddard's Improved, the latter an excellent kind, being hardy in constitution), and other vegetables. The best Apples are Worcester Pearmain, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Allington Pippin, of dessert kinds; and among the best kitchen varieties are Lord Grosvenor, Lord Derby, Ecklinville Seedling, Warner's King, Prince Albert, and Bramley's Seedling. As to winter greens, I find Sutton's Dwarf Gem Brussels Sprout excellent in every way. Dixon's Cabbage First and Best is also good, preceding Ellam's Early. Of Celery we only grow two sorts, Veitch's Early Red and Major Clarke."

A new Rose garden has recently been made, and I inquired the principle.

"It is planted with one colour only to a bed, the colours being chiefly pink, white, crimson, and yellow. The varieties include Ulrich Brunner, Mrs. John Laing, Frau Karl Druschki, Viscountess Folkestone, and Mildred Grant."

The Pleasure Grounds.

As we walked towards the pleasure grounds I asked about the spring bedding.

"We do not," rejoined Mr. Cheffins, "go in for either winter or spring bedding, which is much to the advantage of the summer plants. Our bedding is chiefly of the formal style. Zonal Pelargoniums are not planted to any great extent, but the Ivy-leaf varieties are used more generally. Fuchsias are freely used, the plants being two or three years old, and also Verbenas, Heliotropes, Begonias, Dactylis, and Veronicas. I also find Kœniga maritima excellent for groundwork, while Abutilon Swartzii looks very fine among scarlet Begonias, not being so rampant as the older varieties. Such plants as Castor-oil (Ricinus Gibsonii), Cannas, Indian Corn, Eucalyptus globulus, Helianthus major, and Hydrangeas are also used."

"You have some fine specimens of Conifers," I remarked, when we had visited the wilderness, with its fine vistas and imposing water.

"The chief specimens are Wellingtonia gigantea, Cedars, Abies pinsapo, Junipers, and Thuja gigantea, etc. The flowering shrubs are also a feature, and very much in evidence during the season. They include Lilac, Laburnum, Cherries, and pink Hawthorns."

There was much more to be seen if time had permitted, but I was obliged to bring my questions to a close with the inquiry whether Mr. Cheffins had done any showing.

"Nothing to speak of at present," he replied.

Quantities of Daffodils were growing in the grass in different parts of the grounds, also Snowdrops, the former including such varieties as Horsfieldii, Sir Watkin, Emperor, and Empress.

As I took my leave, Mr. Cheffins observed, "You will have noticed that we do not go in for a great number of varieties, and I may add that I strongly believe in the policy of having only a few of the best in colour and in kind during the respective seasons."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 186.—THE HERBACEOUS BORDER IN SPRING.

DEAR KATE,—As soon as March begins, the herbaceous border must be considered, for this is an excellent time to look through it and re-arrange the plants which need this. We always make a raid on the Michaelmas Daisies to begin with, for they spend the winter in pushing out their thick mat of roots on all sides, ready to smother their neighbours, after eating up all the soil around them. The Helianthuses do just the same, and if one doesn't keep these plants in strict order, they will monopolise the whole border in a few years in a really shameless way. But both are so pretty, and useful for cutting, that we have to avoid destroying them entirely, though every year at this time we give away barrow-loads of their roots to friends with new gardens, for there is nothing like these two to make a show quickly in a bare space.

A Well-behaved Michaelmas Daisy.

But there is one really well-behaved Michaelmas Daisy, which we leave alone for several years before it needs to be taken up and divided, and the name of this highly-respectable member of the Aster family is A. ericoides. It is the prettiest little Daisy bush, so neat and nice, myriads of little flowers, about the size of real Daisies, covering it in September, which are specially desirable for bouquets at that time. It only grows to the height of three feet, and makes a compact plant, which is really quite free from the robbing propensities of its family connections, and leads a quiet life amongst the other flowers. So if you have not got this Aster, now is the best time to get it. When you have removed the plants which have become too rampant, you will be sure to find gaps which will need to be filled up, and the question will occur to you, How best can this be done?

Too many herbaceous borders are a muddle of plants and of colours, and really a great deal of consideration is needed before one adds more plants. Sometimes I see borders which are full of nearly all white, or all yellow, flowers, with tall plants hiding the low-growing kinds, and magenta killing the other pink tints in a terrible way. Now, it is a very good thing to have plenty of white flowers, because they divide the other colours so well; blue, too, is most useful in this way, and sometimes yellow; but when one puts in any shade of red, it is well to look round and make sure that it will not be an eyesore to anyone with an eye for colouring, because it grows too close to some jarring tint. It is better, in arranging herbaceous plants, to have a good large clump of each kind, instead of dotting them all over the place; and this is not so terribly confusing, either. For instance, a tall group of five or six white Foxgloves will look well near the back of the border, or the same number of blue Delphiniums; any red or pink flowers of moderate growth (such as Pæonies or Roses) will be suitable for the next group, and for the edge you will find few better things than Pinks, either white or laced with crimson, for they are lovely in May, and their neat tufts of blue-green foliage always looks tidy. Forget-

IMPERIAL PÆONY, QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

me-nots (Myosotis), such as Perfection or Victoria, in neat tufts, also make a good edging in spring, but have to be pulled up at the end of May, when they become too untidy. They can be planted between clumps of Pinks (Mrs. Sinkins is still the best of these, I think), and you can fill up the gaps later on by planting out half-hardy annuals in them, such as dwarf Zinnias, China Asters, or Stocks.

paratively rare. Some of them are too large for small gardens, but there are others which are quite dwarf. M. obovata, for example, is seldom more than four or five feet in height, and M. glauca, ten or twelve. The latter is an evergreen, with very fragrant white flowers towards the end of spring, and often during the greater part of the summer. The former is deciduous, and has large, scented, Tulip-shaped flowers, white inside, and purple outside, in April. M. glauca is far more often seen in America than it is in this country. Parsons speaks of it as "the common, sweet-scented, white swamp Magnolia often sold by boys in our railway cars." He adds that it is "generally quite hardy, although I have known winters severe enough to nip its young growth, especially if that young growth was not sufficiently matured during the previous fall." In this climate it may certainly be called hardy —at any rate, in the southern counties, while it may be safely grown farther North in a warm corner.

Too Much of a Good Thing.

March 26th.—A friend who has taken a new house with a small garden, informed me that he was making a big bed of China Roses, and meant to confine himself entirely to them. I was surprised until I found that he was acting on the advice of the head man of a well-known landscape gardener, whose grounds, beautifully laid out by himself, are nearly sixty acres in extent. It shows the danger of passing on a prescription from one patient to another, without any regard to the conditions. The China Roses, especially some of the newer varieties, are charming, and the abundance of their flowers and the length of their season render them of exceptional value. But we want in our gardens something more; we want also variety. If there were a single plant which bloomed magnificently throughout the year, and we had nothing else, the time would certainly come when its beauty began to pall and we longed for a change. In extensive grounds it is possible to fill large beds with China Roses and other plants, and at the same time to get as much variety as anybody could wish; but in a small garden it is not possible, and to attempt it simply means taking a tiny section of the former and leaving out all else—obviously, a serious mistake. It would be equally a mistake to take a reduced scale as the plan, for this would involve "dotting"—a disastrous blunder. In the small garden, as in the large, plants should be massed, but the masses must be smaller, and, in order to get sufficient variety, fewer. In other words, we must select the best and the most suitable. A predominant feature is excellent; it gives a tone to the whole if the others harmonise with it; and China Roses will serve the purpose as well as any plant. But if they are the sole feature, or nearly so, their owner will surely tire of them.

H. C DAVIDSON.

MR. FRED. J. CHITTENDEN.

Science in the Garden.

INTERVIEW WITH MR F. J. CHITTENDEN, F.L.S., AT THE LABORATORY, WISLEY.

IT will be two years in June since Mr. F. J. Chittenden, F.L.S., was appointed by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, Director of the Laboratory at Wisley, and two years in July since the Laboratory itself was opened by Lord Avebury. At my suggestion, Mr. Chittenden was good enough to see me a few days ago for the purpose of a talk about the progress of the work under his auspices. The twofold purpose of the Laboratory, as he explained on my arrival at the garden, is the pursuit of scientific investigation in matters concerning horticulture and the instruction of students in its principles.

"Perhaps you would like to say something about the instruction given to the students first?"

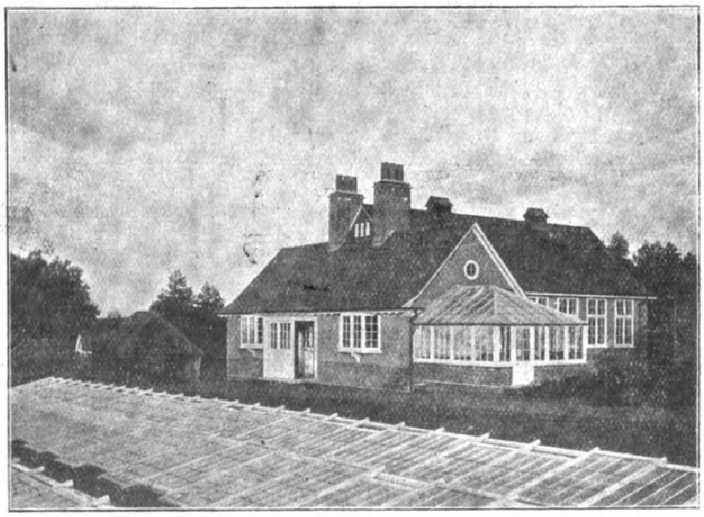
"Just as you prefer. There are two courses of instruction—elementary the first year, and advanced the second. Each course includes laboratory instruction in elementary science as applied to horticulture, together with field work and garden instruction in the practical operations of horticulture."

"Has there been an increase of students since the Laboratory was started?"

"When I came here there were under twenty. Now there are thirty, the utmost number we can take. This shows that the school is filling a place. The age of the students varies from sixteen to twenty-two, and the aim of the instruction is to enable them—whether they take up fruit-growing on their own account, become private gardeners, or engage in any other branch of work—to apply the knowledge which has been imparted."

"How much time do they spend in the Laboratory?"

"Nine hours every week, and the rest in the gardens. One of the interesting features is a discussion which takes place on alternate Wednesdays. It is originated by a student reading a paper on some point of gardening. Recent subjects have included the propagation of herbaceous plants, the Cabbage tribe, and British trees. The advantage to the reader of the paper is that he learns to write definitely, and it is useful to those who hear it, because it stimulates inquiry, and sometimes is suggestive and informing. As you know, the practical work in the garden is under the general direction of Mr. Wright, the superintendent, and the time the students spend here is divided so that one year is devoted to fruit and vegetable cultiva-



THE LABORATORY AT WISLEY IN THE GARDENS OF THE R.H.S.

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tion (under Mr. A. C. Smith's instruction), and the other to work in the wild garden and propagating department (under Mr. Thomas Frazer). Altogether, the time of the students is pretty well occupied while they are here."

Certificates and Prizes.

"You grant certificates when they leave?"

"Yes, at the end of the two years' course a certificate is given to every student who passes a written and practical examination in the principles and operations of horticulture. An essay has to be presented on an approved subject, a collection of properly dried plants must be shown, and a collection of insects injurious or helpful to plant life must be submitted. Prizes are also awarded. We have just instituted another prize—in memory of the late George Nicholson—for observation of the natural Flora of Wisley Gardens and the neighbourhood.

"It may be of interest," continued Mr. Chittenden, "to mention that the students are expected to keep a diary of all the work they do in the gardens. This diary is revised every week by the instructors, so that anything left out can be easily filled in. The diary will be of use to the possessor later on, because it gives the idea of what we can do at different seasons of the year. The students, too, help in making the meteorological observations. Our station is very finely equipped, and is under the control and periodical inspection of the Government Meteorological Department. The School of Horticulture is also under Government inspection, which commenced when I was appointed Director. We have had a very excellent report from the inspector."

Investigation of Plant Disease.

"Now, as to the ways in which science can help horticulture?"

"Science in the garden! There are so many ways. Many people are of opinion that investigation in the diseases of plants is one of the most important. We have now experiments proceeding on the disease from which Apples and Pears suffer."

"You mean scab?"

"Yes, and, unfortunately, we suffer from it here. We have had a large number of replies sent in to our schedule of queries, and a considerable amount of useful information has already been obtained. When the whole of the replies are in our hands, they will be collated, and a report upon the occurrence of the disease will be drawn up for publication in the 'Journal' of the society. Last year we published in the 'Journal' the result of an investigation into Apple-leaf spot, which we carried out here."

The Questions about Scab.

"What sort of questions do you ask in your schedule about scab?"

"Whether it has made its appearance in the grower's fruit during the past season; what proportion of the respective crops of Apples or Pears is estimated to have been damaged by the disease; the total quantity of fruit damaged by it; whether the damaged fruit is allowed to rot on the ground, or is given to pigs; whether the fruit slightly attacked tends to rot in the fruit-room more quickly than other fruit; whether in the experience of the grower the disease is more prevalent now than in years past; the kind of soil and subsoil on which the trees are planted; whether any system of manurial treatment is practised; whether the trees are growing in grass or in cultivated land, and, if in both, whether a difference is found in the amount of disease under different conditions; whether the disease is more prevalent in some parts of the plantation than others, and, if so, what is the character of those parts."

"Your questions are very searching?"

"We have tried to make them as exhaustive as possible. But there are many others. We also ask whether the trees grown are mainly dwarfs or standards, and if any difference is found in the amount of the disease on the two forms, where both are grown; the age of the bulk of the trees, and whether the disease is worse on the older or the younger trees; whether the trees are systematically pruned in the winter, or the summer, and whether all dead wood, both branches and twigs, is cut out every year; what is done with the prunings; whether it has been noticed that the leaves of the trees are attacked; whether any trace of the disease has been found upon the shoots in the shape of small scabby spots, or otherwise; at what time and upon what part of the plant is the disease usually first noticed; whether there are in the near neighourhood any old and neglected orchards, and whether there are Crab Apples or wild Pears in any considerable number in the hedges; whether any conditions are suspected, seasonal or otherwise, which would favour the appearance and spread of the disease; whether it is found that some varieties are more severely attacked than others, and, if so, their names; also the names of the varieties, both Apples and Pears, which are caused to crack badly; whether any varieties growing amongst others which are diseased remain free from the attack, and, if so, their names; whether any remedial or preventive measures have been tried, and, if so, with what success. In addition to these specific questions, we have asked for any general remarks which individual growers may like to make."

The Fertilisation of Apples and Pears.

"While we are speaking of fruit, is there any point you care to refer to?"

"We have prepared, for pruning experiments, four rows of Apples and Pears, all of the same age and history, the Apples on Paradise and Crab stocks, the Pears on Quince and Pear stocks. There are altogether about two thousand trees. Then there is the question of immunity from disease which is enjoyed by certain plants. Take Potatoes and Wheat. With respect to the latter, Professor Biffen, of Cambridge University, has shown that immunity is an hereditary characteristic; and if this is true of Wheat, it may also be true in many other cases. Another most important question is the conditions under which plants become diseased. Thus it has been ascertained that certain conditions (such as over-manuring with nitrogenous manure) expose the plant to the attack of parasitic fungi; and that certain weather conditions act in a similar fashion. We need further investigation respecting this particular matter. Another point is the fertilisation of Apple and Pear flowers. Some varieties will form fruit when the pollen of the same variety falls on the stigma of the flower. But these are exceptions."

"Can you name any of the most notable?"

"One of the exceptions amongst Apples is Stirling Castle, and one amongst Pears is Durondeau. In the majority of cases it is necessary that pollen should come from another variety. The practical application of this comes in when the trees are planted. You might plant twenty acres of Stirling Castle alone with every hope of success, but it would be no use planting twenty acres of Cox's Orange Pippin without interspersing other varieties amongst them. The same is true of Plums. But I cannot say with certainty whether it applies to any other fruit."

The Etherisation of Lilac and Spiræa.

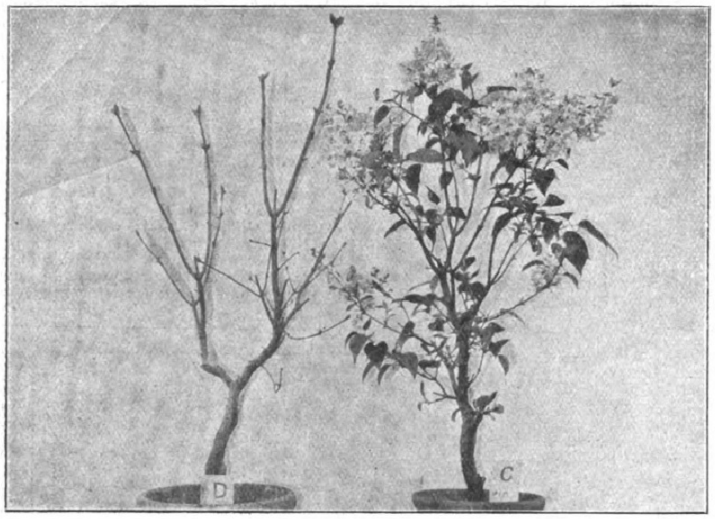
"Speaking of experiments, I think you had one last year on nitro-bacterine in the soil?"

"Yes, and we found that in our soil nitro-bacterine is absolutely of no use. But I believe that bacteriology may in a few years do much for agriculture and horticulture; probably along other lines than the inoculation of leguminous plants. Now we might turn to another question—the etherisation of plants for forcing. Professor Johannsen, of Copenhagen, found that certain plants, after being exposed to the fumes of ether, started into growth considerably before their normal time; and the effect of ether upon various plants is now being tested here. If you would like, I can show you what we have done so far."

We proceeded into the greenhouse which forms a portion of the Laboratory, and Mr. Chittenden showed me some plants of Lilac which had been etherised, and some which had not.

"The former," he said, "have been flowering bountifully since Christmas, and the latter, as you see, are not yet (in the middle of February) in bloom. All the plants were brought indoors at the same time, and the variety is the same —Marie Legraye."

"There is no mistake about the difference. Have you any other illustrations?"



Etherised Lilac.

Plant C was subject to etherisation, while Plant D was not. In every other respect they were grown under similar conditions.

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"Yes; here are two plants of Spiræa, one blooming freely, and the other not in bloom. Both plants were put in this house at the beginning of November, the one in bloom being etherised, and the other not. So it is all through with Lilacs and Spiræas. Then we have been trying the result of etherising Strawberries. They were brought in six days ago, the variety being President. The plants which were etherised have strong new leaves starting into growth, but those which were not have not made any growth. Here is another variety—Royal Sovereign—with etherised plants showing flower-spikes, and the others several days behind."

Bulbs Not Affected.

"What about bulbs?"

"We have tried ether with several varieties of bulbs, and first with two batches of Emperor Narcissus, with the result that the progress made was very similar. Then we tried other varieties of Narcissus, Hyacinths, Spanish Iris, and early-flowering Tulips, but we did not get blooms from the etherised subjects any sooner than from the others. Certainly, the Lilacs and Spiræas show that ether has a very considerable amount of influence. So it has with Seakale, but not with Chicory, which is something like Seakale in growth. A small dose is fatal to Chicory. Potato tubers do not appear to respond to it. Of course, the dose and the time of the experiment are matters of vital importance."

"Is it easy to experiment with ether?"

"Both easy and free from risk, so long as the one precaution of avoiding flame is always observed. Here is our chamber, which is two feet six inches deep, three feet nine inches wide, and four feet high. It is made quite airtight, and charged with four hundred cubic centimetres of ether. The plants are left in the chamber for two days at a temperature of about sixty degrees. I think it may be added that only plants which are well prepared for forcing are likely to respond to treatment by ether."

"Any other means by which you are trying to make science valuable in the garden would be appreciated."

"We are at work in connection with soil sterilisation by steam, having special reference to Tomatoes and Cucumbers. When these are grown in houses, the usual plan is to cart all the old soil out and to replace it with fresh, because pests, such as eelworm, increase in the soil, and ruin the succeeding crops. The object of sterilisation is to kill the pests, and do away with the necessity of changing the soil, but we also desire to ascertain the effect of the heat upon the soil, and upon the plants subsequently grown in it. I can already say that under certain circumstances a fortnight may be saved in growing plants fit to plant out. But it is too soon to say what the circumstances are. Some experiments are also in progress as to the inheritance of character in certain flowers, particularly of the Primula genus, many species of which, such as P. japonica and its near relative, P. pulverentula, grow remarkably well here. Similar experiments are also in course with several of the annual Poppies. But you can imagine that all experiments take a great deal of time, and cost money, sometimes much and sometimes little. In making an experiment, it is essential to guard against having more than one point of difference between the experiment and the control. Experiments in a garden are extremely difficult, because of differences in cropping and manuring."

The Trouble of Experiments.

"Can you give me an illustration of the trouble involved in making an experiment?"

"Yes. When we made the experiment with nitro-bacterine, we picked over a thousand pounds of Peas. They were picked from ninety-six rows, and the Peas were shelled. The Pea-pods, at each picking from every row, were counted and weighed, before and after shelling, separately."

"Do you think that science is likely to do much in lessening labour in the garden?"

"No, except, perhaps, in perfecting tools; but science is likely, I believe, to render the fruits of the labour greater. Take, for example, the effects of thorough cultivation on the crop. We made experiments on two halves of a plot of land on which Peas were grown. One half was cultivated, and the other half was fallowed land. The weight of the pods in pounds of Ne Plus Ultra on the cultivated land was 152½, and on the fallowed land, 106; of Duke of Albany, 165½, compared to 75½; of Telegraph, 190½, compared to 128; of maincrop, 120, compared to 59. The totals were 628½ in one case, and 368½ in the other, the difference in yield in favour of deep digging for Peas being 70 per cent., and the benefit derived very marked in the case of every variety.

"Science," concluded Mr. Chittenden, "is also likely to prevent time being wasted on work which is almost sure to be unprofitable. For example, if we know the exact conditions under which certain varieties of fruit prosper, and the conditions under which they fail, a great deal of unprofitable work would obviously be avoided. If you want to add anything negative, it may certainly be asserted that science will not do away with mechanical work."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 348.—HARDY FLOWERS IN WINTER AND SPRING.

DEAR KATE,—I think we ought to consider our gardens from the point of view of the four seasons. Winter is, of course, the most difficult of these to provide for, and consequently there are many gardens which are given up to desolation from November till the end of March. But this should not be, for there are really a number of hardy plants which will blossom in winter. The early Irises (I. stylosa especially), of which I wrote last week, and Christmas Roses (Hellebores) in variety, will cover the whole time. Then the varieties of Crocus with smaller flowers (C. Susianus) blossom much earlier than the rest, and are extremely pretty, being striped mauve and white, or golden-yellow and bronze, as well as all in purple, and in white. We find that they multiply so fast in this light gravel soil that we have to take up the clumps and divide them every third year.

All the Crocus tribe are most obliging in the way they stand being moved. You can plant them in the autumn (which is, of course, the right time), or remove them in bloom in the spring, or take them up after the leaves have ripened away. You may fill the edge of a window-box with them, just as they show colour, or move them at will any time during the summer and autumn, and they don't seem to mind it at all. The only time when you should not interfere with them is in the late spring, after they have blossomed, when they are busy making their flower-buds for next season whilst their foliage is ripening. This is a critical period with all bulbs, and unfortunately the ordinary gardener is apt to think that when the blossom is over, the plant may be pulled up with impunity, and sometimes he even cuts down the foliage (for the sake of tidiness), which effectually destroys the hope of flowers for the next season, as plants are unable to do their work without their lungs—for leaves act as lungs in the case of vegetation, taking in the necessary gases which plants need, and giving out oxygen, etc. The period of rest comes when the embryo bud is formed in the centre of the bulb, the foliage having then

DAFFODILS IN A WILD GARDEN.

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were some central society, to which he and all other subscribers could send in their reports, so that they might be systematically recorded and collated, all this expense, time and trouble might be saved. For, with the information at its command, it could give an authoritative answer to the question whether certain seeds were worth buying or not, and to many other equally important questions besides. Authors have such a society, and as a member of many years' standing I know something of its value. Why should not amateur gardeners form a similar combination? Far from being antagonistic to any reputable horticultural firms, it would, I feel sure, be welcomed by them, as it would relieve them from the worry of many unfounded complaints which now reach them. If only a fair proportion of amateur gardeners were to join, it could be run on a very small subscription.

The African Lily.

November 1st.—A single plant of Richardia africana, bearing nine flowers, is shown in the illustration. Of course, a fine plant like this is not a young one. On the tuberous root there are many crowns, and the different flowers spring mostly from different crowns. Some years ago I ordered a hundred plants from a Continental firm, and when they arrived every crown, except the central one in each case, had been sliced off for propagating purposes. It is against such firms that the society I have suggested would protect us.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 271.—MR. A. D. CHRISTIE, AT THE GARDENS, ROCKINGHAM, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM.

IT is not surprising that the gardens at Rockingham are exceptionally interesting. The owner, Mr. E. A. Wilson, is an enthusiast in all that pertains to Nature, including botany, and the head gardener, Mr. A. D. Christie, is well known as an expert in both the scientific and the practical sides of horticulture. Rockingham itself, though only two miles from the centre of Birmingham, is quite in the country. The only residence in close proximity to the splendid new university, it stands on high ground, with most pleasant surroundings, and is quite untouched by the smoke from the factories of the Midland metropolis. On the occasion of my visit, early in September, in bright, sunny weather, both house and gardens presented a delightful appearance. The latter consist of only four acres, including a small meadow, and Mr. Wilson did not come into possession until May, 1906. Yet, as it will be seen, they contain an unusual number of features, every foot of space being turned to useful or beautiful account. Moreover, while many important additions have been made in twelve months, the results are already apparent. Looking round the lawns, the first thing that attracted my attention was a striking bed, composed entirely of succulents, with a fine specimen of Phœnix spectabile in the centre, and I enquired whether the cultivation of species of Cactus was a feature.

The Collection of Succulents.

"Yes," replied Mr. Christie, "Mr. Wilson takes the keenest interest in the species, and we have a house devoted to them. There are about twenty-five of the species in this bed. They are chiefly Yuccas, Aloes, Agave americana variegata, Crassulas (or Kalosanthes) in variety, Echeverias in variety, Mesembryanthemum in variety (tricolour, as well as the annual one), and Opuntias—the Prickly Pear. Would you like to see the house of succulents while we are talking on this subject?"

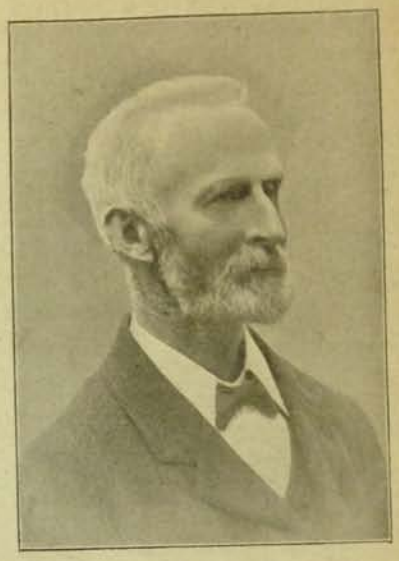
THE RECENTLY-CONSTRUCTED ROCKERY.

"It would be very convenient."

We accordingly made our way to the houses, passing a modern border, in pretty contrast to the bed of succulents opposite, and containing, in flower, Geraniums, Petunias, Lobelias, Ageratum, and Dianthus.

"Which are the most notable of these plants?" I asked, as we entered the house.

"The collection includes many varieties of Phyllocactus; Mesembryanthemums, Gasterias, Mamillarias, Prickly Pears in fruit, Rhopsalis, Staphylea (which have a flower like the Star of India), Peuecias (which come from South Africa, and are not in commerce), Haworthias, Cereus, Rochea perfoliata (with bright scarlet flowers), Echinopsis, Gasterias, Cotyledons, and Echinocactus obvallatus in flower."



MR. A. D. CHRISTIE.

"You have Orchids and Ferns in the next house?"

"A small number of Orchids, chiefly Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Cypripediums, Odontoglossum, Cymbidiums, and Cœlogyne cristata. The collection of Ferns and Selaginellas is a representative one, and embraces many varieties. On the walls are Smilax and the creeping Fern, Lygodium scandens. We intend to grow Nymphæas at the end of this house, in a tank, with rockery around it, which will be planted with Ferns, etc."

The Hardy Winter Garden.

"This," continued Mr. Christie, as we made our way into a building resembling a conservatory, "is what we call a hardy winter garden. The object is to show what plants will thrive under the conditions of cultivation."

"But surely some of the specimens were planted before 1906?"

"There was not a thing in the house when we came from Bell Court, Warwickshire, in June, last year. In July we planted the house. We brought with us the Eucalyptus globulus, which develops its soft foliage in two years, and its proper leaf in four years; the Plumbago capensis, the Abutilons, Eulalias, the Phœnix spectabile, the Tacsonias (in pots), the Ficus elastica, and the Acacias. Tacsonia Van Volxemii, with its scarlet flowers, covering the roof, and the Plumbago, make a striking contrast."

"The growth has certainly been all that you could desire.

"Of course, we give them fresh soil and feed well. In the other portion of the winter garden, which is a little warmer, is Hoya carnosa (the Wax-flower), which keeps on blooming, and on the back wall is Bougainvillea glabra. In pots on the stage are Ferns and foliage plants, the latter including Fittonia argyroneura, Strobilanthus Dyerianus, Streptocarpus, and Nephrolepis exaltata, which is very useful for baskets or pots. You might add a collection of Amaryllis, and, combining the useful with the

decorative, we grow Ham Green and Prolific Tomatoes, and Telegraph Cucumbers."

Returning to the lawns, Mr. Christie pointed out, near the house, a bed of Rhododendrons, well set for next year.

"Did you use peat?" I asked.

"Yes, a good deal, and also for the hybrid seedlings, which we planted last year. In a warm corner, under the house, you see Schizanthus, now in flower, and close by are three varieties of Magnolia—grandiflora, Exoniensis, and conspicua."

"How long has your London Pride been in flower in the border?"

"Three months. It lasts so long because the sun does not reach it. In the early spring this border is gay with flowers of bulbs, Primulas and Wallflowers, planted in the autumn, and, later, with German Iris."

"You have also a plantation of border Carnations, which, with the Stocks, form a pretty combination?"

"The Carnations are principally white and scarlet Clove, Reynolds Hole, and Raby Castle. The Stocks are the Ten-week variety."

Rockingham, Edgbaston.

"Before we leave the lawn, I should like to know if the fruit trees on it do well."

"The Codlins yield exceedingly good crops, and are, therefore, useful as well as ornamental. Originally, the pleasure garden must have been an orchard, and a certain number of old fruit trees have been allowed to remain. But most of our fruit trees are in the kitchen garden."

Root-pruning.

"I believe you are specially fond of fruit cultivation," I remarked, as we entered the kitchen garden.

"I have great faith in root-pruning of fruit trees, and my experience is that they all require both summer and winter pruning to yield the best results. The general idea is that the more you prune, the more wood you get, whereas, with proper pruning, there is less wood. Pruning ought to be done at both seasons of the year, with a view to flower, and, if it is done properly, Nature will furnish the fruit. When there is a failure, it is the gardener who is at fault, not Nature."

"Any hints on this subject would be useful."

"With regard to summer pruning, the mistake is often made of beginning at the top of the tree and finishing at the bottom. The right course is to begin at the bottom and finish off at the top, within a period of ten days or so, because, by this means, you check the growth in the shoots you wish to keep and when you come to cut the top part, the sap, being arrested, goes back into the shoots that have previously been stopped. By this means more light and air reach the bottom of the tree, and the leaves can elaborate the extra sap that will go to make the flower buds."

A Practical Illustration.

"To give you a practical illustration," continued Mr. Christie, "here is a fruit bed, containing Keswick Codlin Apple trees, etc., and also Plums and Pears. Twelve months ago this bed was a thicket of wood. Now, as the result of root-pruning in some cases, and judicious winter and summer pruning, which has given light and air, you can see through the trees, and every branch has fruit on it. The fact is, wherever we have pruned, we have obtained fruit. Last year there was not a Pear in the garden, and now, as you see, we have several trees with large crops."

"What are the principal varieties of Pears?"

"Marie Louise, Beurré de Capiaumont, Beurré Brown, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Jargonelle (which does well as a standard), and Louise Bonne of Jersey. We are also trying Duchesse d'Angouleme, Pitmaston Duchess and some of the larger sorts. I may say that I work upon the principle that if a tree does not produce a crop in three years, it is not worth preserving. But, as a rule, the second year after operating upon there is a crop."

"All your fruit is, I notice, grown on standards."

The Best Apples.

"Yes, we have no walls to the garden, but on a few old buildings, and the back wall of the greenhouse, I have planted Cherries, Plums, Apricots, Pears and Peaches, as an experiment, because I do not believe in not using vacant space for that which is most pleasing and useful. As to the variety of Apples, the fruit of Lord Suffield is particularly good, both in size and shape. We have some nice fruit of Cellini, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Ecklinville Seedling, which is as free as any, and Stirling Castle and Court Pendu Plat are also excellent."

"You have a line of young fruit trees, with fruit buds on them. When were they planted?"

"Last spring, and they are three years old. I attribute the fact that they have fruit buds on them now, entirely to winter and summer pruning. There is one other point in connection with fruit trees that is worth emphasising. Each variety has a habit of growth peculiar to itself, and this, it should be remembered, varies according to the cultivation, soil, situation and temperature."

"Although you seem to have a good supply of Apples and Pears, your Plum crop is different."

"Yes, it is rather curious that, although Plums are very plentiful in the country, our crop is rather poor. The varieties that do best here, I think, are The Monarch, Pond's Seedling, Victoria, The Czar, Transparent Gage, and Early Prolific. We have had a very fine crop of Gooseberries, especially of Sulphur Yellow. The other varieties are Whinham's Industry, Warrington, Lancashire Lad, and Ironmonger. The Currants (black and red) and Raspberries (Superlative and the Old Prolific) have done well."

"What about Strawberries?"

"For young plants, eighteen month old, St. Joseph is a decided success. This is the second crop. In addition to St. Joseph being a perpetual bearer, of very good flavour, it is, when well grown, quite as large as The President. We also grow more largely, Royal Sovereign, other varieties being Laxton's Prolific and British Queen."

"You have a fine show of the American Blackberry."

"Everyone with a garden close to town ought to grow these. They have only to be fed well with manure, and they will yield quantities of fruit, continuing to bear until severe frosts set in."

The Principal Vegetables.

"Flowers are as much a feature of your kitchen garden as fruit, but, before we discuss them, you might say something about your vegetables."

"There are Brussels Sprouts coming on, and between these we have had Cauliflowers, the supply being larger than we can use. Celery is rather a feature, and White Plume is a splendid early variety. The others grown are Wright's Giant White and Leicester Red."

"Do you grow many varieties of Potato?"

"We are trying a few as an experiment—The Colonist, Reading Russet, and Stourbridge Glory. Last season we depended upon Ashleaf, Royal Kidney (a Potato which has come to stop, and will do either for field or garden), or Snowdrop, a round white Potato, of splendid flavour. We have had very good crops of Peas, beginning with Chelsea Gem, and continuing with William Hurst, Gladstone, Autocrat, The Queen, and Gradus. Our only variety of Runner Beans is Hero; of French Beans, Canadian Wonder; and Broad Beans, The Windsor. We have not yet started Asparagus and Onions, so far, have not done well, but Carrots (Intermediate and Short Horn) and Turnips (Early Milan and The Model) have been successful. Egyptian is a fine variety of Beetroot for early work, and Brood-red is the best for later."

A Remarkable Rockery.

"I conclude that you found your rockery here when you came?"

"On the contrary, the foundations of the rockery were not made until the middle of January of this year. It is built on a site which was previously covered with Gooseberries and other fruit trees, and is composed of stones brought from Gloucestershire, which Mr. Wilson had inspected and arranged for previously. In fact, I may say that the rockery is entirely my own work."

"It is amazing to see how the Alpines have grown, and the number of plants in flower at

this period of the year. You might give me the names of some of these."

"Many, such as Sweet Alyssums, have been in flower ever since May. Then, there are Sedums and Campanulas in variety, numerous Saxifrages (including the red Rheii and sarmentosa), Aubrietias (Fire King, Moerheimi and Campbellii), Veronica rupestris (now in bloom for the second time), Polygonum affinis, Gazania splendens (this makes a splendid addition to a rock garden in summer), Primulas denticulata, rosea, farinosa, and Kewensis (now blooming a second time), double-flowering Arabis, Sempervivums in variety, Oxalis rosea, and Gypsophila prostrata (the latter a continuous bloomer). Some of the varieties on the top of the rockery are used for the sake of the foliage. They include Juniper prostratum (which is one of the best plants for the purpose), Ericas in variety, Olearia Haastii, Cytisus purpureus, a number of Brooms, Veronicas in variety, Rock Roses in variety, Genistas sagittifolia, incarnata and capitata, Xanthoreza Upiifolia (very beautiful bronze foliage, and very uncommon), and Heucheras in variety, particularly sanguinea, which is grown for its foliage, as well as for its beautiful scarlet flowers."

MAKING THE ROCKERY AT ROCKINGHAM, IN MARCH, 1907.

"Can you tell me how many species of plants are represented in the rockery?"

"Upwards of fifty. There are several hundreds of Sedums, of which we have over twenty varieties. You will notice that the wall of old bricks on one side of the rockery is covered with plants, and these, I believe, embrace quite forty different varieties."

A New Rosery.

"You have quite a nice Rosery close to your rockery."

"The Roses have only been planted twelve months; some are new, and others we brought from Bell Court. The varieties include La France, A. K. Williams, Boule d'Or, Boule de Neige, Killarney, Frau Karl Druschki, Dupuy Jamain, Earl Dufferin, The Queen, and Baroness Rothschild. On the half-dozen arches in the central walk, the climbers include Dorothy Perkins, W. A. Richardson, Crimson Rambler, and Pink Rambler. They are looking well now, but we have had to feed them up."

In another part of the garden, facing the tennis lawn, is a remarkable collection of herbaceous plants.

"I should explain," said Mr. Christie, "that all these plants were brought from Bell Court and put in lines in the border, which is ten feet wide, without the idea of keeping them there. But Mr. Wilson thought that the arrangement could not easily be improved upon."

"Here, again, you might give me the names of some of the varieties now in flower."

"There are at least twelve varieties of Michaelmas Daisies, Mrs. Ash being one of the best. The lines now in flower are mainly Trollius in variety, Lobelia cardinalis, Helianthus rigida, Phlox in variety, Rudbeckia Macowani and purpurea, Pyrethrums, Galegas in variety, Montbretias, some of the double Campanulas, Monarda didyma, Chrysanthemum maximum (several varieties), Hellebores (now in flower for the second time), Anemone japonica, Pæonies in variety, Irises (the foliage of which shows up well at this season, between those in bloom), Doronicum, Echinops and Tritomas (four varieties). Mr. Wilson is carrying out a system showing how the Rockingham collection is made up. On a card is given the popular name, and full details of the genus, species, variety, habit, blooms, colour, how acquired, and the date of planting. A space is also left for remarks and references, and we find these cards very useful."

A Representative Shrubbery.

"What is the length of the shrubbery facing the tennis court?"

"Forty yards long, and seven feet wide. There are about three hundred different shrubs and trees represented in this border, and it will, no doubt, suffice, if I give you just a few of the names. Among the most prominent are Abies, of which there are six dwarf specimens. There are four varieties of Golden Yews. The Cupressus is represented by Allumii and Lawsoniana and its varieties, and Thuja by Lobbii in variety. Then there are the Picea concolor, Pinus contorta, Abies pungens glauca, Cephalotaxus Fortunei, the variegated Dogwood, Olearia macrodonta, Araucaria imbricata, Zanthoriza apiifolia, Symphoricarpus variegata, Wellingtonia gigantea, Ilex in variety, the Sciadopitys verticillata (or Umbrella Pine), Cedrus atlantica glauca, and two varieties of Bamboos. Considering that all these have been planted for over a year, the growth of six feet of one of the Bamboos is, I think, encouraging. We propose to have a number of varieties, and in time to come the shrubbery will be a very important feature of the gardens."

"You ought to say something about annuals, which are admirably represented by Sweet Peas and Hollyhocks."

"Of Sweet Peas we grow about three dozen named varieties, of which, perhaps, the best are Edward VII., Blanche Burpee, Golden Glow, Phyllis Unwin, Black Michael, and Romolo Piazzani. We have had an enormous mass of flowers, and have been sending batches to the hospital every week."

"What is your system of cultivation?"

"I sow them in pots, and plant out in April or at the beginning of May, in single clumps. In order to obtain flowers till the frost begins, the seed-pods should be cut off the moment they are seen. The Hollyhocks are all seedlings, mostly doubles—yellow, red and white; they were all grown out of penny packets, and last year they were ten feet high. Of course, the seed must have been good, but I attach importance to the fact that I syringe them with weak paraffin to keep the disease away."

THE SAME ROCKERY IN SEPTEMBER, 1907.

"You were with Mr. Wilson for some time before you came to Rockingham?"

"At Rockingham and Bell Court I have been with him for four years. I was previously head gardener to Lord Hertford at Ragley Hall for fourteen years, and head gardener to the late Lord Warwick, at Warwick Castle, for ten years. I have also represented Messrs. Veitch in Russia, giving me the opportunity of studying horticulture in various places on the Continent; and have had a varied experience in Dalkeith, Heaton, and the London parks. Prior to leaving Ragley Hall and Warwick Castle, I received from each of my employers a marble timepiece, and both at Warwick and Alcester I was presented with an illuminated address from the townspeople, and other tokens of esteem, in acknowledgement of the interest I had taken in horticultural matters, especially in cottagers' gardens, allotments, and the flower shows. I have been a member of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society for upwards of thirty years, and I hold a certificate from the first Forestry Exhibition held in Great Britain, in 1884, for a section of Cedar wood, with Boring Giant Sirex at work." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 274.—FURNISHING PLANTS.

DEAR KATE,—Flowers are getting scarce in the garden, and we must now replenish our stock of furnishing plants, to take their place, as far as possible, in the house. It is not wise to put this off until severe weather arrives, because the sudden change from a warm greenhouse to a room is very trying to all plants, and it is better to give them a few weeks to get inured to the change before the frosts are sharp, and the bitter air blows through the rooms every morning whilst the sweeping is done. Palms, of course, are the most effective of all our room-plants, and they will grow well in the semi-shade of the house for many years, if well managed. Unfortunately, they do not always get the care they need to keep them in health, and then the tips of the leaves turn brown, and their beauty is a thing of the past.

A BED OF SUCCULENTS AT ROCKINGHAM, EDGBASTON.

How to Treat Palms.

Palms do not require large pots for their size, and a Kentia, thirty inches high, will do very well in a 6-in. pot for several years; but they must have plenty of water in the summer, and even in the winter the strong coil of roots which they make must never become quite dry, or disaster will follow. It is a good plan to soak their roots, pot and all, in tepid water, once a week in winter, and twice a week in summer, for half an hour at a time, to ensure their moisture, watering them between whiles in hot weather, for they need a plentiful supply then, with a little soot-water, too, once or twice a week when they are growing. This liquid manure is the best to use for room plants, as it is quite pure and without unpleasant smell; you can easily make it by soaking a potful of chimney soot in water. A coarse linen bag will hold the soot; it should be tied in at the mouth of the bag, but still have room to move, so that the water may pass through it, and you should only use the surrounding water (in the pan), in a clear, thin state, for it must not clog up the surface soil at all. Another danger to a Palm (besides want of water in summer, or over-watering in winter) is this, that in moving the plant to dust the room, it is sometimes pushed against a wall, when a tender leaf will be bruised, and fail to expand properly. Special care is needed by all room plants in this particular, for no good foliage should be crushed against furniture, or it is sure to suffer.

The best Palms for a room are the Kentias (Belmoreana being specially handsome), Seaforthia elegans (a large and graceful plant), Chamærops humilis (which is very hardy), and Latania borbonica (another fine fan Palm). It is not desirable to get hothouse Palms for furnishing, as they seldom survive the chilling draughts, and are very disappointing in consequence.

Propagation of Dracænas.

Dracænas are managed in the same way as Palms, and the green Dracænas are very hardy, but I much prefer the crimson foliage of Dracæna Lord Wolseley, which is, I think, the only red Dracæna which stands well in a room. These plants get too tall and leggy after a few years, but it is easy to keep up a supply of young plants in this way: We lay the old leggy one down in a Cucumber frame, in April, covering its roots with soil, and making a notch between every two inches of the bare stem with a knife, half way through the stem. The stem is firmly pegged down into good soil, and the young plants, which soon appear, throw down roots into it all along the stem, when they can be potted up singly, and grown on in the greenhouse.

India-rubber plants (Ficus elasticus) need much care in watering. They are not very hardy, either, and must be kept on the warm and dry side in winter, or their great leaves will turn yellow and drop off. They can be stem-rooted in May in the same way as Dracænas, but you should use powdered charcoal freely on the notches, as you cut them, for they will otherwise lose a quantity of milky sap.

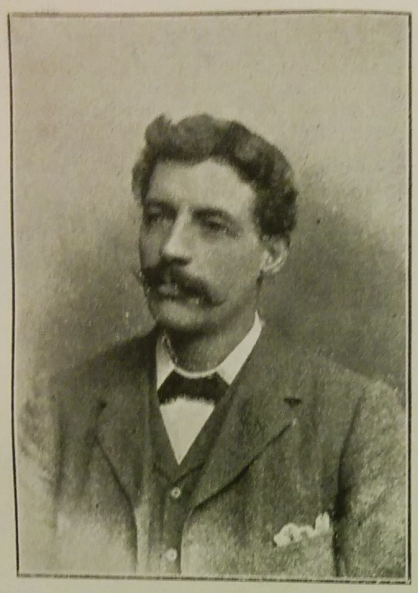
Aspidistra lurida variegata is often called the Parlour Palm, but it does not belong to the family of Palms. It is the easiest of all room plants to manage, for it seldom needs to be repotted, and will stand a certain amount of neglect philosophically. It can be divided and repotted in May, if necessary, but do not give it rich soil, or it will lose its white stripes, which are really the result of vegetable anæmia. Ordinary garden soil will suit it, without manure of any sort, though it really seems rather cruel to keep it anæmic, poor thing!

A Unique Subject.

One of the best of the smaller furnishing plants is Anthericum variegatum, with handsome striped foliage which is not the result of starvation. It is hardy, and will even stand the fumes of gas, besides which it propagates itself in a most obliging way, for its white, star-like flowers (produced at the end of a long, pendulous stem) turn into seed, which ripens without dropping, and grows into young plantlets without any soil. These are quite ready to throw down roots into any soil which they can reach, and you can cut off the whole spray and peg the little plants into a box of soil, which they will seize upon with avidity, and soon make enough roots to enable you to pot them up singly. This is best done in the early spring. We use a number of these pretty little plants to edge flower borders, as we have so many of them. Others are potted on, and make excellent room plants in winter.

Centaurea plumosa is far more beautiful than the rest of the foliage Centaureas; its leaves are like silver, and trebly pinnated, giving them the appearance of an ostrich feather. I am glad to find that it is possible to obtain seed of this fine room plant, which is much too rarely seen. It is quite hardy, and you can scarcely have too many of them, for they are useful to edge borders, and for winter window-boxes, as well as for the conservatory and the house. They are at their best as foliage plants before they blossom (which they do in the second year of their lives); they then produce numbers of young shoots all up the central stem, which will take root quickly if dibbled into a box of light soil in spring, and kept very moist and rather cool. Few of the silver-leaved plants can compare with them in beauty of outline. They are hungry plants, needing good soil, and an abundance of water, with very little fire heat, if any.

lent to nearly £354 per acre, surely a record in this country for Strawberries! It would be interesting to know how Mr. Heatley managed to get on the average 1s. 2½d. per pound for outdoor fruit. That, too, I should think, would be a record price. In a year of extraordinary abundance it would be almost incredible if it



MR. FRANK CLARK.

were not vouched for by Sir Horace Plunket himself.

January 5th.—At this season flowers which would earlier in the year be passed without notice in the garden arouse our keenest delight. I wish Roses could be placed among them. I have had them on a Gloire de Dijon as late as Christmas, but that was exceptional. Miss Violet Biddle speaks of seeing, in a friend's garden, in December, some lovely sprays of Gloire des Rosamanes, a Bourbon, with semi-double crimson flowers, arranged in clusters. It is always advisable, when buying Roses, to include among them some varieties which bloom fairly late in the year. Most of the Teas do, but none of the Hybrid Perpetuals, though Alfred Colomb, Ulrich Brunner, and, perhaps, one or two more, sometimes produce a few flowers at the end of September. Marquis of Salisbury is one of the best of the Hybrid Teas for late flowering. In this connection, of course, the old Pink Monthly should not be forgotten, though a better Rose of the same class is Laurette Messimy. Miss Biddle recommends the special propagation of plants intended for late flowering. "Reserve one bed," she says, "in which all the buds must be picked off from the beginning of July to the beginning of September. A vigorous crop from then on till the frosts come will result. Of course, it is understood that only those varieties which naturally bloom in autumn will flourish under the circumstances." I am not sure, however, that many of us would care to practise such severe self-denial.

January 6th.—In several Cucumber houses belonging to amateurs, I have noticed two mistakes. There is not enough heat, and the plants are trained so close to the glass that the leaves are often damaged by coming in contact with it. The photograph shows an excellent house for market purposes. It will be observed that there are six rows of 4-in. pipes, and the wires are kept well away from the glass. If all the pipes are not wanted, they need not be used. Some of them may be cut off by means of taps at the end.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 171.—MR. FRANK J. CLARK, AT THE GARDENS, WISTOW HALL, LEICESTER.

IN contrast to the veteran gardeners who have been the subjects of the last two interviews, Mr. Frank Clark is one of the younger men who have come to the front in horticultural circles.

Not only does he occupy a position of very considerable importance, as head gardener at one of the historic country houses in the Midlands, but he is well known in his own and other counties as a successful exhibitor of Chrysanthemums, fruit, and vegetables, while, as a cultivator of Sweet Peas, his reputation is far more than local. On the occasion of my visit to Wistow, towards the end of November, I had the gratification of seeing everything under most picturesque conditions. The trees and shrubs were decorated by snow, and the whole of the gardens presented a singularly fascinating appearance, scarcely to be rivalled even in the full glory of the summer. Wistow Hall, the ancient seat of the Halfords, where Charles I. slept the night before the Battle of Naseby, is now the country residence of Mr. Mark Firth. Situated a short distance from Great Glenn station, it is approached by a pleasant drive, and is surrounded by pretty country, with plenty of timber. On my arrival, early in the morning, Mr. Clark proposed that we should commence our tour of inspection in some of the houses, and the first plants which atracted my attention were a batch of Poinsettias, with singularly fine bracts.

"They are two-year-old plants," said Mr. Clark. "I cut them back hard, and grow them quite cool during the greater part of the summer. A hot summer is favourable to them. In this house, as you see, there are from fifty to a hundred plants of Begonia Gloire de Lorraine. I also grow the white variety, Turnford Hall, but it is not so useful as the pink. Most of these are young plants."

CALADIUMS AND GLOXINIAS AT WISTOW HALL.

"How do you raise your Clerodendron fallax?"

"From seed. If they are grown on in an intermediate temperature through the summer; the best plants can be got from seed. Formerly, I raised Clerodendron by means of propagation, and I am, therefore, telling you my own experience."

"The Crotons, I judge, are young plants?"

"All quite young. They were only struck in the spring, and consist entirely of the narrow-leaved varieties, which are grown solely for table use during the winter months."

"Do you go in largely for Freesias?"

"We grow a couple of thousand. They begin to flower early in December, and we get a succession of bloom all through the winter and early spring. Tulips are also grown largely in pots—from three to four thousand. We depend largely during the first three months of the year upon Tulips and Daffodils for flowers for room and table decoration."

"Have you been growing quantities of Tulips for many years?"

"For some years before I came here. We go in for self-colours chiefly, and stick to the best varieties. One of the best yellow is Mon Trésor. Cottage Maid is a very good pink; Proserpine (carmine), Pottebakker (white), and Crimson King (crimson)."

"Which do you consider a particularly good Daffodil for early forcing?"

"One of the very best, at any rate, of the old favourites, is Golden Spur. There is no doubt that if a good display at a small cost is desired, it is wise to keep to old varieties. Among the best of the other varieties, I include Princeps, which is especially useful for boxes, being cheap to buy, and easy to grow. Horsfieldi, Bicolor, Empress, Emperor, Sir Watkin, and Maximus are very nice for pots. Three of the newer kinds which I can strongly recommend are Glory of Leiden, an improvement upon Emperor; Mrs. Langtry, and Barrii conspicus."

"You might mention the names of your varieties of Polyanthus Narcissus?"

"Grand Monarque, Mont Cenis, and Her Majesty. We find these very useful. Of Lilacs, which are grown in pots, we limit ourselves to two varieties, Madame Lemoine (double white), and Charles the Tenth (single, purple). These, after flowering, are cut hard back, and are plunged in their pots outside, and are allowed a full

season's rest before being forced again, another batch being depended upon for the following winter. Lilies of the Valley are grown largely for the autumn and winter months. Other specialities are Lilium Harrisii, Azaleas mollis and indica, Spiræas, and Deutzias."

From these houses, which are close to Mr. Clark's comfortable cottage, we proceeded into what is known as "the old garden." This is tastefully laid out, and has several charming features. "Among the beds here," continued Mr. Clark, "are one of La France Roses, and another of summer-flowering Chrysanthemums, lately cut down. To give variety, I cut off the top of an Apple tree and planted climbing Roses, Paul's Carmine Pillar and the Dundee Rambler. Another excellent Rose growing on the walls is Reine Olga de Wurtemberg."

"How large is the kitchen garden?" I inquired as we entered.

"Nearly two acres. The shape is somewhat unusual—oval. The Peach trees you see on the wall have been planted since I came here. They are Royal George, Rivers' Early York, and Waterloo; and the Nectarines are Pitmaston Orange and Lord Napier."

"Which varieties do you grow in pots?"

"One of the finest Peaches for pot use is Amsden June. We have also Early Rivers and Early York. The finest Nectarine is Cardinal, while Lord Napier, Violette Hative and Pitmaston Orange are also good. We grow about three dozen in pots. Last season I got an average of a dozen to fifteen fruits off each tree."

"You have a quantity of Celery?"

"Yes, we have a big demand for it through the hunting season. I prefer Standard Bearer for flavour, and for standing late into the season, and Sutton's White Gem for earliest use."

"What do you consider the best Onion?"

"Ailsa Craig is the best, but Cranston's Excelsior is very good. If well ripened, large Onions will keep as long as small bulbs. We have kept large Onions (Ailsa Craig) ten months out of the ground. With regard to cultivation, we trench as deeply as possible."

"Then you believe in deep trenching?"

"As an old pupil of Mr. Beckett, I am convinced that it is one of the roads to success in the kitchen garden. Our soil is heavy, with a dry subsoil."

"Speaking of Mr. Beckett, do you include Edward Beckett among your Peas?"

"I not only include it, but consider it one of the best. Sutton's Early Giant and Gradus are grand for early and mid-season use; Autocrat is one of the very best late varieties. Peas do particularly well with us. Among other vegetables, I prefer Cauliflower Magnum Bonum, Prizetaker Leek, and New Red Intermediate Carrot. Amongst Potatoes, May Queen, Windsor Castle, Sion House, and King Edward the Seventh. Of Parsnips, Tender and True, and of Runner Beans, Sutton's Best of All."

"Do you grow any notable varieties of bush fruit?"

"Of Currants, I find that Comet is the best of the Red. We grow several varieties of Red, White, and Black, and also of Gooseberries."

"And Strawberries?"

"For the main crop Royal Sovereign and Monarch, and for latest use Latest of All."

In the orchard-house, which is used in the season for pot Peaches, were a striking collection of Chrysanthemums, including some magnificent blooms, and all of the Japanese class.

"How many blooms have you cut?" I asked.

"About two or three hundred at present, either for exhibition or for home use. The favourite of the year has been F. S. Vallis. We showed sixty blooms in the Great Vase class at the Crystal Palace show this year. Among the best Japanese are, I think, Mrs. Barkley, Mr. F. W. Vallis, President Viger, Mrs. J. Dunn, Lady Hopetoun, Madame Paola Radaelli, Souvenir de Calvert Pére (a new one of Godfrey's), Madame Nagelmacher, General Hutton, Mafeking Hero, Miss Elsie Fulton, Miss Olive Miller, Kimberley, Bessie Godfrey, and Madame Waldeck Rousseau."

"When were the Muscats planted in your Vinery?"

"The year after I came—1889. Each rod bore thirteen bunches this year. The other Vine is Appley Towers, a fine late Grape, with a Muscat flavour."

Noticing a batch of the pretty, new single Chrysanthemum, Starlight, of Cyclamens just coming into bloom, and of Salvia splendens, we went outside again. Facing the Vineries is the fine, wide herbaceous border, about a hundred yards long.

"This border," observed Mr. Clark, was originally used for kitchen garden produce, and we turned it into a flower border to improve the aspect of this part of the gardens. It contains a fairly good collection of hardy herbaceous and bulbous plants, but at this end of it there is ample room between the permanent plants for groups of hardy annuals, which we sow in open ground each spring. We also plant some thousands of the half-hardy kinds that are raised under glass."

"I should be glad of the names of some of the best of the hardy for sowing outside."

"Very effective for massing purposes is Clarkia. The varieties we use are C. pulchella, C. pulchella alba, and C. Salmon Queen (Sutton's). I sow them in a broad patch, and thin them well. Care in thinning is the most important point."

"Does this apply to all hardy annuals?"

"Yes, and the great mistake so often made by amateurs is to sow in a tiny little patch. As to other varieties, Marguerite Chrysanthemums and Sutton's Morning Star are very useful. One of the prettiest flowers is Linaria reticulata aurea; and, in contrast, is Marocanna Hybrid, a blending of purple and mauve. For a wide border, if planted well, Lavatera is very fine. Then, we use Godetias and Coreopsis freely, and with these are planted, in combination, Pentstemons, Hollyhocks, Delphiniums, and Sweet Peas, the last in masses of colour. Stocks and Salpiglossis are also used. Hardy annuals are particularly useful if the ground is well prepared, the plants well treated, and looked after."

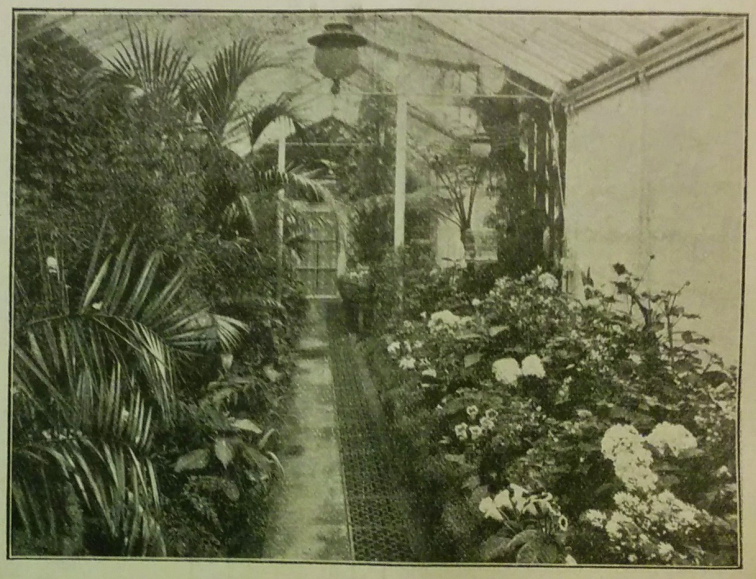
"What are your best Apples?" I asked, as we looked into the fruit house.

"Most of these were from young trees, and are fairly good, but the greater part of the Apple trees here are old and stunted. I think our six best varieties are King Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin (for dessert), and Warner's King, Dumelow's Seedling, Hawthornden, and Annie Elizabeth (for kitchen purposes). The latter will keep until the end of May.

"There is one point which should be emphasised," said Mr. Clark, parenthetically; "we are three weeks behind the southern counties, and it is impossible for us to get the start that gardeners in the South are able to make in the spring, or to make it up. We are rather low here, and the soil is very cold in early spring."

"Your Rose garden must be lovely in the summer."

"It was only made in 1899. Crimson Rambler predominates on the poles; Tea varieties are on one side, and Hybrid Perpetuals on the other. The varieties are chiefly old standard kinds, such as Ulrich Brunner, Mrs. John Laing, Mrs. R. G. Sharman Crawford, Marchioness of Downshire, Duke of Bedford, Madame Eugene Verdier, Paul Neron, Baroness Rothschild, Margaret Dickson, Marie Baumann, and Elsie Drew, amongst the Hybrid Perpetuals. The Teas include: Killarney, Caroline Testout, Maman Cochet, White Maman Cochet, Bessie Brown, Mildred Grant, Hon. Edith Gifford, and Frau Karl Druschki."



THE CONSERVATORY AT WISTOW HALL.

"I see that you have a fine specimen of Wellingtonia close to the Rose garden?"

"Yes, but Conifers are not a strong point, though some of the Beeches and Elms are considered very fine. Two old Mulberry trees not far from the summer-house bear excellent crops of fruit."

"What are the Roses growing on the summer-house?"

"Rosa Rampante, The Garland (very pretty for pillars), and Crimson Rambler. But the summer-house is covered chiefly with Clematis montana, intermingled with C. Jackmanni."

"You have archways of Roses along the pathway by the side of the lawn?"

"Yes, we make a feature of Roses, generally. Crimson Rambler and Aglaia are very useful for the arches; the latter does not like hard pruning. W. A. Richardson is planted on the trelliswork. Along this border are spring-flowering shrubs, the majority yellow and white, including Syringa, Spiræa, and Choisya ternata. Roses, though you cannot see them, because of the snow, are planted at the foot of an old Fir, and climb up into the branches. The variety is Rampante."

"Bedding is an important feature," I remarked

as Mr. Clark pointed out the fountain in the centre.

"Spring bedding, especially. The old design was Dutch style, a great number of small beds. I have done away with some of them, and introduced a bolder mass of colour in one bed. There are now fourteen."

"What plants are in the beds at the present moment?"

"Just before the busy Chrysanthemum season commenced, I planted them as follows: In the first, Narcissus maximus, Jonquil campernelle, and a groundwork of red Daisies; in the second, the only difference is a groundwork of blue Grape Hyacinths (Hyacinthus botryoides); the third bed consists of Narcissus Sir Watkin, and a groundwork of double white Arabis; the fourth, of Narcissus Emperor, and the same groundwork; the fifth, Cottage Maid Tulips, and a groundwork of deep yellow Polyanthus; the sixth, of Tulips Proserpine, and a groundwork of pale yellow Polyanthus; the seventh, of Tulip Belle Alliance, and a groundwork of blue Primroses; the eighth, of Tulips Duchess de Parma, and a groundwork of Phlox divaricata; the ninth and tenth, of Tulip Kaiserskroon, very bold and telling, and a groundwork of Forget-me-nots (Sutton's Royal Blue); the eleventh with Wallflowers, Blood-red; the twelfth, with Wallflowers, Sutton's Purple Queen; and the thirteenth and fourteenth with seedling Polyanthus."

"It would be interesting if you add the varieties chiefly used in these beds in summer."

"One of the best combinations in summer is that of pyramidal Heliotropes, with a groundwork of Sutton's Fairy Queen Begonia. Another equally effective consists of Fuchsias (Lye's Rival), and the little Marigold Legion of Honour; a third is Fuchsias (Lye's Own), and Sutton's scarlet Begonia. A principal feature of the summer bedding last season was Calceolaria amplexicaulis, with a groundwork of Salvia Horminum purpurea, and Cineraria maritima. We have lately made use of Pentstemons for massing purposes."

"Which are the most suitable varieties?"

"P. Agnes Lang (scarlet), and P. John Cowe (pink) are fine for bedding, very free and stand well, and P. George Holmes (scarlet, with a white throat) is a very large, bold flower, and grand for borders. Seen from the windows of the Hall, the Pentstemons look exceedingly showy."

"The handsome and unique conservatory is filled, of course, according to the flowers in season?"

"Yes. Just now Salvia splendens and Poinsettias are the prevailing feature. The former are in flower from September to the end of November."

"What is the name of the very old tree growing right up to the top of the roof?"

"Casuarina equisetifolia. It is a New Zealand fruit tree, and it is said to have been brought here during the reign of George III. The conservatory was built about the time it was planted, I believe."

"The scarlet Geranium covering the end wall of the structure is also very old, is it not?"

"Yes, and it is always in flower more or less. I think it has been here about fifteen years. It was grown in the pot which it still occupies. It is the variety John Gibbons. The Streptosolen Jamesonii, growing on the pillars, is a pretty plant when in flower. As you see, the conservatory, like the mansion, is lighted by electricity."

Returning to Mr. Clark's cottage, and noting on our way a number of grand old Yews and one splendid old Cedar, also the view from the front of the lake, I mentioned the subject of showing.

"When did you begin to exhibit Sweet Peas?"

"At the Bicentenary show in 1900. For twenty-four varieties we were first out of thirteen competitors."

"That was a good start."

"It was encouraging. But in 1901 and 1902 we did better, and were first for thirty-six varieties at the exhibition of the National Sweet Pea Society. In 1902 we were also first at Leicester, Birmingham, and Shrewsbury. In 1903 I secured the Challenge Trophy, value £20, at Ulverston, and first prize in the open class. Owing to Mrs. Clark's illness, I did not show in 1904."

"How many varieties of Sweet Peas do you grow?"

"About sixty-five. Here are twelve of the best:—Dorothy Eckford (white), Prince of Wales (rose), Duke of Westminster (purple), Black Knight (maroon), Lady Grisel Hamilton (lavender), Navy Blue (blue), King Edward the Seventh (crimson), Lovely (pink), Hon. Mrs. Kenyon (pale primrose), Duchess of Sutherland (flesh), Lottie Eckford (picotee edge), and Emily Eckford (pretty blue)."

"How do you grow them?"

"In continuous rows of clumps, the clumps being three feet apart, and the rows six feet. I give them plenty of room, and some of them grow nine feet high. The ground requires to be deeply trenched. I sow six or seven seeds in a pot, and reduce to five to form a clump."

"Not twenty or thirty?"

"No, that is a mistake. Sweet Peas can be grown by all gardeners in gardens of all sizes. Nothing grown in the open can give a better return, if a little trouble is taken."

"You have shown Chrysanthemums largely?"

"Yes, and with tolerable success, at Leicester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Melton Mowbray, Bradford, and Sheffield. I exhibited at Sheffield this season."

"Vegetables?"

"Yes. We have been fairly successful with them at Shrewsbury, Birmingham, and local shows. This year we were third in Sutton's special class, amongst nine competitors, and in 1903 second to Mr. Beckett. I do not expect to beat him."

"You were under Mr. Beckett at one time, I think?"

"Yes, I was at Aldenham House for three years, as long ago as 1887. After that I spent some time in Messrs. Veitch's nursery at Chelsea. Subsequently, I was under Mr. Gray and Mr. Sutton, at Chevening Park, Lord Stanhope's place; again at Messrs. Veitch's, who sent me to a place in Yorkshire, and previous to coming here, in 1898, I was foreman for six years in Hertfordshire. My present employers, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Firth, take a real interest in their gardens as well as in their gardeners. But for that kindly interest, the gardens here would not be what they are."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 127.—BULBS AFTER BLOOMING, AND FERNS FROM SEED-SPORES.

DEAR KATE,—The "turn of the days" has arrived, and oh! how welcome the increasing light is, although it is yet so little! Has it ever occurred to you that the "spring" (*i.e.*, the yearly resurrection of the green things of the earth) begins with January, and not, as we usually think of it, months later on? A little close inspection of our garden plants will soon prove this; the last bulbs are all awake, and pushing up green points on all sides; the blossom-buds on the fruit trees are formed; it is easy to see where the Japanese Quince (Cydonia japonica) on the house wall will produce its bright flowers; and the buds on the Laurels are almost bursting into bloom.

LYGODIUM JAPONICUM.

Nature takes her rest during the three last months in the year, when the sunshine is lessening day by day; but directly the days lengthen, she awakes, and starts again on her way to the summer—it may be with many a pause, while the cold keeps her back, but with quicker and more joyous steps as the season advances. Even during the autumn, Nature is not idle, though apparently resting, for the fruit crop of the new year is already formed in the bud, and the flowers we hope to see in our gardens are now in embryo, only waiting the return of the sunshine to appear in beauty. This is a cheering thought, and it has behind it a lesson for all gardeners, some of whom are apt to fancy that when a plant has flowered it can be set on one side and neglected with impunity, whilst all the time it is preparing its flowers for the next season, and no jugglery can produce them when the time comes, unless this process has been properly provided for many months beforehand.

Liliums are a case in point; some of them (notably, the Nilgiri Lily) take some months to ripen away their foliage after flowering, and their leaves are absolutely necessary to them during this time, for they cannot do much if deprived of their lungs. So that they (as well as Hyacinths, Tulips, Freesias, and all other bulbs) should have quite as much care and attention during this ripening stage as when the plant is in full growth, if blossoms are desired for the following season. They need plenty of sunshine to ripen their bulbs, with only enough water to prevent their foliage from drooping; they will then part with it very gradually, the tips of the leaves turning yellow first, until all is gone, after which time the bulbs will need but little water for about one month, and may then be repotted. Forced bulbs do very little good the following season, as a rule, but Hyacinths, Tulips and Narcissi may be put out into the borders after the worst of the winter is over, turning their roots out of the pot, without disturbing them, into a hole deep enough to cover the bulbs two inches deep. The place chosen for them should be sunny, with good soil, and, if left alone after this for two years, you will get more flowers. The spikes of bloom on the Hyacinths are small the first year or two, and should be cut as soon as they are open; the third year they will again produce fine spikes, quite as good, I find, as the bulbs one buys. You should never let your bulbs produce seed,

FAMOUS BRITISH :: GARDENS. ::

BROOK HOUSE, ARDINGLY, SUSSEX.

Interview with Mr. Harvey R. G. Clarke.

ON a bright day in mid-autumn, while the trees still retained some of their rich tints of gold and crimson and bronze, though leaves were falling with every breath of the wind, it was my privilege to be conducted through the picturesque grounds attached to Brook House, Ardingly, my guide being Mr. Harvey R. G. Clarke, who, on behalf of his mother, Mrs. Stephenson Clarke, has managed these gardens for the past twenty-six years, and under whose superintendence much of the planting has been done. Brook House is situated about a mile and a half from Horsted Keynes station, in the north-east corner of Sussex, and is on the site of an old farmhouse dating back to the time of Henry VII., though so many alterations have been carried out under various owners that only a small portion of the original building remains. It stands on a gentle rise, and is approached from the south-west by a long, curving drive, with a sloping bank on the right hand side, planted with choice flowering and berried shrubs, deciduous and evergreen, and these again backed by tall conifers; on the left the ground falls away slightly, and is thickly wooded. Streams on two sides of the grounds meander through the woods, and afford opportunities for the successful cultivation of moisture-loving plants, and these, together with those that thrive in shade, have under Mr. Clarke's fostering care been planted with a liberal hand. Delightful walks abound, and advantage has been taken of the undulations of the ground, the well-wooded character of the lower slopes, and the streams, to retain an effect altogether natural, while introducing many features of the cultivated garden.

"At the outset," said Mr. Clarke, "I must ask you to make allowances for any shortcomings, for we are under-staffed. Before the war we had eleven men, and of these we lost eight; now we have five men, two boys, and a girl."

Leading the way through a narrow path up the bank, we turned and came out towards the back of the house. Here is a charming sunk garden, the paths paved with broken flagstones, and with many beds of Roses.

A DRAWBACK TO ROSE CULTURE.

"This," said Mr. Clarke, "was formerly a bowling green, but seventeen years ago it was altered into a Rose garden. Each bed is planted with a separate variety, and they are mostly Hybrid Teas, with a few Hybrid Perpetuals. They have done better this year than they had for the previous three years."

"How do you account for that?"

"There used to be Violas under them as a groundwork, and in consequence the hoe could not be used, nor could we give manure. This year we did away with most of the Violas, leaving them only as an edging."

On the right of this garden is a low retaining wall, and in front of this a narrow border, while at the end of the path is a sundial, and steps lead up to the higher borders above.

"The wall is not without colour at this late season," I said.

"Yes," was the answer; "both it and the border are planted for colour effect and to give a long flowering season. They are chiefly herbaceous subjects in the border, and include some fine Irises. This part of the garden was made by Messrs. Wallace, of Colchester, and they will shortly be undertaking some alterations and additions."

Turning up the steps near the sundial, we walked back along another broken path to look at the border, where Antirrhinums in good-sized clumps of one colour, and masses of Salvia patens, were still in flourishing condition, and were well framed by the shrubs at the back. The border on the other side of the path, edging the sunk garden, is planted with Wallflowers and Polyanthuses for spring. Then, pursuing our walk in the direction in which we started, we emerged into a charming glade, where tall Beech tops met overhead, and underneath the ground is carpeted with the Lady Fern, many of them self-sown. Stone steps lead down to a pool of running water, where Ferns also fringe the banks.

"The trees here are rather crowded," said Mr. Clarke, "and will be all the better for thinning. But now you may like to see our cricket pitch, where, before the war, we used to have some good matches each season. Indeed, this was one way my mother had of being 'At home,' for she used to invite her neighbours and friends, and tea was served in the pavilion."

"You have not been able to keep the grass cut?"

"We have given a little attention to the actual pitch; but the rest of the field has had to go. It has been mown once for hay, and will now be eaten off by sheep. One drawback to letting it go is that coarse grasses obtain the mastery, and crowd out the finer ones. Here we have some old Cherry trees, which do not bear much fruit, but we keep them for sentimental reasons."

I noticed that round these trees, and close up to their stems, in the circles cut in the grass, Antirrhinums were growing vigorously, and flowering profusely, as though the conditions suited them.

Leaving the cricket field, we emerged on to a narrow lane that led us through a small wood towards the front of the house, and so brought us into the main drive. Here I had opportunity for observing the many beautiful shrubs, some, like the Barberries and Cotoneasters, ablaze with their bright berries; others, such as the Laurustinus, gay with blossom. Rhododendrons, some of them twenty feet high, and as much through; handsome Cedars, and a particularly fine specimen of Araucaria imbricata, were other noticeable features; while further down the drive, and nearer the lodge gates, we entered a dense grove of Rhododendrons.

"Some of these plants," said Mr. Clarke, indicating them as we went on, "have not bloomed so well since they were moved here from a more open part of the grounds. I was advised to move them, but they are now too much shaded."

"Do you prepare the soil especially for them?"

"No; it is just the natural soil, which is two-thirds clay, and of no great depth, with stone below—it varies from ten inches to two or three feet. Of course, in planting trees, we have to take out this stony subsoil, to allow of a depth of three feet."

BROOK HOUSE, ARDINGLY.

"What are the varieties of Rhododendrons?"

"There are many of the best hybrids; also the old ponticum and other species."

JAPANESE IRISES.

And now, crossing the drive, we entered the woods, passing down a winding walk, lined with Wichuraiana Roses on poles, and emerging at the bottom of the slope. The scene here is one to arouse the poet and the artist. At the foot, on the banks of the stream, are clumps of Japanese Irises, and it is easy to picture the beauty of this spot when they are in full bloom. Here and there a choice Bamboo rises up, to add diversity to the view, while over all the tall trees tower, their branches now almost bare, but in the time when the Irises are at their best affording a glorious canopy of green, through which the sun filters gently.

"What are the best varieties of Japanese Irises?" I inquired.

"There are so many here, and they are all so lovely, that it is rather difficult to choose. Some of them were planted here on their first introduction from Japan, and before they got into commerce; others have been added since.

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Tsuro-no-kegoromo is pure white with yellow blotches; Yezo-nishiki is crimson mottled with white; Iso-no-nami, sky-blue and grey, with yellow blotches. Then there is Morning Mists, with a mist-like shade of blue over white; and Mikado, which has a light shading of rose on a whitish ground. But these are only a few that I can recall offhand."

CHOICE BAMBOOS.

"And what is that splendid Bamboo on the bank?"

"That is Arundinaria spathiflora, a rather uncommon species. On the other side of the stream is another fine one, Bambusa Henonis. But the best Bamboo is the one we are now coming to, Bambusa fastuosa. This specimen is, I think, the finest in Sussex. In the first year of the war I was showing it to a visitor, who thought he had a taller one in his own garden; but after measuring both it was found that this one was thirty-three feet high, and taller than his."

"Bamboos seem to do exceptionally well here."

"The conditions are favourable to them. They are planted in moist soil, and near running water, and the trees give protection from the worst of the winds."

"Did you plan this part of the grounds yourself?"

"Yes; this is my own work, and it was planted under my own supervision. Of course, the trees were here—they are mostly Oak and Ash, and are, I expect, a survival from a corner of Ashdown Forest, which is not very far from here."

"Were the conifers here?"

"No; they have been planted in late years. They serve to show the importance of preparing the site by deep digging, for where the soil was taken out to a depth of three feet they are doing well, but in places where it is much shallower they are not so successful."

HARDY PRIMULAS.

Farther on, the stream crossed the path and broadened out, and the Japanese Irises gave place to Primulas in a bewildering assortment of species. One bed has denticulata alba, Cashmeriana, pulverulenta, and Poissoni, with their roots almost in the water. Most of the beds were surrounded by wire netting, and Mr. Clarke explained:

"We are obliged to protect the plants thus, as we are plagued with rabbits, which devour everything. You will notice that all the plants here are such as love moisture. Here is a clump of Spiræa aruncus, and there one of Spiræa palmata. Thalictrum dipterocarpum is a little further on, just below the waterfall."

"This must be a lovely place in spring."

"It is certainly at its best in the spring months. In March and April the ground is carpeted with Primroses, Anemones, and other spring flowers, and later on we have the Primulas and the rest. The wood is really at its best in May and June. On the other side of the bank is a large clump of Primula Mrs. R. V. Berkeley, which has done very well. Some of the Primulas seed themselves, and make little colonies, although they do not do so in every case."

PLANTS FOR MOISTURE.

"What other plants do you find are suited by these moist conditions?"

"Gunnera scabra is very fine, and its leaves, as you see, are quite four feet across. Senecio veitchianus has done exceptionally well, and reaches a good height, and Senecio clivorum is another that is very satisfactory. Both have yellow flowers, and strikingly handsome foliage. Rheum palmatum rubrum delights in moisture, and its leaves are decidedly ornamental."

"And what of the failures?"

"Well, Sarracenias have not thriven here. I had S. flava and S. purpurea, but though they flowered the first season they are slowly dwindling. I tried Gentiana asclepiadea, which lasted only two or three years, and gradually died away. But one thing that flourishes almost like a weed is the Royal Fern, Osmunda regalis; the smaller kinds have increased enormously."

The path followed the meanderings of the stream, which has been dammed in two places to make ponds; and on the side farthest from the water I noticed liberal plantings of many shade-loving subjects, all of which, I was informed, give no trouble after they are once fairly established. Dodecatheon Media—one of the American Cowslips; Trilliums of sorts, Day Lilies (Hemerocallis Golden Ball), and Muscari conicum were among the groups that were indicated to me. Ferns of many species were there in plenty, and numerous other interesting plants were seen as we worked our way round the wood, and came once more into the open.

And now fresh beauties were revealed, as we passed through a little dell thickly planted with Rhododendrons.

"These," said Mr. Clarke, in reply to my question, "are Himalayan hybrids. They flower early, but the sap does not rise too soon, so they do not suffer much, and we lost only a couple following a very severe frost in April."

We had started from the south-east side of the house, and had roughly described a half-circle, so that we now approached it from the north-west, and were on rising ground. Here, passing a large bed of Azalea mollis, with Heaths still in bloom, we came to a fairly large pond, with slight rock elevations on its margins, where Saxifragas of many kinds are growing. Around the pond are many noble trees, concerning which Mr. Clarke said:

"When making the two ponds from the stream, the roots of this large Oak were damaged, so that it is gradually going off, and the growth is becoming thinner. As a consequence, it affords less shade, and therefore the Ferns on the banks suffer, and are not so good as they used to be."

Among the trees worthy of special mention in this spot is a Crimean Lime, whose large leaves, now turned a rich golden-yellow, furnished a glowing touch of colour; and a magnificent specimen of the Japanese Larch, closely feathered to the ground, and said to be the finest in the county.

Beds of Irises, mostly of the pallida and germanica sections, next came into view, among the best varieties being Isola, Trojana, Helge, Amas, Shelford Yellow, Thorbeck, and flavescens. These are associated with Lupins, both herbaceous and tree varieties being well represented

THE CRUSADE AGAINST BIRDS.

As we once more passed into the woods—which almost encircle the house—I commented on the profusion of berries on the trees.

"There certainly is a good show this season," said my guide, "and this I think is due in part to the absence of birds. Children were paid to collect the eggs of sparrows, but I fear that in too many cases sparrows' were the only birds' eggs they did not get, and instead a number of our feathered friends were destroyed. The thrush has been disappearing from this neighbourhood for the last few years."

"What is the reason for that?"

"I hardly know; but I am told that many people eat them, as the peasants do in France. The thrush may be good eating, but I think we would rather hear the music of its song."

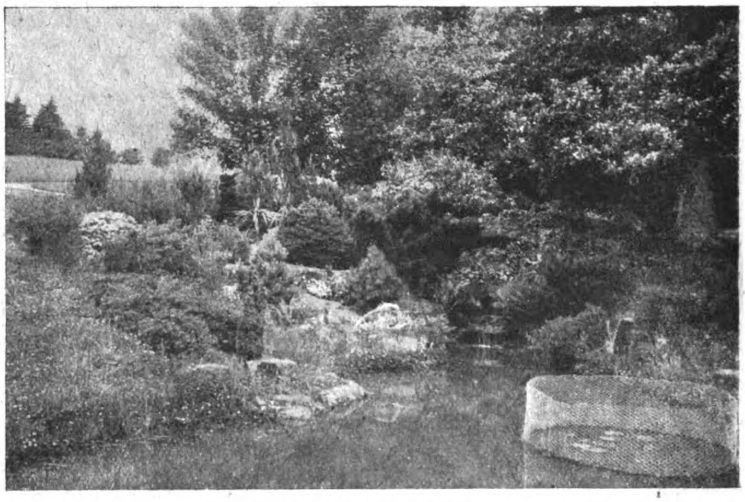
BEAUTIFUL FERNS.

It is in this part of the grounds that Ferns are to be seen in their most luxuriant state. Lomaria metallanica, a choice species from Mexico; Polypodiums in species innumerable; Adiantum pedatum, with fronds about a foot and a half long; the Tunbridge Wells Fern, under a bell-glass on the north side of a large tree; and many another gem—all are naturalised here. But the king of all is Osmunda regalis, whose spreading fronds were now assuming a fine golden colour. This was on the sides of the pond, and among the rocks standing out of the water.

"Many of these Royal Ferns are self-sown," said Mr. Clarke; "and some of them grow to eight feet high. They spring up in various places, even on the stones, and when the little earth that is there gets washed away, they die off. Rhododendron ponticum has also sown itself by the waterside, and is now a flourishing little colony; and another plant that has done the same is Hypericum."

Time would not permit of my taking more than a hurried glance at the autumn Crocuses in full bloom on the grass; the groups of Pernettya mucronata, planted on shallow soil at the waterside, carrying immense quantities of their pretty berries; the Pampas Grass with its stately tassels; the ancient and rugged Yews on the lawn—the pride of their owner; and the Japanese Quince, Cydonia japonica, with its yellow fruit, which in former years has been in request for making jelly, but now, owing to the scarcity of sugar, is unusable.

Quite close to the house stands an arbour, with Roses trained to cover it, and dwarf Poly-



ONE OF THE PONDS IN THE GROUNDS AT BROOK HOUSE, ARDINGLY.

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anthas of the Orleans and Jessie type in the border surrounding it. More Roses are seen in the broad border running along the outside of the kitchen garden, these being mostly Hybrid Perpetuals, grown for cutting.

The kitchen garden is laid out regularly in sections, with neat tile edgings, and all the paths are asphalted. Roses border each path, Teas predominating; and on one side is a broad bed of Daffodils, to supply cut flowers in spring. Asked what varieties he preferred, Mr. Clarke said:

"King Alfred is, I think, by far the best. It is a nice, deep yellow, and has size and substance. Weardale Perfection is another choice flower; Madame de Graaff is liked as a white trumpet variety; and Duchess of Westminster is good in the Leedsii section."

FAVOURITE CARNATIONS.

Save for the Vinery and Peach house, there is not much glass, but one large house revealed its owner's favourite flower—the Perpetual-flowering Carnation. In this house there were somewhere about seven hundred and fifty plants in pots, and many of them were in bloom, while all were full of promise.

"I think we have all the best varieties here," Mr. Clarke replied to my question. "Among them are Enchantress Supreme, Bishton Wonder, Mikado, R. F. Felton, Mary Allwood, Scarlet Carola, Benora, Circe, Philadelphia, Wivelsfield White, Champion, White Enchantress, Baroness de Brienen, Rosette, Nikko, and Eastern Maid. I get a big batch every season from Allwood's, of Haywards Heath, and there is another lot coming about Christmas. Then some of the oldest of these will be put outside, standing on a hard bottom, but with a glass screen over them to keep off the rain and snow, which is not good for them. They will then bloom in pots out of doors next season."

Had I more space I might mention many other interesting features, such as the extensive borders of shrubs facing the tennis and croquet courts; the rockery plants on mounds placed in advantageous spots; and the orchard, but sufficient has been written to indicate that the grounds of Brook House possess charms altogether out of the common.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next Week: The Gardens of Col. A. S. Barham, at Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent. Interview with Mr. C. J. Cradwick.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

DEAR KATE,—At last, thank Heaven, peace is in sight, and we are no longer adjured to grow Cabbages in our window boxes and Potatoes on our lawns.

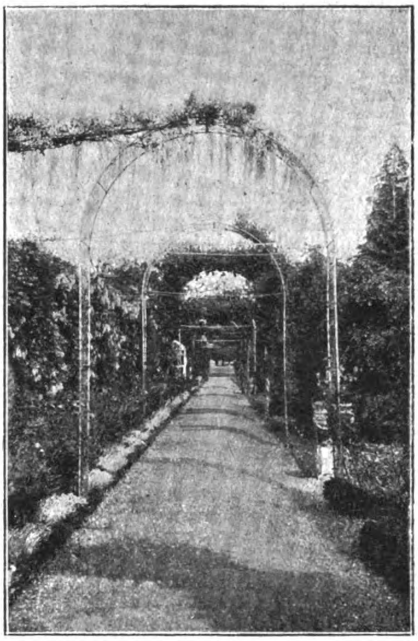
Of all the many lessons which the war has taught us, perhaps there are few that were more needed than that of the great value of the open air. Thousands of weakly city-dwellers have been transformed into sturdy and fine fellows; the girls on the land, on the motor, and in the gardens, have grown robust and extraordinarily efficient, and it has at last dawned upon us that "the doctor that comes in at the window," and awaits us in the garden, is not only the cheapest, but the best of all. I prophesy that before long our children will no longer be shut up in schoolrooms, but taught in the open-air school; and our nurseries will be in the garden, not in the house.

Reconstruction is in the air, and I think that we women might well take the word "Purity" as our watchword, and use our votes to grand effect for our country, our homes, and our children, by advocating pure air, pure politics, pure homes—and, in fact, purity everywhere.

PLANNING A NEW GARDEN.

Let us spend the next few weeks in planning a new garden, where all the members of the family may spend at least a part of their time in the open air, instead of being shut up from morning to night, between four walls, in poisonous atmosphere. I want to show you what might be done to create a little Paradise out of a small town garden. Occasionally one meets with such, but the dismal sight of foul backyards, with nothing but rubbish in them, is too common when one looks over a stretch of back gardens in a city. Some of these have, however, grown a few Potatoes this year, and the soil in those will be all right if lime is added to it, and it is well dug. Now is the time to purify the soil, and fill it with nitrates and other fine properties of which the air and the snow, as well as the rain, are full, by rough digging it, and laying it up in ridges, when our valuable under-gardeners, the birds, will rid it of thousands of grubs and wireworms, and it will be sweetened by Nature.

Heavy clay soil needs more digging than



AN ARCHED WALK IN A MIDLAND GARDEN.

light soil in the autumn, and you will do well to add all the burnt garden rubbish, leaves, and lime you can get. In the spring you can use the soot from your chimneys as a top-dressing, and the manure from your fowl-house, which should be mixed with six times its bulk in dry soil, and sprinkled with lime as you store it in a box under a shed until it is needed.

THE QUESTION OF PATHS.

With regard to planning your back garden, I think that too much room is often given to paths. You do not need one on each side, but one down the middle is apt to spoil the effect of the whole, so I should place it on one side, after it has crossed the top of the garden, from the garden door. It is best to have gravel, or a raised path made of sifted ashes, near the house and down to the children's playground, to keep their feet dry.

I think you will like a little plot of grass in front of your windows, with a few well-chosen flowering shrubs, and a pink May tree (the best of all shady places in hot weather) to shut out the shed, etc., below. Where there is room you might keep rabbits or fowls at the bottom of the garden; and the children must have gardens, with perhaps a low swing, and a lot of sea sand under the shed, where the tinies may dig and play with their little spades.

A REST HOUSE.

In the corner near the house you must have a shelter of some kind, with a dry, raised floor, and protection from the rain. Here you can bring your work or your book at all odd moments, and drink in the fresh air which you need. Have the shelter large enough to take in a six-foot lounge and at least two wicker chairs and a little table, all of which you can cover with either white or green paint. It is easy to bring out more folding chairs if needed—and you will probably need them, for everyone prefers tea in the garden in summer, and your husband will certainly like to rest and smoke there, after (I hope) doing his part to keep everything in the garden in good order.

Over the garden door, and on the house walls, you can grow Roses and other creepers. My last two letters (of October 19th and November 9th) will give you plenty of choice of climbers and shrubs, according to the aspect of the house. Be sure to have a Lady Waterlow Rose, for it is one of the loveliest and earliest to bloom.

PLANTS FOR ARCHES.

Over the path you can have arches (as many as convenient) to grow some of the best of the Wichuraiana Roses, which do not do well on walls, but enjoy the full air of an arch. You will find particulars of them in GARDEN LIFE of October 19th, and you might plant them now, adding a two-feet Clematis to each arch, to grow with the Rose, for these like shade for their stems. If you choose the large-flowered Clematises, do not put them in until April, for they are rather tender.

The herbaceous border between the gravel and the grass can be planted with the hardy things directly the soil is ready, and you can add others in March. Be sure to put in some tall plants, such as Hollyhocks, blue Delphiniums, and white Foxgloves, in groups at the back, leaving space for Carnations, Pinks, Sweet Williams, Snapdragons, and dwarf Roses in front.

On the narrow border opposite the door you might grow your Gooseberries and Currants; or put in a Pear tree or two, cordon Apples, or Cherries, if the wall is high enough for them.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

In the kitchen garden behind the lawn shrubs you can grow your herbs (Parsley, Mint, Sage, Thyme, etc.), and also some salads (Lettuce, etc.), for these are so much better when cut fresh, and not "shop-handled." If you have room, you might now prepare a bed for Onions, to be sown in February, for these are always useful; and the other vegetables which you might grow are only limited by the space available. I do not advise you to grow Potatoes, because they are sure to be cheap; and very likely other things, such as Carrots, Parsnips, Beans, and Peas, will keep up their price for some time.

"But, dear me," you will say, "all this will cost money!" Certainly it will, at the start, but you will get a rich interest on what you lay out in health and strength for all, as well as in the charming flowers you will grow, and the fresh fruit, salads, etc., which your family will greatly enjoy.

Doctors' bills will shrink, if not totally disappear, and you will even find that tempers become sweeter in the open air. You will, of course, keep your windows open, especially at night, when a few inches at the top will be best. Those who live in pure air cannot stand stuffiness, and the boys who will now come back from the war will have quite different ideas about the fresh air from those of four years ago, for they will have proved its immense value for health and strength. I wonder whether you will take my advice, and carry it out?—Your friend,

I. L. R.

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leguminous plants, bulb-like nodules are formed on the roots by the agency of a certain kind of bacteria, and, in consequence of this formation, such plants possess the remarkable power of utilising the free nitrogen in the atmosphere. For some reason or other these nodules are unusually large this year—at any rate, in this garden. On the roots of some young Tree-Lupins, which I recently transplanted, they were almost as large

Mr. J. H. Clements.

as the excrescences on Cabbages affected by finger-and-toe disease. Still, in spite of a recent theory that all bulbs have been developed in some such way, these bacterial nodules hardly meet Mr. Tobin's case. So far as I am aware, there has never been an instance of their either prolonging life beyond its natural period, or growing independently. And, certainly, they don't cause any difference in the foliage.

August 7th.—There were some useful hints in a paper on "Rose-growing near Large Towns," read before the Horticultural Club, by Mr. H. E. Molyneux. He insisted on the careful preparation of the soil—if possible, six months before planting—its adequate drainage if it happens to be clay, and the necessity of ramming it hard, though the surface should be loose. Dipping the roots into tepid water immediately before planting was recommended. The juncture should not be more than an inch below the ground, but, "I believe," he says, "in earthing up dwarfs for winter protection." The roots of dwarfs should be planted rather deeper than those of standards. Frequent spraying is necessary to remove deposits of dust and soot, and at intervals the water should be mixed with an insecticide. Finally, "fifteen minutes with the hoe is better than half an hour's watering—that is, such watering as a suburban gardener gives—the damping of the surface with water often direct from the main, hard and cold." This point is often overlooked, yet it is of the greatest importance. If anyone will go out into his garden in the summer, loosen the soil with the fork and then plunge his hands deep into it, he will find it quite hot; if he will then place them in water direct from the main it will feel almost unbearably cold. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the injurious effect of subjecting the roots of any plants to such extreme changes of temperature.

August 8th.—Among trees which should be, if not excluded from the garden, at least grown by themselves, I should certainly include the Plum. It is so liable to the attack of aphis that, unless it is frequently sprayed, it becomes a hideous sight and the sticky deposit drips from the tree and utterly ruins everything below. For that reason nothing should be grown under it, except spring-flowering bulbs, Primroses, Polyanthuses and other plants which die down in summer. I have, unfortunately, a number of Lilies under a Plum and they look deplorable. It is an old tree, a poor sort, and quite worthless, and there are others no better in the garden. I mean to have them all up, and to plant instead Victorias, which, for some reason or other, usually remain cleaner than any other variety. Among other trees usually infested by aphides are the Sycamore and the Spruce. The latter has its own special aphis—the Sprucegall Aphis—which, by puncturing the buds, causes them to swell until they resemble little Pineapples. This, indeed, is one of the instances brought forward by those who maintain that tuberisation is primarily due to insects.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 97.—Mr. J. H. Clements, at The Pleasaunce Gardens, Overstrand.

Nothing could have been greater than the contrast between the weather on the night of my arrival at Overstrand and that on the following morning. As the train from Liverpool Street, punctual to the minute, glided into Cromer station, the sun was shining brilliantly, and invested the charming country with every possible attraction. It is one of the features of the group of popular watering-places on this part of the Norfolk coast that, in addition to the bold cliffs and the magnificent air, the inland scenery is a constant source of delight; and it looks, of course, its best in fine weather. But the sun, which set in radiant splendour in the evening, could not be seen next morning. Nevertheless, though rain fell persistently and heavily, the visit which, by the courtesy of Lord Battersea, I paid to the gardens at The Pleasaunce, was very enjoyable, and I was quite able to realise the exceptionally beautiful appearance they present under favourable climatic conditions. But I was not prepared to hear from Mr. Clements, at the close of my inspection, that The Pleasaunce and its surroundings, on the edge of the cliffs, were not in existence fourteen years ago. Trees and shrubs—in fact, nearly all the features of the demesne—as well as the house itself, suggest a much greater age. However, Mr. Clements, at my request, proceeded to tell me the story of the wonderful marine gardens.

"In 1890," he said, "there were two ordinary, semi-detached villas on the site of the present house, with just a little grass in front, and stabling attached. Lord Battersea, in the autumn of that year purchased, along with the villas, half an acre of land. This was the start. In the following year he took up about ten acres, and converted the two villas into one. Then, gradually moving on, acquiring five acres or more each year, he added to the property, until now, with a small portion of land outside the gardens, it extends to upwards of sixty acres."

"When was the original house done away with?"

"In 1893 it was converted into the present mansion, which, as you see, is of the Old English style of architecture. At the same time, or early in 1894, the clock tower and the cloisters were built."

"And the garden cloisters, with seats, in the west front?"

"They were not commenced until 1901, and are not yet completed."

"Were you here at the outset?"

"Yes; but the first portion of the gardens was designed by the late Mr. C. H. Hawkes, the well-known landscape gardener, the idea of the whole being that of Lord Battersea himself. Mr. Hawkes was responsible for dealing with the first ten acres, and since then I have carried out Lord Battersea's instructions. The object aimed at throughout has been to make the gardens decorative and unique. The grass glades, and the stone paths, which tend to give an appearance of antiquity, are features. Lord Battersea has always taken the keenest interest in the details, and he also knows a great deal about the plants."

The Pleasaunce, Overstrand, Cromer.

"One of the most striking features seems to me to be the number of pergolas."

"Yes; there are four Oak-timbered pergolas, varying from twenty to eighty yards each in length, covered with creepers, particularly hardy Vines, Roses, and Wistarias, paths of old London paving underneath, the edges being broken by the common Thrift and the common garden Pink. There is also the brick pergola, one hundred and twenty yards in length, with grass glades on each side, covered with various creepers."

"It looks longer than one hundred and twenty yards?"

"That is owing to the perspective, which diminishes from twelve to eight feet. The brick pergola was only put up this year, and finished in time for planting in March. Then, there is the covered way of Laburnums, about thirty yards long. The Laburnums are placed four feet apart in the row, and stand over a gravel path six feet wide. They were trained over by a single wire in their young state, and now form quite sturdy trees, looking as if they had been planted a great many years ago."

"Quite so; and, as a matter of fact, when were they planted?"

"Only five years since. This walk is edged with rock flints from the sea-shore, and is planted between with strong-growing Alpines, such as Aubrietias, Arabis, Saxifraga, Iceland Poppies, and Cerastiums, which afford a charming variety of colour when the Laburnums are in bloom. On each side of the way, in June, we have a border of mixed Japanese Pæonies, which look very handsome."

"Why did you have a subway constructed in the garden?"

"Owing to the property being divided above by a road. The approaches to the subway are of fine Oak timber, and the roofs are thatched with Reeds from the Norfolk Broads, which grow in abundance in the district. The pavilions on the terrace and cricket ground are thatched in the same manner, and are fine examples of rustic buildings."

"You have two terraces, I notice?"

"Yes; from the north terrace there is a grand sea view. The garden cloisters adjoin the west terrace. They are constructed of concrete piers, placed about ten feet apart, with arches, the plain skeleton roof being of red tile. When these cloisters are broken up with the creepers which have been planted, they will present a very picturesque sight. The floor, like the floors of the terraces, is paved with London paving-stone; also the forecourt and square, in the centre of which a fountain basin, eighteen inches deep and sixteen feet square, has been made. The bottom of the fountain is paved with Mosaics, and the sides are tiled with beautiful Spanish tiles, the coping all round being of very old York stone."

"We passed through one of the Oak pergolas, I think, to the smaller Rose garden, with its beds of irregular size, and most striking arrangement of climbing Roses. How is the latter managed?"

"Oak timbers of different heights are connected in various twisted methods by chains, which for weeks are covered with masses of Crimson Ramblers and other hardy climbing Roses, including the old Dundee Rambler and Bouquet d'Or."

"What is the feature of the south garden, which we approached, through grassy glades, with herbaceous borders on either side, by a flight of steps?"

"It is more or less summer-bedding, the large bed in the centre being mixed herbaceous plants of the boldest type, including Helianthus, Asters of various types, Tritoma, the Day Lilies, and all that class. The large bed, sixteen feet in diameter, just outside the south garden, is filled with the Lady Battersea Rose, now at its perfection."

"How did you make your rockery?"

"It consists of a bank of Derbyshire tufa and spar, broken up with beds of the Norfolk car stone, in stratas. These are planted with the hardy forms of Alpines, and with plants, some of the most beautiful being Saxifraga, Sedums, Veronicas, Lophospermums, Arnebias, and Gentianas verna and acaulis. On each side of the rockery are masses of Tea Roses, planted in irregular borders, which are backed by other Roses, climbing upon Oak posts. These again are backed by some fine specimens of Yew trees. Here, as elsewhere in the gardens, formality has been carefully avoided."

"Yew trees are a remarkable feature of that part of the gardens which you described as the newest?"

"You mean the part approached from under the subway, by way of the longest of the straight paths, and through the kitchen garden. This addition only dates two years back. Here the system of transplanting trees has been very successfully carried out. The Yews, some of which are upwards of twelve feet in height and fifteen feet in diameter, were removed from the older portions. The idea is to make the whole of the gardens to appear of the same age. The first Yews were brought from Buckinghamshire about ten years ago. They grew so rapidly that it really became necessary, in any event, to move them."

"This part of the gardens," continued Mr. Clements, "is quite unlike other parts, and is more of the type of a Tudor garden, owing to its crosses and grass squares. The crosses are formed of gravel paths, lined each side with Lime trees, and round about are the choicest flowering trees and shrubs, which, in the spring, constitute a feature. The grass squares are bordered by herbaceous plants, backed up by huge masses of Delphiniums, of which we have had a fine show this year. We had about a thousand seedlings, and selected all the best. There are at least a hundred plants in one bed. A portion of the new addition is devoted to fruit and vegetables, and this is bordered by all the German varieties of Iris, while through the centre of the piece of kitchen garden a covered way of Pear trees has just been planted."

"The principal kitchen garden is notable for its pergola, is it not?"

"Yes; the first of the pergolas was put up in the kitchen garden, and the climbers (of which the principal is the Purple Vine) screen the vegetables from the eye. There is also a covered way of Apples, running as a cross section to the pergola, about forty yards long. This is constructed of iron arches, and the following Apples are grown in it:—Beauty of Bath, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, and Lane's Prince Albert."

"What do you force in the pits close by?"

"Melons and Cucumbers; and, in the winter months, a little bedding stuff. These two pits are all the glass we have, and also all we need. Practically, bedding stuff is not required, for the whole of the gardens are planted, more or less, with hardy plants. The pits join the fruit garden, which has recently been walled in."

"How long has it been planted?"

"Seven years. The espalier Apple and Pear trees, of which there are quantities, are broken by standards planted between. The walls were planted this spring with Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, and Cherries. You may have observed that the construction of the fruit garden walls is in keeping with the remainder of the gardens, the house, and the cloisters. It is simple concrete, with a tiled coping, which projects over, so as to form an eave of about six inches. The face of the wall is just sufficiently plastered to give a smooth appearance on the concrete. The process we adopted is a very inexpensive way of erecting walls, as any rough material can be utilised for the purpose, and yet the appearance, when the walls are completed, is very solid."

"You have not mentioned the broad green glade, planted on either side by very large Yews, with Rhododendrons interspersed?"

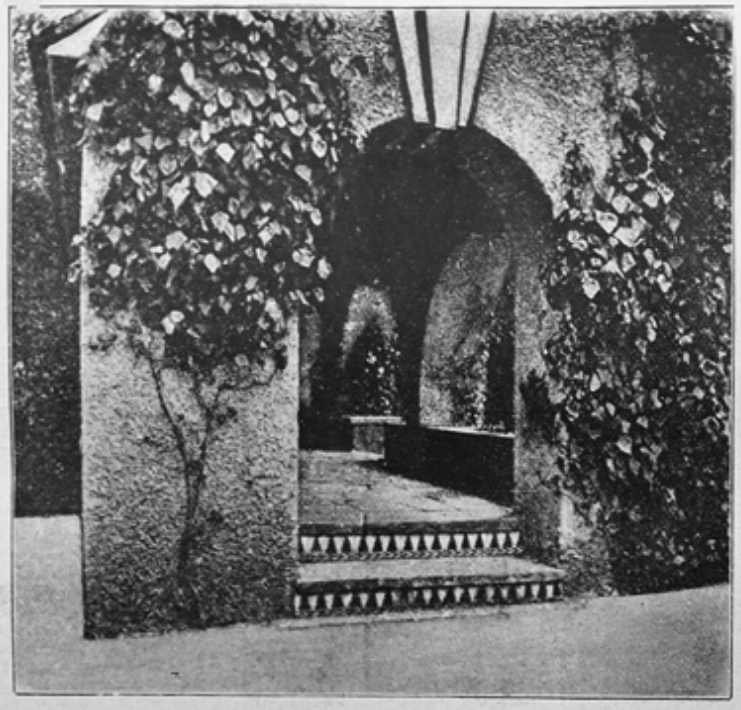
"That is the glade which leads to the newly-erected brick pergola, adjoining which is an old Oak arch, covered with Ivy and Crimson Rambler Roses. Beyond is another glade, edged on each side by Golden Yews."

"Of which it might be said that their colour is gorgeous?"

"They are considered very effective. We planted them about two years ago. In the same direction is the cricket field, of three acres, which is regarded as a part of the gardens."

"Does Lord Battersea have the ground kept in order, then?"

"Yes; and he lends it to the village club. Several matches are played during the season. There is an entrance from the road. Speaking of entrances, there are several to the gardens,



THE CLOISTERS, AT THE PLEASAUNCE.

some of which have massive iron gates, with brick and stone pillars."

"I conclude, from what I have seen and heard, that the soil is particularly good?"

"It is really splendid, and it suits Roses especially. By the way, I should mention that, looking seaward from the house, is an unbroken line of the Sea Bush Thorn, which, in the autumn, is one mass of berries. When the sun shines, the Thorns appear to be on fire."

"Are you a Norfolk man, Mr. Clements?"

"Yes; I was born at North Repps, and all my gardening experience, extending over twenty-three years, has been on the coast. Before I came here I was with Sir Samuel Hoare, at Cliff House, Cromer. The gardens are similar, but smaller, and there is more glass. I have made quite a study of landscape gardening on the coast."

"As the result of your study, do you mind giving me a few hints for the assistance of the uninformed?"

"The first thing to do is to take a rough bit of ground, and see what can be made of it. The difficulty which at once arises is how to obtain protection and shelter against the destructive gales from the sea. We find that the salt spray does more harm than any amount of frost to the foliage. In fact, we do not dread frosts—which are four or five degrees less than they are inland—nearly so much as gales."

"I suppose you have a considerable staff?"

"Fourteen men and boys. We have turned out several good men. One has laid out a garden for Mr. Gerald Balfour, at Woking. There is a bothy for seven men, and the quarters are very comfortable. Lord Battersea opens the gardens to visitors during the season here. They are generally admired, and I think that the name of the Pleasaunce, which was given to the house when it was rebuilt, is really appropriate. The Queen has been to see the 'Garden of Pleasure.'"

Alfred Wilcox.

MY SUBURBAN GARDEN.

HOW IT HAS BEEN MADE BEAUTIFUL.

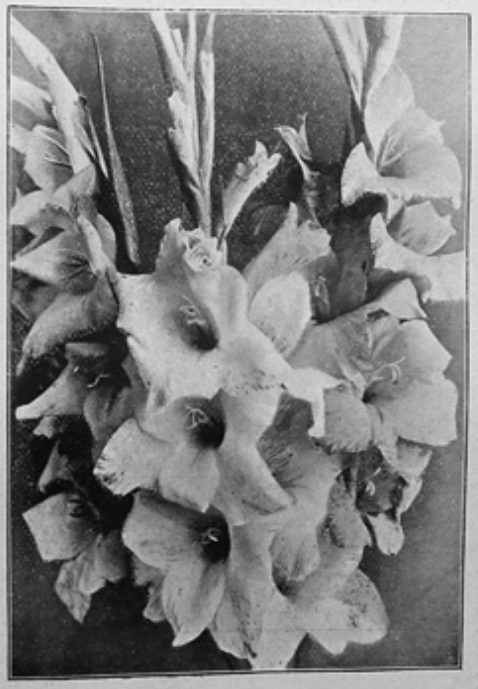
(Continued from page 324.)

I DO not think I ever remember seeing the growth of outdoor plants, generally, so luxuriant at this season of the year as at the present time. This is, of course, owing to the frequent heavy rains, with warm intervals, but while, as a general rule, we experience hot and dry weather, accompanied by little if any progress in plants of most kinds (unless abundantly watered), in either July or August, this season one has only to plant out in the open ground the smallest of plants, or rooted cuttings, to find them, in the course of about a fortnight, quite respectable specimens, and in a month or so really big bushes!

Most fortunately, the Bank holiday was fine—gloriously fine, indeed—although the morning was lowering. It had rained, more or less, for some days previously, and nearly all the Sunday night it poured—gently, but steadily—but early in the forenoon it cleared up, and for once we enjoyed a rainless and almost perfect day. The morning was spent in potting and pricking off some plants that needed attention, and in the afternoon we went for a quiet ramble along some of the charming Kentish roads within easy reach, and found the gardens full to overflowing with growth and blossom—rather more of the former than the latter, to tell the truth—and such a wealth of rich and luxuriant tree-foliage in all the countryside as I have seldom seen before at this season of the year; to judge by the general appearance it might well have been June instead of August.

A very pretty and decidedly uncommon cool greenhouse plant now in bloom is Celsia arcturus. It is of the Mullein tribe, with arching spikes of rather large, flat blossoms of a soft yellow colour, with curious purple centres. The foliage is something like that of a Calceolaria, and the plant requires very similar treatment. It flowers freely with me during the summer months, though not in the winter or early spring, and emits a faint but delicate vanilla-like perfume, especially on fine mornings. I had a pinch of seed given me two years ago, and find that it produces seed freely, and that this grows with great certainty if kept cool and moist, plants raised early in the season flowering towards the end of the summer, while those from seed sown in July or August, and kept just moving through the winter, bloom beautifully all through the following season. It is, unfortunately, rather liable to the attacks of aphides, and to do well the plants must be kept clean, while a light shade from hot sun is also desirable. I find it also does remarkably well planted out in good soil and a lightly-shaded situation, especially in a season like this, when the soil seldom becomes really dry.

This pretty plant is frequently, if not generally,



Gladiolus Kelwayi.

known as C. cretica, and it was under the latter name that I received it, but the true C. cretica is a nearly hardy herbaceous plant, producing erect spikes of bloom, five to six feet in height. It is a biennial, with yellow blossoms somewhat, but not entirely, similar to those of C. arcturus, and also sweetly, if faintly, scented. Somehow it does not seem to thrive here—why I cannot say—frequently dying off in the winter, and never attaining the vigour and beauty of plants I have seen in a mild district further North. I fancy there may be too much lime in the soil, or water, to suit it, for when the plants get nothing but rain-water they seem to improve, to some extent.

By the way, this reminds me that I have discovered—or fancy that I have done so—that the shrubby Veronicas do not like lime either, and thrive much better without it; I wonder whether in their native home—New Zealand—they grow in a calcareous or non-calcareous soil—the latter I imagine. Salt and the salt sea breezes they revel in, undoubtedly, but I find that whether grown in pots, in tubs, or the open ground they succeed much better when receiving only soft or rain-water, instead of the hard London water from the mains. Some of these plants are very beautiful, and they are so valuable for autumn and winter flowering, both under glass and in sheltered positions in the open, that they are worth a little consideration and extra care.

The herbaceous Veronicas are quite a different class, and are even more easily cultivated than the others—certainly, near London, and in most other inland districts. They are some of the best of all hardy herbaceous plants for town or suburban gardens, a few of the best being V. spicata, with spikes of soft blue flowers, about eighteen inches high; V. s. alba, white, rather more dwarf; V. incana elatior, growing one and a-half feet high with violet blossoms; and S. tenerium, deep blue, two feet high—all these are of erect habit. Good dwarf or trailing kinds are V. prostrata, of an intense blue colour; V. pectinata rosea, rose-coloured; V. saxatilis, blue; V. repens, early-flowering, very free and fine, with nice, close foliage; and V. rupestris, clear cobalt blue, and extremely free and fine. Most of these last succeed well on rockwork.

The work of disbudding the Chrysanthemums now occupies a good deal of time, though, as the plants require comparatively little watering, one is given a freer hand for matters of this kind. The buds—all crowns, of course—are appearing thick and fast now, and I go over the whole on every fine morning, rubbing, pinching, or picking out by degrees the embryo growths that invariably appear just below these "crown" buds. I never disbud a plant all at once, for fear of imparting too great a check to the growth; but pick or pinch out part of the young growth-buds one day and remove the rest three or four days later. This, of course, is only done where fine flowers of something like exhibition quality are desired—the ordinary decorative or "bush" plants are much more lightly thinned, removing only some of the lower buds that would never come to much, and with good culture we often get four or five nice flowers on a single shoot. A number of strong cuttings inserted last month in a frame are now rooted, I see, and in the course of a day or two will be removed to a shelf in the greenhouse. Three cuttings were inserted, equidistantly, round the sides of several 3-in. pots, and when thoroughly established these will be moved bodily into 6-in. sizes, still keeping them on the shelf, with plenty of air. These will probably bloom when about eighteen inches high—though a little later than the old, large plants—and will come in very useful for the front of groups of these and other plants in the autumn, as well as for sitting-room decoration, etc.

My Bouvardias for winter-flowering are looking capitally, and I have never had them so fine before. There is no doubt that when a plant of any kind attracts one, and induces its owner to bestow a little extra care and attention on it, its individual peculiarities are soon fathomed—little by little its nature and requirements become understood, and under ordinarily favourable conditions success is almost certain. The Bouvardias have struck my fancy, and by means of a little observation I am succeeding better and better with them every year, and this autumn I hope to have quite a fine display of blossoms from some time in October till Christmas or later. The plants seem to enjoy the moist, growing atmosphere (although they are all under glass), and as on all bright days I syringe them freely overhead, once or twice at least, the foliage is beautifully clean and healthy. One half of the stock has been pinched back for the last time—these will flower rather early—while the shoots of the other half will be stopped once more, towards the end of the month, or as soon as the shoots have made three or four pairs of leaves again; these will follow the others, and should flower up to Christmas, at least. Some of the older plants are pushing up some very strong shoots from the base, which I take to be an indication of vigour. If these outgrow the

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1885 p. 124

Mr. Peter Cliffe.

The subject of this notice had served the Egerton family (of Tatton) as gardener for nearly half a century, first as foreman in the gardens at Tatton Park, and eight years subsequently as gardener to Lord Egerton of Tatton, at Mere Hall, till his Lordship's succession to the Tatton estates and title in 1857, when Mr. Cliffe went with him, fulfilling his duties with great ability and faithfulness until his Lordship's decease in the beginning of the year 1883. The death of his employer was a severe blow to Mr. Cliffe, whose health had been failing for many years, the result of severe inflammation. He, however, was one of those old servants chosen by the present Lord Egerton to continue his services at Tatton Park, which he did until September last, when he was obliged by his failing health to retire from active life, and there is no doubt that his retirement affected him painfully in his then weak state. His Lordship kindly allowed him to retire on a pension of £1 per week. During the last few weeks of his illness Lady Egerton constantly visited him, which cheered him very much, bringing fruit and flowers.

CLIFF Thomas.
Personal Estate £125.

19 November. The Will of Thomas Cliff late of Runcorn in the County of **Chester** Contractor who died 6 November 1885 at Runcorn was proved at the **Principal Registry** by William Roach Clogger and William Betney Cooper both of Runcorn the Executors.

CLIFF William.
Personal Estate £50.

1 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Cliff late of Hunslet in the Parish of Leeds in the County of **York** Railway Guard a Widower who died 30 June 1874 at Hunslet was granted at **Wakefield** to Sarah Cliff of 82 Joseph-street Hunslet Spinster the Daughter and one of the Next of Kin.

CLIFF William Stead.
Personal Estate £208 17s.

23 February. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Stead Cliff late of Gildersome in the County of **York** who died 10 November 1884 at Gildersome was granted at **Wakefield** to Emma Cliff of Gildersome Widow the Relict.

CLIFFE Fanny.
Personal Estate £252 13s.

30 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of Fanny Cliffe late of 100 Hockley-hill Birmingham in the County of **Warwick** Spinster who died 8 December 1884 at 100 Hockley-hill was granted at **Birmingham** to Charles Cliffe of 49 North-street Walsall in the County of Stafford Police Constable the Brother and one of the Next of Kin.

CLIFFE John Cotton.
Personal Estate £536 19s. 2d.

14 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Cotton Cliffe late of Dunstall Farm in the Parish of Alrewas in the County of **Stafford** Farmer a Bachelor who died 25 December 1884 at Dunstall Farm was granted at **Lichfield** to Catherine Cliffe of Little Haywood in the said County Widow the Mother and only Next of Kin.

CLIFFE Peter.
Personal Estate £1,283 14s. 6d.

14 February. The Will of Peter Cliffe late of Bexton-road Nether Knutsford in the County of **Chester** Yeoman who died 14 January 1885 at Bexton-road was proved at **Chester** by Francis Alan Bailey of Rode-Hall-gardens Scholar-green Stoke-on-Trent in the County of Stafford Gardener and Charles Cliffe of Bexton-road Bookkeeper the Son the Executors.

CLIFFE William.
Personal Estate £562.

23 February. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Cliffe late of Spring-gardens Lightcliffe-road Brighouse in the County of **York** Stone Merchant who died 3 August 1884 at Spring-gardens was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Mary Jane Cliffe of Spring-gardens Widow the Relict.

CLIFFORD Cephas.
Personal Estate £96 0s. 6d.

26 November. The Will with two Codicils of Cephas Clifford late of Boughton Aluph in the County of **Kent** Wheelwright who died 21 October 1885 at Boughton Aluph was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Edward Dutnall of Wilmington Farm Boughton Aluph Land Agent the surviving Executor.

CLIFFORD Charles.
Personal Estate £2,223 13s. 6d.

4 December. The Will of Charles Clifford formerly of 95 St. Sidwell-street in the County of the City of Exeter but late of Sussex House in the Parish of Heavitree

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Cobbett, William (1763–1835), *political writer and farmer*
by Ian Dyck
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Cobbett, William (1763–1835), political writer and farmer, was born on 9 March 1763 in Farnham, Surrey, the third of four children of George Cobbett, publican and farmer, and his wife, Anne Vincent.

Early life and the army

As a youth Cobbett worked chiefly as a ploughboy and gardener: he frequently boasted in adult life that he was 'bred at the plough-tail' (*A Year's Residence in the United States of America*, 1818, general preface, paragraph 8). Although he vaguely recalled attending school for a brief period during his youth, Cobbett learned his letters at home, chiefly from his father. In 1783, longing for new horizons and adventure, he attempted to enlist in the Royal Navy, though by inadvertence he found himself in a marching regiment, the West Norfolk 54th foot. For the first year of his enlistment Cobbett was stationed at Chatham, where he worked at his military exercises and read voraciously: 'novels, plays, history, poetry, all were read', he later wrote, 'and nearly with equal avidity' (*Life and Adventures of Peter Porcupine*, ed. G. D. H. Cole, 1927, 33). Between 1785 and 1791, while stationed in New Brunswick, Cobbett put his knowledge of English grammar and letters to good effect, quickly becoming clerk to his regiment and rising from the rank of corporal to sergeant-major. In his office as clerk Cobbett believed that he encountered instances of peculation by the officers of his regiment, and upon returning to England and receiving his military discharge in 1791, wrote an anonymous pamphlet entitled *The Soldier's Friend* (1792), a passionate indictment of the harsh treatment and poor pay of the common soldier. At the same time Cobbett attempted to launch a court martial against the offending officers, and when this threatened to rebound on Cobbett himself, he and his new wife, Nancy Anne Reid (1774–1848)—an English woman whom he had first met in New Brunswick and married at Woolwich on 5 February 1792—fled to France for six months and subsequently to the United States, where they remained from 1792 to 1800.

In America, 1792–1800

For the first eighteen months of his American residence Cobbett was employed tutoring French émigrés in the English language, but in the summer of 1794 he ventured into the American public press by authoring a pamphlet that vehemently denounced the scientist and democrat Dr Joseph Priestley, who had recently fled Britain and been jubilantly received by republican and democratic supporters at New York. For the next five years, usually under the pen-name of Peter Porcupine, Cobbett wrote numerous pamphlets and newspapers articles (he subsequently collected and reprinted his American writings in *Porcupine's Works*, 12 vols., 1801) which vigorously condemned the French Revolution as well as other expressions of democratic and republican thought—he characterized Thomas Paine, for example, as 'an unconscionable dog', 'a wretched traitor and apostate', and 'a man famous for nothing but his blasphemy and his hatred of England' (*Porcupine's Works*, 4.79, 4.87; 5.165; *Political Register*, 8 Jan 1803, 2). As an anti-Jacobin polemicist, Cobbett identified his politics most closely with the federalists—the pro-British and

anti-French faction under the leadership of Alexander Hamilton—while taking angry aim at the pro-French, Jacobin-sympathizing democratic faction led by Thomas Jefferson. Yet despite his high profile in the United States, Cobbett always remained ambivalent towards American culture and society, and when pressed by a severe libel case in 1800, he and his family, which now included a daughter, Anne, and a son, William, packed their belongings and set sail for England. Cobbett's farewell message to Americans observed that 'when people care not two straws for each other, ceremony at parting is mere grimace' (*Porcupine's Works*, 12.109–10).

The Porcupine and the Political Register

The government of William Pitt, delighted with Cobbett's contributions to the anti-Jacobin cause, immediately offered him control over a government-owned newspaper, but Cobbett declined the offer, preferring to launch his own daily newspaper, and thus to maintain at least the appearance of independence. Cobbett's daily paper *The Porcupine*, bearing the motto 'Fear God, Honour the King', was duly launched on 30 October 1800, but circulation remained low, and late in 1801 he sold his interest in it. Within a few months, however, he began the *Political Register*, a periodical which was published, almost without exception, every week between January 1802 and Cobbett's death in 1835. Totalling eighty-nine volumes, or some 42,000 pages, the *Political Register* is the most important and detailed record of Cobbett's career. Most of his twenty books were serialized in the *Register* in whole or in part, and in almost each issue he set forth his political and social viewpoints in the leading article—an editorial innovation that Cobbett himself introduced to English journalism. Between 1809 and 1812 Cobbett was jointly involved in the editing and publishing of *Cobbett's Complete Collection of State Trials*, and between 1804 and 1812 he was active in collecting and printing parliamentary debates from the Norman conquest onward. Owing to financial difficulties he sold his shares in both projects in 1812 (as the purchaser of the latter was T. C. Hansard, it might be said that the official record of parliamentary proceedings that today is called 'Hansard' could justly be termed 'Cobbett').

Cobbett's political commentary in the early numbers of the *Register* was thoroughly anti-Jacobin, but by 1804 he began questioning the financial and political policies of the government. Under William Pitt's administration, Cobbett complained, the growing national debt and numerous awards of unmerited sinecures were beggaring the country and heightening animosity between those who paid taxes and those who lived off taxes. At first Cobbett's answer was to support the election of more independent country gentlemen to parliament, but by 1807 he was lending his support to Francis Burdett, John Cartwright, and other campaigners for parliamentary reform. At the same time Cobbett became increasingly obsessed with financial issues, especially the national debt and the government's increasing reliance upon paper money. He opposed these trends for the rest of his days, regularly decrying government debts and paper currencies in his writings, notably in his *Paper Against Gold* (1815). By the early 1820s Cobbett was convinced that the debt was too large ever to be paid off, and accordingly vowed to roast himself on a gridiron if the government could restore payment in specie without defaulting on the debt (henceforth Cobbett and his critics included sketches of gridirons in their writings and cartoons).

Cobbett and rural England

During the early 1800s the *Register* focused chiefly on metropolitan politics but gradually from 1805 onwards Cobbett became increasingly concerned with rural England, particularly the economic hardship of farmworkers. In 1805 he purchased a farm at Botley in Hampshire, and it was here that Cobbett (save for the year

1810–12, which he spent imprisoned in Newgate after he was prosecuted by the government for publicly criticizing the flogging of several militiamen at Ely), together with his wife and four children, made his primary residence between 1805 and 1817. Life at Botley was happy for the Cobbetts. Political reformers were frequent guests and the Cobbett family became deeply involved in Hampshire rural society and in the daily routine of farming. As Mary Russell Mitford observed in 1806, Cobbett's ready hospitality, together with his ruddy complexion, red waistcoat, ample mid-section, and twinkling eye, gave him the appearance ‘of a great English yeoman of the old time’ (*Recollections of a Literary Life*, 1883 edn, 200–01). Similarly, William Hazlitt saw in Cobbett a Georgian gentleman farmer who ‘speaks and thinks plain, broad, downright English’ (*The Spirit of the Age*, ed. E. D. Mackerness, 1969, 244–56). Cobbett's countryman appearance came as a surprise to some observers, such as the tory adversary at a Hampshire county meeting in 1813 who nearly mistook Cobbett for ‘one of the innocent bacon-eaters of the New forest’. Wisely, this same commentator went on to observe that ‘when I knew that it was Cobbett, you may believe I did not allow his placid easy smile to take me in’ (Letters of Timothy Tickler, esquire, *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, 14, 1823, 329).

Radicalism and its price

The years 1816–17 were important but difficult ones for Cobbett. The massive demobilization which followed the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815, together with the disastrous grain harvest of 1816, brought acute hunger and unemployment to the countryside. Cobbett's response was to launch a mass-circulation, broadsheet edition of the *Political Register* (priced at 2*d*. it was derisively labelled ‘two-penny trash’ by its detractors, a title that Cobbett gleefully adopted for the new venture), in which he urged English workers not to riot but to pursue parliamentary reform as the great answer to their economic plight. The election of radical reformers to parliament, he argued, would ensure lower taxes, fuller employment, and increased earnings for all working people. The first cheap *Register* alone sold 44,000 copies in the first month, and Home Office records for 1816–17 indicate that its distribution was sufficiently widespread to cause great concern to the government, particularly to the home secretary, Lord Sidmouth, who early in 1817 rushed several acts through parliament in an attempt to reverse the growth of public support for parliamentary reform. Fearing incarceration because of the new measures, Cobbett set sail for the United States, and arrived in New York on 5 May 1817. Having taken a lease on a Long Island farm, Cobbett lived a quieter life than during his first American sojourn, but he continued the *Political Register* from abroad as well as writing more books and tracts, most notably the agricultural treatise *A Year's Residence in the United States of America* (1818) and his widely selling *Grammar of the English Language* (1818). This latter work, which Cobbett saw as a testament to the intellectual capacity of himself and of the common people as a whole, was intended especially for the use of ‘soldiers, sailors, apprentices, and plough-boys’; accordingly Cobbett cheekily drew his examples of faulty grammar from the writings and speeches of such renowned political leaders as the duke of Wellington, Lord Castlereagh, and George III himself. The English *Grammar* continued to be used in English schools into the 1920s and 1930s; Cobbett's *French Grammar*, first published in 1824, enjoyed rather less success, though even it had passed into fifteen editions by 1862.

When Cobbett returned from the United States in October 1819 his personal and political fortunes were at a low ebb. He was bankrupt and lost his farm at Botley as a result. The flight to America had damaged his relations with other leaders of the radical movement, most notably his erstwhile ally Henry Hunt, who had remained

in Britain during Sidmouth's repressions and stoically endured a prison sentence. None the less, Cobbett believed that he brought with him—in the form of the bones of Thomas Paine—a powerful and emotive symbol around which all parliamentary reformers could rally. But it was not to be. After the Peterloo massacre of August 1819 a new cast of radical leaders began to emerge, and Cobbett himself proved uncomfortable on the hustings during his unsuccessful candidacy in a Coventry by-election in March 1820. During the latter half of 1820, however, Cobbett's fortunes began to improve, chiefly because of the increased circulation of the *Register* which resulted from his involvement with the Queen Caroline affair. Cobbett devoted numerous *Registers* to Queen Caroline's cause as well as writing some of her public statements, including the letter to the king which was published in prominent newspapers shortly before her trial in 1820. Happier times were also ushered in when Cobbett resumed his gardening and agricultural interests by beginning a 4 acre seed farm in Kensington. At the same time he wrote several 'sermons' (so-called to avoid the stamp tax), which were in part intended as answers to the conservative and moralizing tracts of Hannah More and the Cheap Repository Tract Society, and also his little manual *Cottage Economy* (1821), a delightful and highly readable book which instructs English workers in how to brew their own beer, keep bees, and fatten hogs.

Rural distress and Rural Rides

The distressed state of English farming was Cobbett's single greatest concern throughout the 1820s. Sometimes to the irritation of local landlords and farmers, Cobbett would make uninvited appearances at county meetings, where he sought to convince landholders that the only solution to their post-war economic distress lay in a radical reform of parliament, which by 1820 he saw as entailing nothing less than universal manhood suffrage. It was partly to spread this message, and partly to strengthen his knowledge of rural England, that Cobbett now undertook his celebrated rural rides, most of them between 1821 and 1826. Describing his purpose as to hear 'what gentlemen, farmers, tradesmen, journeymen, labourers, women, girls, boys, and all have to say; reasoning with some, laughing with others, and observing all that passes' (*Political Register*, 14 Dec 1822, 686), Cobbett rode on horseback through most of the southern counties, attending county meetings, conversing with villagers, and then putting his observations into writing for the *Political Register*. A separate volume of his travel writings, entitled *Rural Rides*, first appeared in 1830 and the 'rides' have subsequently appeared in many different versions and editions on account of their accurate and colourful presentation of the English countryside and rural society of Cobbett's time. Late in the 1820s and early in the 1830s, Cobbett periodically ventured into the midlands, but owing to his frequently expressed disdain for 'northern' diets and Scottish 'feelosofers', he made only one trip to the north and only one to Scotland (he made his first and only trip to Ireland during the last year of his life). It was Cobbett's great boast that he was a 'South-of-England' countryman who disliked factories, industrial cities, and even the metropolis itself. He characterized London as the 'Great Wen' on account of its tendency to consume the lion's share of the produce of the countryside and, through its absorption of tax revenues, to deprive rural workers of their traditional fare of bread, bacon, and beer. Meanwhile, from 1827 Cobbett resumed large-scale farming upon leasing an 80 acre farm on the south side of the Thames at Barn Elms. Here he experimented with crops of maize (which he encouraged for human consumption) as well as growing a special straw, which he hoped would allow England to rebuild its straw-plait industry and thereby provide more winter employment for country workers. The results of his experiments are duly noted in his agricultural writing of these years, most notably *The Woodlands* (1825), *Treatise on Corn* (1828), and *The English Gardener* (1829).

Cobbett's rural involvements left him well placed to represent the interests of England's farmworkers, with whom he identified more and more closely during the last fifteen years of his life. It came to Cobbett's notice during his rural rides that the agricultural workers were barely subsisting, especially in the southern, south-eastern, and western counties. From 1828 until 1830 he frequently warned the government that a major rural revolt was in the making, and that steps should be taken to ensure that rural workers were amply provided with employment opportunities, a living wage, and the full protection of the poor law. True to Cobbett's predictions, the southern rural workers arose in rebellion during the Captain Swing disturbances of 1830–31. The new whig government of Lord Grey, suspecting that Cobbett had helped to foment the rising, put him on trial in 1831 for inciting rural workers to commit acts of violence and incendiarism. But Cobbett, conducting his own defence, received an acquittal when the twelve-person jury could not agree on a verdict. Cobbett's national reputation was now enhanced. Even some of his supposedly quirky opinions, such as his claim that the rural workers of southern England would rather be hanged than live on potatoes and tea, were now found to constitute part of the platform of the Swing rioters. Immediately in the aftermath of the revolt Cobbett used his political momentum to agitate for the Reform Bill of 1832, though on this matter he enlarged his constituency to include anyone—whether landlord, farmer, banker, or merchant (he worked closely in 1831–2 with the Birmingham banker Thomas Attwood)—who was prepared to support the terms of the bill, even though the proposed enlargement of the suffrage fell far short of what Cobbett and other radical leaders had hoped for.

In the Commons

The passage of the Reform Act in 1832 paved the way for Cobbett to realize his long-standing quest to be elected to the House of Commons. After unsuccessfully standing for Manchester in December 1832, he joined his friend and political ally John Fielden in a successful contest for the two seats representing the new parliamentary borough of Oldham. Cobbett had a short but distinguished career in parliament, frequently bringing on his head the ire of the house by such daring moves as his unsuccessful motion that the king be asked to dismiss Robert Peel from the privy council for gross mismanagement of the nation's finances. As he knew himself, he was more adept at representing the interests of southern agricultural workers than those of northern industrial labourers, a matter which brought praise from southern rural counties but complaints from some of Cobbett's Oldham electors. Opportunities to federate agricultural and industrial concerns were taken up by Cobbett from time to time, most notably in his support for the Tolpuddle Martyrs and in his unsuccessful but profound opposition to the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. The eventual passage of the Poor Law Amendment Act by the whig government demoralized Cobbett to the point where, for the first time in his public life, he called clearly and unequivocally for popular insurrection against the government. Two of his last books, *Legacy to Labourers* (1834) and *Legacy to Parsons* (1835), much like his earlier treatises *The Poor Man's Friend* (1826–7) and his best-selling *History of the Protestant Reformation* (1824–7), describe at length the means employed by the state to dispossess the English poor, beginning with the crown's appropriation of church lands during the Reformation.

Final years, death, and reputation

Cobbett, though, was nearing the end of his long and varied career. Plagued by unhappy conflicts with his wife and the rest of his family during his final years, he continued to write and to farm until his death. In 1832 he agreed to rent a farm of 130 acres at Normandy, near Ash in Surrey, some 7 miles from his birthplace a

Farnham. It was here, surrounded by family members, that he died on 18 June 1835. Nine days later, on 27 June 1835, he was buried in the graveyard of St Andrew's Church in Farnham. Leaving a bankrupt estate, Cobbett was survived by his wife, Nancy, three daughters (Anne, Eleanor, and Susan) and four sons (William, John, James, and Richard). There are no direct descendants remaining.

There are now a dozen biographies of Cobbett, and he has attracted interest and accolades from an enormous variety of thinkers and writers, including persons of such diverse political views as Karl Marx, Matthew Arnold, G. K. Chesterton, A. J. P. Taylor, Raymond Williams, Michael Foot, and E. P. Thompson. Cobbett's writings can appeal to both left- and right-wing thinkers on account of his populist style: he was conservative and backward-looking in many of his social and cultural ideals (one of his most resounding aims was to see a return to the rural England into which he was born in the 1760s) but at the same time he devised and fiercely promoted a thoroughly radical and democratic agenda in politics and economics. Unlike his mentor Thomas Paine, Cobbett was not interested in pursuing a republican programme for Britain; nor was he much interested in international politics. Cobbett was a 'Little Englander' who liked to boast that he was not a 'citizen of the world', for 'it is quite enough for me to think about what is best for England, Scotland and Ireland' (*Political Register*, 20 Aug 1831, 495). Never forgetting his origins as a self-taught ploughboy, Cobbett sought to rest his platform and writing upon popular English ideals, perhaps most notably in his enthusiasm for fair play, old-style hospitality, manly sports, and preference for a vigorous rural culture over the supposedly effeminate and degenerative environment of the towns. Cobbett retained to the last a strong sense of national identity, frequently chiding the United States and other rival powers that they had better not 'swagger about and be saucy to England' (*Political Register*, 2 June 1832, 545–6), and he stated that his attachment to the Church of England was partly motivated by the fact that it 'bears the name of my country' (*Life and Adventures of Peter Porcupine*, ed. G. D. H. Cole, 1927, 33). Altogether Cobbett wrote and published some 30 million words over the course of forty years (perhaps more than any other English writer), and while many of these words can be exposed as contradictory and self-serving, it can be said wholeheartedly with Karl Marx that Cobbett was 'a plebeian by instinct and sympathy' (K. Marx, letter to *New York Daily Tribune*, 22 July 1853).

For Cobbett the essence of England was its countryside, not the 'wen' of London or the industrial cities of the midlands and north. Although his agrarian and rural devotions sometimes drew criticism from even his fellow radicals, Cobbett's response was fair, simple, and personal: 'Born amongst husbandmen, bred to husbandry ... it is natural that I should have a strong partiality for country life, and that I should enter more into the feelings of labourers of husbandry than into those of other labourers' (*Political Register*, 5 May 1821, 343). Non-agricultural workers were also of concern to Cobbett, but it became his great mission to articulate the wants and aspirations of the 'chopsticks' (as he fondly called the rural labourers) because they were in his estimation, 'the very best and most virtuous of all mankind' (*Political Register*, 29 Jan 1831, 288). Numerous commentators during the past century and a half have sought to measure or understand Cobbett in relation to urban and industrial models of politics, culture, and society. As a result Cobbett has too often been presented as anti-urban, anti-industrial, anti-modern. He was, in some ways, all of these things, but he was also a positive and original writer who sought to unite English workers, whether of town or country, on a national reform platform that would bring about a new democratic order

IAN DYCK

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Wealth at death bankrupt

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Obituary.

EDMUND COLE.—The death of Mr. Cole took place at Althorp Park, Northampton, at the age of fifty-two, from disease of the kidneys. This well-known gardener entered the service of F. W. Dolman, Esq., of Alverstoke House, Gosport, in 1871, where he proved himself a successful grower and exhibitor of plants, fruit, and vegetables, in the neighbourhood of Gosport, Portsmouth, and Fareham, his most successful exhibits being stove plants. He was also very successful with Grapes, and was the first to exhibit pot-Vines at the Southsea exhibition; his black and white Grapes in pots on arches being the principal feature of the show on one occasion. In January, 1878, he entered the service of Earl Spencer as gardener at Althorp Park, where he spent much labour in remodelling the extensive pleasure grounds from plans of his own, also the fruit and plant houses. In 1882 he introduced into commerce the fine Potato, Cole's Favourite, which took the prize of ten guineas at the Northampton Seedling Potato Exhibition, and an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Mr. Cole had gained a wide circle of friends in the gardening world, he was much valued and respected by his employer and those employed under him. He leaves a widow and six children to mourn his loss.

The Garden 1892 (42), p. 503

Death of Mr. Edmund Cole.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Cole, on May 9, at Althorp Park, Northampton, at the age of fifty-two, from chronic Bright's disease. This well-known gardener entered the service of Mr. F. W. Dolman, of Alverstoke House, Gosport, in 1871, where he proved himself a most successful grower and exhibitor of plants, fruits, and vegetables. He was very successful with his Grapes, and was the first to exhibit pot Vines at the Southsea Exhibition, his black and white Grapes in pots on arches being the principal feature of the show. In January, 1878, he entered the service of Earl Spencer, K.G., at Althorp Park, Northampton. He remodelled the somewhat extensive pleasure grounds, also the fruit and plant houses. In 1882 he introduced into commerce the now famous Potato Cole's Favourite raised at Althorp, it having taken the prize of 10 guineas at the Northampton Seedling Potato Exhibition for three successive seasons. Mr. Cole had been a member of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution fourteen years, and of the Gardeners' Orphan Fund since it started in 1887. He leaves a widow and six children to mourn his loss.

1892.

COLE Edmund of Althorp Park Gardens Northamptonshire gardener died 9 May 1892 Probate Northampton 3 June to Elizabeth Cole widow Effects £474 9*s.* 10*d.*

COLE Eliza of Guarlford Villa Guarlford Worcestershire spinster died 18 January 1892 Probate London 11 February to the Reverend John Bateman Wathen clerk Effects £431 11*s.* 9*d.*

COLE Eliza of Great Malvern spinster died 18 August 1892 Administration London 21 September to Eliza Cole widow Effects £311 9*s.* 3*d.*

COLE Elizabeth of 53 Market Street Paddington Middlesex widow died 28 February 1892 Administration London 28 April to David Bracey Ponting cheesemonger's assistant Effects £118 3*s.* 6*d.*

COLE Ellen of Devizes Wilts widow died 21 March 1892 Administration (Limited) London 30 July to Eliza Wild widow Effects £16.

COLE Emma of Guildford widow died 2 February 1892 Probate London 12 March to Charles Edward Malden esquire barrister-at-law Effects £1588 17*s.*

COLE George of St. George's Union Workhouse Fulham Road Chelsea Middlesex died 29 August 1892 Probate London 17 September to Louisa Cole widow Effects £1987.

COLE George Alexander of Brentwood Essex dealer died 11 April 1892 at Great Bursted near Brentwood Probate London 25 June to Henry Cole farmer and William Osborn dealer Effects £5 14*s.* 9*d.*

COLE George Alfred of 420 Essex Road Islington Middlesex cheesemonger died 28 April 1892 at the Deaconesses Institute Tottenham Probate London 23 May to Alfred Cole grocer and Sarah Ann Cole widow Effects £1282 13*s.* 5*d.*

COLE George Digby of Farnham Royal Buckinghamshire valet died 11 September 1892 at Observatory House Windsor Road Slough Buckinghamshire Administration Oxford 13 October to Fanny Down Cole widow Effects £218 0*s.* 1*d.*

COLE Georgiana Sophia of 58 Redcliffe Road South Kensington died 21 April 1892 Probate London 13 June to Charles Shea Giles retired paymaster Royal Navy Effects £1615 6*s.* 2*d.* resworn August 1892 £1655 19*s.* 10*d.*

COLE Harriet of 39 Havelock Road Great Yarmouth widow died 20 July 1892 Probate Norwich 8 August to Robert Tooley oil merchant's manager and William Hodsman monumental works manager Effects £1309 16*s.* 4*d.*

COLE Henry of Yeovil Somerset gentleman died 4 March 1892 Probate London 17 May to the Reverend Thomas Henry Cole clerk the Reverend Edward Pattinson Cole clerk and Albert Bollen solicitor Effects £53627 9*s.* 8*d.* resworn April 1894 £55030 4*s.* 8*d.*

COLE Henry of 35 Henslowe Road Peckham Rye Surrey gentleman died 13 April 1892 Probate London 17 May to George Warner Shipley builder Effects £805 6*s.* 3*d.*

COLE Henry of 14 Leonard Road Landport Portsea Hants pensioner died 15 May 1892 Probate London 10 June to William Charles Goddard tailor Effects £93 10*s.*

COLE Horatio James of Cotterells Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire gentleman died 18 December 1857 Probate London 11 November to Mary Ann Cole widow Effects £1476 9*s.* 5*d.* Former grant April 1858.

COLE James late a sergeant in Her Majesty's 21st Regiment Royal Scots Fusiliers died 8 March 1890 at Portobello Hospital Dublin Ireland Administration London 13 January to Mary Ann Cole widow Effects £77 4*s.*

COLE James of Chicksands Shefford Bedfordshire farmer died 29 January 1892 Probate London 11 April to Eliza Susan Bond Cole widow and Henry Cole and John Mayes farmers Effects £3812 15*s.* 5*d.*

COLE James of St. Osyth Essex carrier died 27 April 1892 Probate Ipswich 9 July to George James Cole draper's accountant and Morris Cole carrier Effects £460 2*s.* 9*d.*

COLE James of the School House Wilmington Kent schoolmaster died 20 September 1892 Administration London 2 December to Lucy Cole widow Effects £192 14*s.* 9*d.*

COLE Jane of Over Wallop Hants widow died 25 February 1892 Probate London 12 May to William Hillary farmer Effects £45 3*s.*

COLE John of Stokesley in Cleveland Yorkshire gentleman died 2 February 1892 Probate York 12 March to George William Rickatson retired grocer Effects £1385 10*s.*

COLE John of 12 Alphington Street St. Thomas the Apostle Devon butcher died 10 March 1892 Probate Exeter 29 March to Sophia Jane Rogers (wife of George Rogers) Effects £22 18*s.* 10*d.*

COLE John of South Farm Ashreigney Devon died 25 February 1892 Probate London 4 April to John Budd Cole farmer Effects £85 10*s.*

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sion more deeply rooted in those who are connected with the tillage of the ground than in any other class. But if we are in England nearly as far from effective co-operation as ever, matters seem, curiously enough, to have progressed more rapidly in Ireland. An Irish weekly paper lies before me as I write. It is almost filled with the doings of horticultural and agricultural co-operative societies. Among other items of interest, I read that "the Co. Kerry Co-operative Fruit-Growers' Society has succeeded in getting top price for Apples marketed by them this season. The price of 2s. 3d. per dozen has been received by them for the produce of Kerry orchards, and when it is remembered that the season is a bad and a backward one, and that the Kerry orchards are still far from yielding either the quality or the quantity of Apples which their climate makes it possible for them to grow, it will be seen that they have a promising career before them in the south-west."

On turning to the market list, I am astonished to find that the wholesale price of home-grown Apples and Plums in Ireland is quoted per dozen. The equivalent price per bushel I cannot say, but 2½d. per Apple, wholesale, would probably mean at least 4d. per Apple retail, which certainly suggests that fruit-growing in Ireland ought to be a profitable business. No wonder that co-operative societies are multiplying there at a rapid rate, that new plantations are being made, that jam factories are being established, and that, in spite of bad seasons, all goes merrily as a wedding-bell. But, really, is it quite impossible for us in England to do something of the same sort? Must we always go tramping about the earth, cap in hand, begging for our food? The time must assuredly come when other nations will say, "Not another bite. I want all I've got for my own family, and more."

October 30th.—There is bound to be a heavy mortality among outdoor plants this winter. I do not utter this opinion in the spirit of gloomy prophecy, but with a view to taking such precautions as may be possible. As the result of the abnormal rainfall, plants growing in the open air have made a great quantity of weak, sappy wood, and, in consequence, when severe frost comes they must fall an easy prey. Ashes, straw, and leaves will be useful in many cases, but anyone who likes such plants as Wallflowers—and who does not?—would be wise to have a reserve of them in a cold frame. Cabbages, too, are likely to be scarce and dear next spring. The young plants are so soft that they can possess no powers of resistance to frost, and unless they are protected the majority are sure to perish during the winter. Forewarned is not always forearmed, but in this case it ought to be.

October 31st.—It requires a good deal of ingenuity to make climbers look unnatural, but still it can be done—most easily, I think, with arrangements with poles which are not uncommon in some gardens. No doubt, if the climbers were left alone they would in time remedy that, but as soon as they show a tendency to stray their wings are clipped, and they are left bound to their stakes. On a house, if they are given their liberty, the effect is always beautiful, whether they clamber all over it, as the Ivy and the Virginian Creeper will quickly do, or whether different species mount the walls according to their different capacities, and so present a rugged outline of many different hues. The effect is heightened when other plants are massed at their base, for that is Nature's method.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

LAST week, a monster Potato, measuring twenty inches in diameter, and eleven inches long, was raised in the garden of Mrs. Jones, of Plasnewydd Buildings, Abergele.

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 109.—MR. S. COLE, AT THE GARDENS, ALTHORP PARK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

AMONG the historic houses of England, Althorp Park, the seat of Earl Spencer, K.G., occupies a foremost place. The stately mansion stands in a splendidly-timbered park of six hundred and forty acres, or just a square mile. It is surrounded by pleasure grounds of considerable extent and beauty, and the kitchen garden is remarkable both for its size and contents. Mr. S. Cole, the head gardener, is well known in the horticultural world for his signal success in the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, and Chrysanthemums, though, of course, at Althorp every branch of gardening receives careful attention. As, however, it was hopeless to attempt to exhaust its attractions, I expressed to Mr. Cole a desire that our attention should be concentrated on special features, and we appropriately commenced our rounds in one of the Vineries, which, at the time of my visit, contained a number of striking specimens of the Japanese and Incurved varieties of Chrysanthemums.

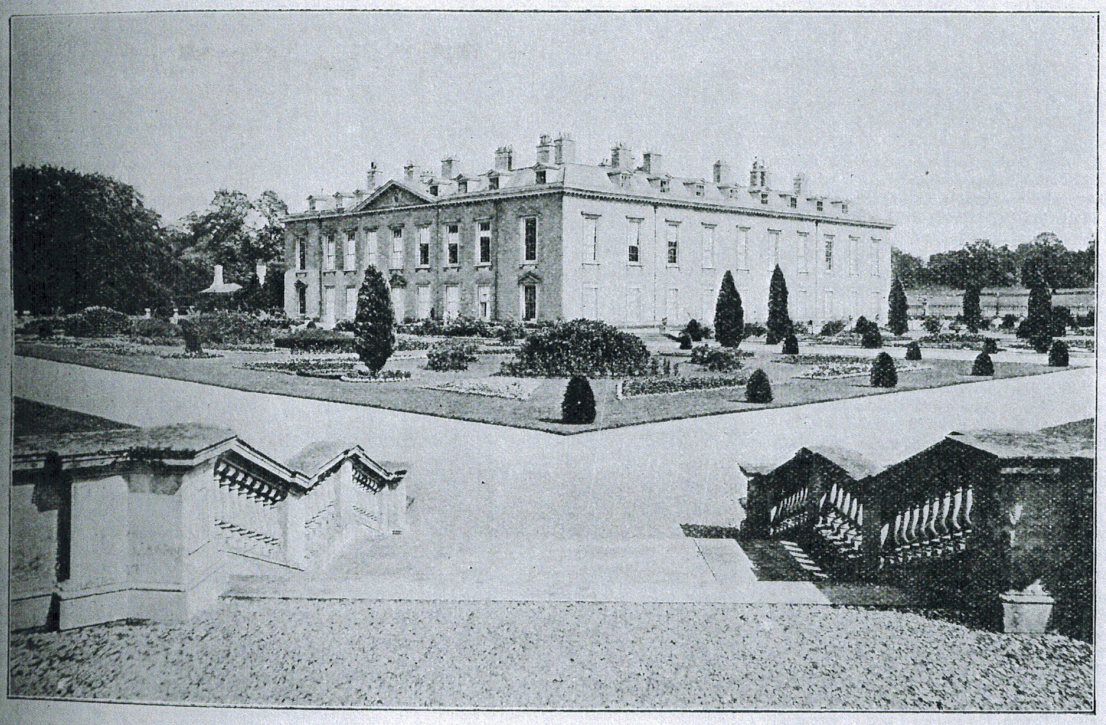
"But they are far fewer than we usually have," said Mr. Cole, as I paused to admire a perfect specimen of Bessie Godfrey. "This year there are only about two hundred, while, as a rule, there are quite six hundred."

"Why have you made such a reduction?" I enquired.

"Because the plants in their young stage suffered so severely from 'rust' this season, and, as I was anxious to get a clean stock, they had to be destroyed."

"And all remedies have failed?"

"I know of nothing to stop it. There is a fortune in store for the discoverer of a real remedy.



ALTHORP (NORTH AND WEST FRONT), THE NORTHAMPTON SEAT OF EARL SPENCER.

I have tried dressings of the strongest kind, but they are no use. The fact is that the 'rust' is in the sap of the plant, and must be driven out if the plant is to be saved. It is like a disease in a human being, and I doubt whether a cure will be found."

"Does it affect all varieties alike?"

"No; the Madame Carnot family escape. It is a remarkable fact that I sent some cuttings to a man near Bradford, warning him that they might have 'rust,' but the 'rust' never de- is a remarkable fact that I sent some cuttings to to me, and here the 'rust' developed quickly enough."

"Then it has something to do with climate or soil?"

"Undoubtedly. But I believe it is more climatic influences than soil, as growers near large towns invariably escape. It is not so bad here this year as in previous years, although we have the enemy still with us in a much weaker form, owing, as I mentioned before, to the reduction of all affected plants in spring, and by perpetually pinching off part of or all the leaves that showed any sign of disease through the summer."

"You do not advise amateurs to go in for the exhibition varieties of Chrysanthemums?"

"Not unless they are prepared to devote an immense amount of time and trouble to them. There are no plants I know of which require more time, care, and attention than the exhibition varieties of Chrysanthemums. If they do not get the right treatment at exactly the right moment, all previous labour will have been in vain. There is no royal road to success, and amateurs who take up Chrysanthemums for the purpose of showing must expect a lot of disappointment. For instance, the plants may be ruined by under-watering or over-watering. The most important point of all is to know when to stop each variety. Most varieties have different dates even in the same month. The best growers do not have all the results satisfactory, which is not surprising if you remember that out of three shoots there may be only one good bloom."

"Which do you include amongst the best varieties?"

"Bessie Godfrey, Mrs. George Milner, Mrs. Palmer, M. Louis Remy, Mrs. H. Wells, Australie, Mrs. Lewis, Godfrey's Triumph, Mafeking Hero, Queen Alexandra, Princess de Monaco, C. Penford, Ethel Fitzroy, Mr. A. Barrett, Madame P. Radaelli, J. R. Upton, and Mrs. Barkley, are some that occur to me. Duchess of Sutherland is one of the newest, which I am showing at Northampton. It is a lovely flower. So, also, is F. A. Vallis (yellow), which was introduced by M. Calvat, who, I think, continues to maintain his reputation."

As we passed out of the house, I asked how many bush Chrysanthemums were generally grown.

"Between two and three hundred," replied Mr. Cole. "In contrast to the exhibition varieties, the bush varieties are exceedingly simple to grow. You may practically treat them how you like."

"You have a nice batch of Crotons?"

"Yes; they were all struck in the spring. You see, too, that we have a few specimens of Clerodendron fallax. It makes a fine plant where there is room to grow it. In our stove we have the usual table plants, house and table decoration being really the primary object in view. The Palm house is filled chiefly with Kentias, which are the most useful variety, whether in a small or a large state."

"When did you take up Malmaison Carnations?"

"Only last year. But we were very successful, and they promise well for next season. We have many of the leading sorts, and I am particularly fond of Prince of Wales, Princess of Wales, Calypso (an improved form of Souvenir), Churchwarden, Prime Minister, Lady Grimston, Sir Evelyn Wood, and Maggie Hodgson, which is the darkest of all, and like the old Clove in colour. Several of our flowers last year were five inches across."

"Do the Malmaisons suffer from 'rust'?"

"In many places they do, but I am glad to say that ours do not develop it."

"Violets seem to be a considerable feature?"

"They have always been one of Lady Spencer's favourite flowers. We picked twenty bunches on October 16th of Lady Hume Compbell, which I consider the best of the double varieties. Marie Louise, which is a little later, comes next. We commence picking buttonholes of Violets in September, and go on right through to April."

"I suppose you supply Spencer House?"

"We send flowers and fruit a few times a week wherever Lord and Lady Spencer happen to be."

When we were going through some of the other Vineries, containing Lady Downe, Cooper's Black, and Appley Towers, Mr. Cole observed:—

"I do not recommend anyone to go in for Appley Towers unless there is plenty of room to grow them, owing to the distance of the bunches from the rod. On the other hand, Appley Towers is a very fine Grape, of good flavour, and keeps as long as any there is. Our early

MR. S. COLE.

Grapes include Buckland Sweetwater, Foster's Seedling, and Madresfield Court."

"I see that you have a few fine bunches of Muscats left. Has the crop been good?"

"Very good. There is no Grape like Muscat, but it takes the most doing. The Black Alicante thrives here, and the Vine is twenty-two years old. It has not missed yielding a good crop since 1882."

"How many varieties of Figs do you grow?"

"Only Brown Turkey and Negro Largo. Figs are Lord Spencer's favourite fruit. Brown Turkey is grown for general use, and Negro Largo comes in between the two crops of Brown Turkey."

The kitchen garden, or series of kitchen gardens, next claimed attention, and I was much impressed with the great number of Pears trained on the pyramid principle.

"There are about a hundred and twenty," said Mr. Cole. "Many of them were planted fifty-three years ago, and still bear grand crops, though this year, like other people, we have neither Pears nor Apples, owing to the weather."

"How many varieties are there?"

"From eighty to ninety. Here are a few of the best:—Beurré Diel, Conseiller de la C Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Co Huyshe's Prince of Wales, Souvenir du Co Triomphe de Vienne, Durondeau, Beurré H Williams's Bon Chrétien, Rivers' Prin Doyenné d'Ete (the earliest we have), Fond d'Automne (one of the best), and Duc d'Angouleme."

"Is there anything special about your he ceous border?"

"I think we have the usual varieties. have just had Michaelmas Daisies and e flowering Chrysanthemums at the back, Gladioli, Ten-week Stocks, and Comet Aste front. One of the prettiest of Asters (or Mich mas Daisies) is Mrs. Rayner, which has orange centre and magenta border."

"You appear to be very rich in respect Sweet Peas?"

"Yes, they are a great feature, and we h fifty-two of the very best varieties. They g to a remarkable height, from twelve to four feet. I have made rather a study of S Peas."

"Have you raised many?"

"The only named one is the Coun Spencer, for which I received a first-class c ficate two or three years ago, but I have sev seedlings unnamed. The Countess Spencer distinct break away from all existing Sweet P and is quite unique in respect to colour formation. As you know, the ordinary S Pea has wings that turn down; the wings of Countess Spencer turn up. There are five flo on every stem."

"How wide is the flower?"

"Individually as wide across the standard a railway ticket. I did not know this un man who had measured it with his railway ti told me. The colour, as you see, is a deli shade of pink, and the variety is quite on the giant Peas."

"Have you been able to put it into comm yet?"

"No, unfortunately, though the flower is lific enough; but owing to the wet season t has not been enough seed."

"You might name twelve of your best va ties?"

"Miss Willmott and Countess Spencer (pi Dorothy Eckford (white), Salopian (dark c son), Honourable Mrs. Kenyon (yellow), B Knight (chocolate), Lady Grisel Hamilton best mauve), Navy Blue (dark blue), Triu (pink bicolour), Coccinea (cerise, though that point there is a difference of opini Gracie Greenwood (buff), and Prince of W (rose-red). Our collection includes the ne varieties, notably Gracie Greenwood, Dai and Jeannie Gordon."

"What is the extent of the kitchen garden?"

"Including the small orchard, where we now, fourteen acres. The Cedar in this orc is thirty feet high without a branch, and twe one feet round at the bottom. It should b the lawn to do it justice."

"Your Apples in the gardens are all on Crab stock?"

"Yes; I grafted all in this row when I w boy, twenty-five years ago. My father, wh succeeded, was at that time head garden Althorp. The Peaches on the walls were ru this year by the frost and wind, and the P never do so well on the walls as on standards."

"Did you have a large Strawberry crop?"

"I should call it a medium one. Our varieties are Royal Sovereign, James Veitch Joseph Paxton, The Laxton, Leader, Fillba and Latest of All, while, for preser Vicomtesse H. de Thury is the best-coloured for the purpose."

"Can you tell me how many canes there a your Raspberry bed?"

"Not far short of a thousand. We ha fair crop. The early variety grown is S lative. The bed, which is two hundred long, is under a north wall, and was establ

three years ago. The north is the best position for Raspberries."

"I must congratulate you upon the very thriving appearance of the Celery."

"We grow Celery for exhibition in London, and other places. The best varieties are Leicester Red, Sutton's A-1, Sutton's Solid White, and Major Clarke. In order to keep the exhibition plants clean, I put brown paper round them, and then a canvas cover. There are between four and five thousand heads in the main crop."

"Which variety of French Beans do you prefer?"

"Sutton's Best of All is *really* the best of all. It is a great cropper, and the Beans are of great size."

"You have a large quantity of Brussels Sprouts."

"There are from three to four thousand plants. I should call it a nice little break, but we grow in quantity whatever we think worth growing. There are, or have been, some fifteen hundred Cauliflowers. Veitch's Autumn Giant and Sutton's Autumn Mammoth are equally good, both being very white and clean."

"Near the glasshouse I noticed a batch of young Himalayan Rhododendrons. These, Mr. Cole explained, were raised from seed brought by Lord Spencer from Darjeeling in 1896. There are about four hundred plants, and though none have been flowered yet, Mr. Cole judges, by their foliage, that there are three or four varieties. Lord Spencer also brought the seed of two Firs from Japan, and the seed of five others was obtained by him in the Canadian Forest when it was on fire.

"You have a show of outside Carnations," I continued.

"Yes. Some varieties will not answer, but others do well. Among the latter are Raby Castle, Uriah Pike, Duchess of Fife, Queen of the Yellows, Mrs. Eric Hambro, Duchess of York, Danger, and H. J. Cutbush (the new Carnation). This bed faces west. The Roses close by are German varieties. They flower much later than ours, but they are not superior to English varieties."

"What do you regard as the feature of the pleasure grounds?"

"The bedding-out, and, I suppose, bearing in mind that we are in the Midlands, the Conifers. Some of the Conifers were planted by illustrious personages."

"I notice that the fine specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea was planted by the King."

"Mr. Gladstone also planted one, and there is likewise a Pinus austriaca, planted in commemoration of a visit from the late Duke of Clarence. In the centre of the grounds there is a fine specimen of the variegated Wellingtonia (Sequoia albo spica). Of Abies there are several varieties, the best being Wellsiana, alba, Pinsapo, Douglasii, pyramidalis (excelsa, pygmæa), cephalonica, pectinata, Smithiana, orientalis, Nordmanniana, and canadensis (the Hemlock Spruce). There are also two fine specimens of Taxodium sempervirens, and Taxodium distichum pendulum, the deciduous Conifer. The Pinus, too, find a home here, and are represented by some noble specimens of strobus, excelsa, austriaca, macrocarpa, pyrenaica, and sylvestris. Cryptomeria japonica is a fine tree. The Cedars are rather fine, and there is a good specimen of a Cork Oak. The Limes, the Tulip Tree, and Copper Beeches are much admired."

"That is a pretty stretch of ornamental water with the island in the centre."

"All Lady Spencer's favourite dogs are buried in that island. We do not go in for Water Lilies."

"What is the system of planting in the Rosery?"

"Every bed is planted with one variety. The varieties include La France, Caroline Testout, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Merveille de Lyon, Madame Gabriel Luizet, Ulrich Brunner, Cheshunt Hybrid, Gloire Lyonnaise, William Allen Richardson, and Dr. Andry."

"As far as I have seen, you have no carpet bedding?"

"None at all. We used to have a great deal. But Lady Spencer abolished it some few years ago. Carpet bedding is pretty in public parks, but even there I think there are plants which the keepers could grow with more advantage so far as appearance is concerned. In the butterfly garden, at the west front of the mansion, the body is planted with Coleus, and the wings with blue Lobelias, with yellow spots of Crystal Palace Geranium. Other bedding plants used are Geraniums, Fuchsias, standard and dwarf Heliotropes, standard and dwarf Calceolarias, and Verbenas. On the north side of the mansion Rhododendron beds are a feature, and also the Yews, golden and clipped."

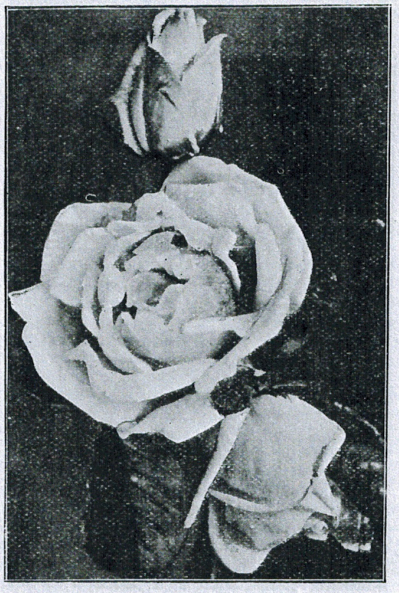
"How large are the pleasure grounds?"

"About thirty acres. The gardening staff consists of twenty men and boys. There is a bothy for two, and the others live in the village."

"Your own house is in a pleasant position on the top of the hill?"

"Yes; it is also very healthy."

"I believe you started gardening here?"



ROSE, MADAME FALCOT.

"I commenced at the bottom, in a stokehole, at the modest sum of five shillings per week. Then I went into the pleasure grounds to do the grass-mowing, and subsequently into the kitchen garden in order to learn the usual routine work. When I had finished my probation I went to The Mote Park, Maidstone, at that time the residence of Lady Howard de Walden."

"And to what branch was your attention especially directed?"

"For two years and a-half I had charge of the fruit. My next post was in charge of the plant houses and conservatory at Hawkston Park, Shropshire, and later I had experience in the scientific branch of gardening at the Botanical Gardens in Regent's Park. When I left Regent's Park I went to the Marquis of Waterford's place, Carraghmore, in Ireland, as general foreman, and there, for about three years, I added to my general experience of house and table decoration. Then I returned to London, and was for a time with Messrs. Simmonds Brothers, where I obtained an insight into many things. It is a good thing for a young man to get ideas of decorating rooms and tables for wedding breakfasts and dinners, bouquets, wreaths, etc., and attending market early in the morning proved useful to me afterwards."

"Where did you go first as head gardener?"

"To Tregothnin, Lord Falmouth's place in Cornwall. Conifers, Rhododendrons, and Camellias were a great feature, the Himalayan Rhododendrons being some of the finest in the kingdom. At the end of two years, or about eleven years ago, I was asked, on the death of my father, to come here as head gardener, and, though I was quite happy at Tregothnin, I naturally came. My father, among other things, made the east side of the pleasure grounds. I have been content to follow in his line, keeping up to date with everything, and introducing fresh varieties whenever it seems desirable."

"Finally, about your showing, Mr. Cole?"

"I have shown Chrysanthemums, fruit, and vegetables at Shrewsbury, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Batley, Northampton, Leicester, and the Westminster Aquarium, and never without being awarded a prize. I have half a score of medals I have won. I have exhibited at Rugby, in addition to the other places, and been pretty successful. With regard to vegetables, I like to exhibit a general collection rather than a particular kind. As you are perhaps aware, I took two first prizes and one third at the last Royal Horticultural Show which will ever be held at Chiswick."

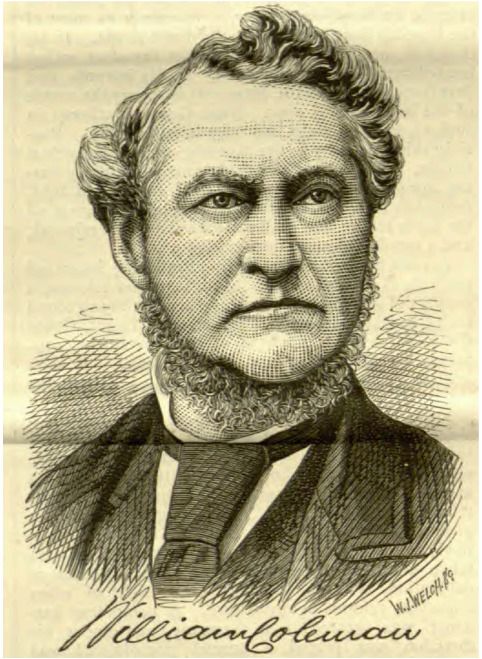
ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 66.—BUTTONHOLE FLOWERS AND WINDOW BOXES.

DEAR KATE,—Now that all the greenhouse plants are housed, we have time to think about the borders, and plant biennials, perennials, Roses, flowering shrubs, etc., for this is an excellent time for this work. I know you have a weakness in the direction of buttonholes, and these are so much more satisfactory when culled from the garden than if bought in the street, that I should advise you to put in a few of the best "buttonhole" Roses for use next season, as few flowers can compare with a good Rose for personal wear.

Madame Falcot is, perhaps, the best of all of these, producing exquisite buds, both early and late; I have a plant of this Rose growing against the south wall of the conservatory, on a sheltered terrace, and it is seldom indeed that one can't cut a buttonhole from that plant from the end of April till nearly Christmas. Such lovely blooms, too, in creamy shell-pink tones, richer in tint towards the autumn than in the summer, and the crimson-bronze foliage adds a charm to the flowers. William Allen Richardson, too, grows near it, reaching the top of the house, however, and producing hundreds of its rich apricot blooms from June till the late autumn; these, too, are among the daintiest of buttonholes, the half-open buds being especially charming. Perle d'Or is a tiny but most perfect Rose of the Fairy Rose group; this is the favourite buttonhole for gentlemen who prefer them very small and neat; the colour is an indescribably beautiful shade of apricot, and rich pink in the centre, the petals being creamy-white at their edges, and the buds are simply perfect. Just inside the conservatory, growing in a border, we have a large plant of the snowy Rose, Niphetos, which is seldom without a few flowers, even in winter; and, trained under the glass, Reine Marie Henriette produces plenty of beautiful buds, in deep crimson, in March and April. Besides these Roses, we have pot-Roses, which bloom early and late, but these are not so floriferous, and are (though very decorative in the conservatory) seldom cut for a buttonhole, in consequence; but, of course, the border Roses



William Coleman, Head Gardener at Eastnor

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 4

The Head Gardener's cottage at Eastnor

Mr. Coleman is known to the gardening fraternity as a constant exhibitor of fruit, which is always of first-rate quality, his name being familiar to those who scan the prize lists, and being generally found well to the front. Those who have the privilege of his personal acquaintance know him, moreover, to be one of the most unassuming, kind-hearted, and genial of men, and a thorough master of his profession in every department.

"I was born," he writes, "in 1827, at Rolleston, a well-kept domain in the eastern part of the county of Leicester. For more than half a century my father had the general management of the place, including the gardens, and I am indebted to him for my first three years' experience. He was an excellent cultivator of fruits and vegetables, and prided himself on his fine collection of old herbaceous plants.

Having attained the age of eighteen it was thought desirable that I should leave home for further experience. My first move was to Cole Orton, then, as now, under the able management of my kind friend Mr. Henderson. I went to him in 1848, but, unfortunately for me, the late Baronet died before I had completed my first year, and I had to leave. In 1846 I went to Lord Howden's, Grimston Park, Tadcaster, where I first experienced the fearful ravages of the Potato disease. I left in 1847, spent another year with my father, and through the agency of Messrs. Knight & Perry engaged as foreman of the hothouses at Pont-y-Pool. At that time Mr. Knight considered Pont-y-Pool one of the finest forcing places in England. The gardens were under the management of the late Mr. Drummond, who adhered too closely to the old system of maintaining fixed temperatures, independently of climatal changes. Pine- apples, principally Queens, were extensively grown on the three years' system. Enormous plants turned out of 18-inch pots into the fruiting beds produced good fruits; but I have since seen finer Pines cut from plants twenty months old, grown in 12-inch pots. This was the hardest place I ever lived in. My assist- ants, a day stoker and one apprentice, left the premises with the labourers, and returned with them the following morning. During their absence, the night firing fell upon the foreman. My young friends must bear in mind that the one-boiler system was then in its infancy, and seventeen fires frequently kept me constantly employed until the clock struck two.

Obliged by illness to give up my situation, I was advised to engage in outdoor employment. I accordingly gave up my favourite pursuit for a time to take charge of a large staff of men under Mr. Marnock, who was laying-out a beautiful place for a banker in Carmarthenshire. I left in January, 1851, and engaged as general foreman to Mr. Mackenzie, Crewe Hall, Cheshire, where I spent three years. Mr. Mackenzie was a good gardener; he always kept his place the perfection of neatness, and excelled in the cultivation of Pines and vegetables.

From Crewe I passed on to the Royal Exotic Nursery in March, 1854. My first interview with Mr. Veitch was satisfactory, he received me with great kindness, and I am proud to say I won and retained a highly valued confidence and friendship, which lasted until the day of his lamented death. In May he sent me to Ireland to act as gardener to the late Lord Cloncurry, Lyons, Co. Kildare. Lyons is a fine old place, beautifully wooded and watered, with a large flower garden stretching from the mansion to the lake. A lingering consumption of two years' standing having prevented my predecessor from taking an active part in the management, I found the kitchen garden and houses had fallen into disorder, but meeting with fair encouragement I set to work with a determination to overcome all difficulties. The Vines, originally well planted, lightly cropped with Grapes, but heavily laden with bug, received early attention, but instead of destroying them I tried my hand at resuscitation, and succeeded beyond my expectations.

Having established a good family character I returned to England in October, 1859, but before I reached London Mr. Veitch had given me the choice of two first-class situations. I engaged with my present noble employer, and entered on my duties on May 1, 1860.

On my arrival at Eastnor I found a fine collection of choice Conifers and ornamental trees arranged with much taste and judgment by Ills lordship, who is a great lover of trees, and a complete master of the art of pictorial planting. The memorable winter of 1860-61 having destroyed many of his finest Californian and Mexican specimens, he at once set about replacing them with the rich treasures sent home from Japan by Messrs. Veitch and Fortune, which up to the present time have passed through our English winters uninjured. The kitchen garden, although high above the level of the sea, is surrounded by hills, consequently we suffer from spring frosts.

The time for renovation having arrived, it was arranged that the alterations should extend over a series of years; and having told me he wished to have a useful fruit garden, his lordship generously allowed me to carry out my own ideas. All the glass structures have been rebuilt and efficiently heated, and new ones erected for various purposes. While giving my best attention to every department, I have paid special regard to the improvement of old Vines, lifting, extending, and assisting with new compost Vines of from twenty to fifty years of age. The satisfactory results which have followed convince me that only under exceptional circumstances should old Vines be destroyed.

Having a great demand for Figs, I have tried many varieties under glass, but for a continuous supply of choice fruit I have found nothing to equal the Brown Turkey, which is the only kind I now grow.

Since I have been at Eastnor I have received offers which might have induced some men to change, but so great has been the confidence reposed in me, and so uniform the kindness and liberality of my noble employer and his generous lady, that no monetary consideration could compensate for the loss of the pleasurable performance of duties which have long since merged into a labour of love."

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

SALISBURY AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—At the last meeting of the above society Mr. T. Challis, V.M.H., read a paper entitled "The Theory and Practice of Horticulture." The lecturer impressed upon the younger members the necessity of thought in conjunction with acting. He also gave them a simple code of rules by which they might safely be guided. It proved a highly educative paper and coming from one of the oldest members of the society was very heartily received. Mr. S. Tucker, vice-chairman, presided.

PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—At the meeting of this association on February 5, Mr. F. W. Exler, The Gardens, Foxhill, Reading, read a paper on "Melons and their Culture." The paper gave rise to a good discussion, in the course of which much information was gained by the members. *E. W. D.*

BATH AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—There was an exceptional attendance at the meeting of this association held on February 13. The president (Alderman W. F. Gould) occupied the chair. Mr. T. Challis, gardener to the Earl of Pembroke, read a paper on the effects of climatic conditions on horticulture and the importance of the proper use of air, heat, and moisture for the successful growth of fruit and plants in the hothouse. The president, in thanking Mr. Challis for his excellent paper, spoke of his connection with Bath as a judge at its floral exhibitions for the past 40 years. Several new members were elected.

CROYDON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL.—At the meeting of this association held on Tuesday, February 18, Mr. H. Withers delivered a lecture on the life history of some of the most important insects found in the garden and field. Often, the lecturer explained, little friends in the insect world are destroyed through ignorance of their usefulness. Amongst those to be encouraged are the ladybird, whose larvæ feeds upon aphides, the golden-eyed fly, ants, and many of the Ichneumon flies. The lecturer remarked how interesting it was to watch the larvæ of the lacewing fly at work holding the aphis with its jaws and sucking the juices from the body. Unlike animals, insects had no lungs, but breathed through long tubes called trachea, running through the body and limbs, and in many instances ways had to be found for stopping these tubes, whilst other species were destroyed by poisonous juices placed in their haunts.

REDHILL, REIGATE AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—At the meeting of this association held on February 18, Mr. H. G. Cox, secretary of the Reading Gardeners' Association, delivered a lecture on "Primulas." The lecture was illustrated by means of about 60 lantern slides, many of them being coloured by hand. Mr. Cox had several specimens of Primulas on view, and gave many useful hints as to their culture. Ten new members were elected.

———At a special meeting held on Saturday, February 22, under the presidency of Mr. Bound, Mr. N. E. Brown, of Kew, gave a lecture on the proper pronunciation of certain names of plants commonly used by gardeners. Aided by a blackboard, Mr. Brown began his lecture by explaining the use of Latin and Greek roots, and the difference of the long and short vowels.

CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—On Friday, February 14, Miss Philbrick, of The Cedars, Halstead, gave a lecture on "The Daffodil." The lecture-room was filled with a most appreciative audience, and the lecturer's treatment of her subject was enthusiastically applauded.

———On the 21st inst., members of the association numbering about 100 listened to a lecture on "Mendel's Law of Inheritance," delivered by Mr. F. J. Chittenden, director of the R.H.S. Laboratories, Wisley, and formerly lecturer in biology at the County Laboratories, Chelmsford. Members had long looked forward to this lecture, and a hearty welcome was given to the lecturer.

GUILDFORD AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.—At the fortnightly meeting of this association, held on Tuesday, February 18, 57 members assembled, under the presidency of Mr. W. Hogsden, to hear a lecture delivered by Mr. W. Seaman, representative of the Redhill, Reigate and District Gardeners' Association, on "Vegetables for Exhibition." Mr. Seaman strongly urged the importance of deep cultivation and recommended that in order to produce the best results the ground for vegetable culture should be well trenched during the late autumn and winter. *J. G.*

CARDIFF GARDENERS'.—The fortnightly meeting of this society took place on Tuesday, February 18, when Mr. R. T. Went read a paper on "Forestry." The lecturer gave some very interesting and practical information upon the subject of sowing the seeds of various trees, preparing the ground as a seed-bed, the selection of seeds, sowing, transplanting, &c. The lecturer stated that more interest was being taken each year in forestry.

SCHEDULES RECEIVED.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Summer Flower Show to be held on July 1, 2, and 3, 1908, in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Society's exhibition in that city.

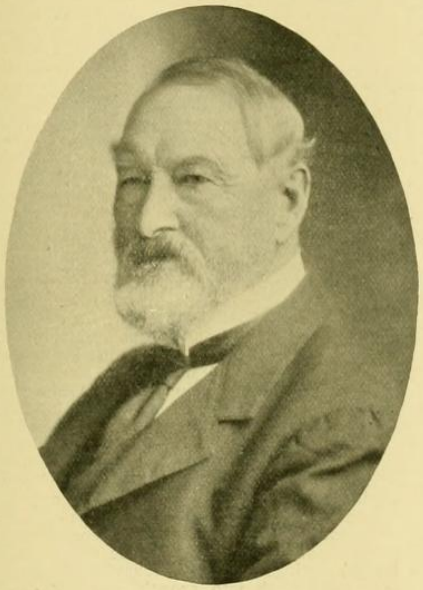
Croydon Horticultural Society's 41st summer show, to be held in a meadow adjoining Haling Park, Brighton Road, Croydon, on Wednesday, July 8, 1908.

Canterbury and Kent Rose Society.—The 30th annual show of this Society will be held on Tuesday, June 30. The prizes include a Challenge Cup of the value of nine guineas offered in a class open to nurserymen.

Women's Agricultural and Horticultural International Union's Show, to be held in the Royal Botanic Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, on Wednesday, July 15, 1908.

Obituary.

William Coleman.—The news of the death of this famous old gardener reached us just after our last issue was closed for the press. He passed away on Thursday, February 20, from heart failure, at the age of 81 years. His decease was very sudden, for about two hours previously he was engaged in his private garden. The late Mr. Coleman, although perhaps not so well known to the younger generation of gardeners, ranks high amongst horticulturists of the past century, and as far back as 1875 his portrait and an account of his life was published in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* as one of a series of articles on famous British gardeners. He was born in 1827 at Rolleston, in the eastern part of the county of Leicester, his father being gardener and manager on the estate at Rolleston for more than half a century. Leaving home for the purpose of acquiring experience, his first situation was at Cole Orton, and in 1846 he entered the service of Lord Howden at Grimston Park, Tadcaster. He also served at Pont-y-Pool Park, at that time one of the finest gardens in the county of Monmouthshire for the forcing of fruits and plants. Deceased also served at Crewe Hall, Cheshire, in the capacity of foreman, a place noted for its excellency in the culture of Pineapples and vegetables. After filling other situations, including employment at the Royal Exotic Nurseries, Chelsea. Mr. Coleman was appointed to the management of Eastnor Castle Gardens, entering on his duties there on May 1, 1860. The memorable winter of 1860-61 destroyed many of the choicest specimens of trees and plants at Eastnor, and Mr. Coleman immediately set about replacing them with the rich treasures sent home from Japan by Messrs. Veitch and Fortune. The glasshouses were all rebuilt under his supervision, and he arranged the planting of the pleasure grounds, in which he showed excellent judgment. After about 30 years of successful management of the gardens, Mr. Coleman was appointed by Lady Henry Somerset agent for the Eastnor estates, which post he well filled for about 12 years. Through failing sight he retired after 42 years of faithful service, which was greatly appreciated by his noble employers. Although relieved of his arduous duties as agent, Mr. Coleman was always active, and spent pleasant days in his beautiful little garden that contained rare specimens of Alpine and herbaceous plants. A noble, upright man of sound judgment, which was much sought after and appreciated, he will be sorely missed by those who knew him best. The funeral took place on Monday, the 24th inst., at Eastnor, and was attended by a very large number of friends. The deceased was held in the very highest esteem in that quiet country village, in which signs of mourning were everywhere apparent. It was the unanimous opinion of those present at these last rites that British horticulture had lost one of her best representatives, for no one had ever done more, both by hard work and by humorous pen, or were more successful as a gardener and administrator of horticulture.



THE LATE WILLIAM COLEMAN.

The Marquis de Wavrin.—We regret to announce the death on the 24th inst. of the Marquis de Wavrin, Chateau de Rousele, Ghent, Belgium, one of the most enthusiastic and successful of Belgian orchidists. The late Marquis was a lover of Orchids, both species and hybrids, and was a successful raiser of good novelties, some of which he has exhibited at the meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society, as, for instance, the two forms of Cattleya Trianæ shown on the 11th inst.

ENQUIRIES AND REPLIES.

Sea Sand for a Bowling Green.—In reply to Mr. W. Davis respecting sea sand for bowling greens, I have for many years past used it as a spring dressing, and the results have been very satisfactory. Some of the finest bowling greens and lawns in the North have been made so by the discreet use of sea sand, but if, as Mr. Davis states, he has put tons of sea sand on a bowling green of ordinary size in the course of two years, I do not wonder at his grass turning yellow. Sea sand must be applied at the right time and with discretion. My practice is to obtain a waggon-load every spring, in time to arrive about March. This is put on the turf immediately we receive it at the rate of a spadeful to the square yard, for if sea sand is allowed to remain in the open for any considerable length of time, its stimulating properties are washed away. Any sand that is unused in spring is kept till about September, when it is used for mixing with the soil in frames, &c. Sea sand, besides being a first-class spring dressing for grass, has a wonderful effect in destroying worms, for by its use these creatures are completely eradicated from the turf in the course of a few years. To maintain a lawn in a good condition, some other fertiliser should be applied during the late autumn or winter. It must be remembered that the grass of a lawn will turn yellow through lack of effective drainage more than from any other cause. *Thos. Francis, 31, Turton Road, Bromley Cross, near Bolton, Lancs.*

GARDENING APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Krumbiegel has been appointed Superintendent of Mysore State Gardens, Bangalore, India.

Mr. G. Charlton, for 5½ years General Foreman in Skelton Castle Gardens, Yorkshire, as Superintendent of the Kelvinside Fruit Farm, Dundee, Natal, South Africa. Mr. Charlton is leaving England in April to take up his new duties. (Thanks for 1s. which has been placed in the R.G.O.F. box.)

Mr. G. L. Evans, for more than 8 years Gardener to the late Major Corbett Winder, as Gardener to Sir H. M. Jackson, Bart., Llantilio Court, Abergavenny.

Mr. F. Honeyman, for the past 3 years at St. Marnocks, Dublin, and formerly an Inside Journeyman at Hallyburton, Coupar Angus, N.B., as Gardener to Lord Clarina, Elm Park, Clarina, Limerick.

Mr. J. Cook, formerly at Hallyburton, Coupar Angus, and until recently Outdoor Foreman at Stratton Park, Micheldever, as Gardener to Mrs. Hobhouse, Hadspen House, Castle Cary, Somerset.

Mr. A. Hall, employed for the past 2 years and 8 months a. Oakley Hall Gardens, Basingstoke, as Gardener to L. Phillips, Esq., Deane House, near Whitchurch, Hantst

Mr. A. J. Wells, for the past 3 years Foreman, and for some time in charge of the Gardens, Forde Abbey, Chard, as Gardener to Her Grace the Duchess of Wellington, at Ewhurst Park, near Basingstoke, Hants. (Thanks for your contribution to the R.G.O.F. box.)

Mr. Jas. Wadham, late of Sneyd Park House, Bristol, and previously 12½ years at Holmbury, Dorking, Surrey, as Gardener and Bailiff at Sir William Treloar's Cripples' Home and College, Alton, Hants.

Mr. J. A. Johnson, for the past 2 years Gardener to Her Grace the Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, as Gardener to A. C. Drummond, Esq., Cadland, Southampton.

Mr. R. Stanard, for 2½ years Gardener at Loseley Park, Guildford, as Gardener to Countess Cowper, Panshanger, Hertford.

Mr. Alexander Methven, for the past 2 years Foreman in Bothwell Castle Gardens, Bothwell, as Gardener to Miss Douglass Jackson, Millrigg House, Galston, Ayrshire, N.B.

COLEMAN Peter Byrne of Dunlavin county Wicklow died 26 November 1907 at Merrion-square Dublin Probate **Dublin** to Ellen Maria Lynch widow.
Effects £455 in England. Sealed **London** 28 March.

COLEMAN Richard Herbert of 94 Raffles-road Birkenhead Cheshire died 3 January 1908 at the Sealey Hospital Galveston Texas United States of America Administration (with Will) **London** 21 February to Eleanor Maud Coleman widow. Effects £244.

COLEMAN Samuel of 55 Balfour-road Dover died 4 March 1908 Probate **London** 25 March to Caroline Coleman widow. Effects £1117 0s. 4d.

COLEMAN Stephen of Prescot-road Stanley Liverpool cattle salesman died 18 April 1908 Administration **Liverpool** 2 June to Mary Coleman widow. Effects £650 18s. 3d.

COLEMAN William of Eastnor Herefordshire died 20 February 1908 Probate **London** 23 March to Frank Coleman gentleman and Frederic Norman Wheaton bank manager. Effects £6147 17s. 11d.

COLEMAN William of Adwell Pallister-road Clacton-on-sea Essex died 22 April 1908 Administration **London** 7 May to Louisa Clara Coleman widow. Effects £116 16s. 3d.

COLEMAN William of 87 High-street Hastings died 16 September 1908 Probate **Lewes** 26 October to Mark Cloke relieving officer and William Robert Harris cabinet maker. Effects £1121 14s. 6d.

COLEMAN William George May of the Swiss Dairy Farm Tunbridge Wells died 3 January 1908 Probate **London** 8 April to Mary Ellen Coleman widow and James Thomas Coleman professional golfer. Effects £749 16s. 6d.

COLEMAN William Henry of Yielden Bedfordshire baker died 20 February 1908 Probate **Northampton** 5 May to Arthur Hardwick grocer and Arthur Bichener baker.
Effects £153 19s. 10d.

COLENSA Sarah Penelope of 53 Budock-terrace Falmouth Cornwall widow died 27 December 1907 Administration **London** 30 July to Thomas William Colensa chemist's assistant. Effects £162 10s.

COLES Aaron of the Friary St. Ann-street Salisbury died 28 July 1908 Probate **Salisbury** 2 November to George Coles engine driver. Effects £1503 2s. 5d.

COLES Alfred of 87 Woodland-road Handsworth Birmingham died 26 June 1908 Probate **London** 20 July to Bernard Francis Adams retired baker and Rebecca Baker widow. Effects £9440 18s. 8d. Resworn £9521 10s. 1d

COLES Annie of 11 Monmouth-place Bath (wife of William Coles) died 27 November 1907 Probate **Bristol** 27 July to William Coles bootmaker and Ernest Keevill house decorator. Effects £401 15s. 1d.

COLES Betty of Rose Ash Devonshire widow died 11 November 1908 at Catkill Farm Rose Ash aforesaid Probate **London** 2 December to Maria Cole (wife of Elias Cole) and James Coles farmer. Effects £208 14s. 5d.

COLES Charles of Northover in Glastonbury Somersetshire mechanic died 19 January 1908 Probate **Wells** 6 February to Kate Earle (wife of Frederick Earle) and Frank Joseph Seager skin rug maker. Effects £602.

COLES Charles of 249 Caerleon-road Newport Monmouthshire died 10 June 1908 Probate **London** 15 July to Elizabeth Jane Coles widow and Arthur Charles Coles assistant collector of taxes. Effects £1440 13s. 10d.

COLES Charles of 236 Beresford-street Walworth Surrey died 2 August 1908 Probate **London** 3 September to William Rogers Lovering collector and Albert William Rogers Lovering accountant's clerk. Effects £7712 9s. 7d.

COLES Charles of Woollard Pensford Somersetshire died 21 October 1908 at The Royal United Hospital Bath Administration **London** 25 November to George Edward Coles miner. Effects £115 8s. 11d.

COLES Charles John of the Drayton Court Hotel Ealing Middlesex died 8 September 1908 Probate **London** 29 September to Charles Alexander Coles and William Henry Coles licensed victuallers and Frank Evans Bailey gentleman. Effects £32384 2s. 5d.

COLES Eliza Jane of Bridgwater Somersetshire widow died 11 June 1908 Probate **Taunton** 27 July to Walter Charles Stenner and Albert Gear accountants.
Effects £1017 14s. 5d.

COLES Elizabeth of Starcross Kenton Devonshire widow died 17 September 1908 Probate **Exeter** 13 October to Thomas Martin accountant and Frank Rowe chemist.
Effects £1309 5s. 5d.

COLES Elizabeth of "Clifton" Bevis-road Portsmouth (wife of William Coles) died 1 August 1908 Probate **London** 3 November to William Francis Coles electrician and Francis Edwin Watts greengrocer. Effects £459 19s. 8d.

COLES Elizabeth Sarah of 31 Bath-road Exeter widow died 15 January 1908 Probate **London** 28 February to Bessie Coles and Kate Durnford Coles spinsters Walter Brown Coles architect and Grace Emily Coles spinster.
Effects £4630 3s. 10d.

COLES Frederick William of 44 Bowbridge-road Newark Nottinghamshire joiner died 14 October 1908 at Newark Probate **Nottingham** 23 October to Ada Mary Flint spinster. Effects £95 11s.

COLES George of Whitchurch Warwickshire died 28 May 1908 Probate **London** 24 September to Ann Coles widow.
Effects £2951 1s. 11d.

COLES Henry John of Mary-street Taunton waterworks inspector died 19 October 1908 Administration **Taunton** 16 November to Henry Thomas Coles waterworks manager.
Effects £474 18s. 5d.

COLES Isaac of Bickley Milverton Somersetshire groom died 18 November 1907 at The Taunton and Somerset Hospital Taunton Administration **Taunton** 29 January to Amy Margaret Lance Coles widow. Effects £63 6s.

COLES James William of 91 Coronation Buildings South Lambeth Surrey died 26 August 1908 at St. George's Hospital Hyde Park Corner Middlesex Probate **London** 17 September to Mary Ann Coles widow. Effects £135 12s. 2d.

COLES John Robert of Homleigh 133 Underhill-road Honor Oak Surrey died 3 March 1908 at Guys' Hospital Surrey Probate **London** 21 May to Minnie Eliza Coles widow.
Effects £680 7s. 7d.

COLES Lucy of Burgess Hall Leeds Kent (wife of James Readman Coles) died 10 July 1908 Probate **London** 24 August to the said James Readman Coles of independent means.
Effects £226 10s.

COLES Margaret of 108 Brixton Hill Surrey widow died 4 January 1908 Administration **London** 13 February to Mary Janet Coles spinster. Effects £298.

COLES Mary of 51 Bridge-street Dover Kent widow died 8 February 1908 at The Union Infirmary Dover aforesaid Administration **London** 3 March to William Henry Coles licensed victualler. Effects £316 17s. 4d.

COLES Mary of 50 Welbeck-street Mansfield Nottinghamshire widow died 21 February 1908 Administration **Nottingham** 9 March to Frederick James Coles colliery banksman. Effects £21.

A MODEL SUBURBAN GARDEN: WALLACEFIELD, COOMBE LANE, CROYDON.

THE garden at Wallacefield, Coombe Lane, Croydon, which I explored on a pleasant spring afternoon, with the sun shining brilliantly, may be taken for a model for amateurs who desire to make the most of the space at their command, possess ideas of their own, and have the means to carry them into effect. The owner is a very busy man, but he is exceedingly fond of the garden, which was laid out under his auspices when he selected a charming position outside Croydon, and several hundred feet above sea level, for his residence six years ago. If the time he is able to spend in it is limited, his garden is the object of his constant study; he has a great love for flowers, and he personally affords every possible encouragement and assistance to his gardener, Mr. Coles, who combines with the utmost ardour the laudable ambitions of youth. The illustrations which accompany the text of the article were taken by the owner at different periods, and are admirable representations of some of the most interesting features of the place. Unfortunately, he was not able to be at home on the occasion of my visit, but Mr. Coles, who took me round, afforded me abundant information.

THE FRONT BEDS.

Starting at the entrance, which, though attractive, has the disadvantage of facing north, the decoration of the borders was the first subject of discussion. The borders round the house, and facing it, are planted for spring effect with Wallflowers Blood-red and Golden Yellow, in combination with a wide band of yellow Crocuses and clumps of double Daffodils and Narcissi. The flowering and ornamental shrubs behind include double Peach, Lilacs, Olearia Haastii, Ribes, Forsythia suspensa, and Spiræas.

"How do you fill the borders in summer?" I enquired.

"The first row of the ribbon border is filled with Geranium Paul Crampel, and the second with Flower of Spring, the edging consisting of a wide row of white Violas and blue Lobelias. The bed in front, now planted with double Arabis, and Tulips Belle Alliance, scarlet—to be followed in May by the Rev. Ewbank and Parisian Yellow—will, in summer, be occupied by Geranium Robert Cannell (salmon), and a border of white Alyssum."

"I see that in spite of the north aspect, climbers flourish on the house."

"Yes, the yellow Jasminum, Lonicera, and Ampelopsis in variety; while in the bay behind the borders such shrubs as Portugal Laurels, Box, and Golden Privet prosper. The Roses on the lattice fence are Dorothy Perkins; and the rock plants in flower in the small rockery near the entrance are Primula Cashmeriana, Anemone apennina, Grape Hyacinths, Scilla sibirica, Campanulas, Saxifragas, Sedums, Ramondias, and Aubrietias."

"But," continued Mr. Coles, "practically the whole of the garden faces south. Here the climbers on the house embrace Clematis Jackmanni, Choisya ternata, Ampelopsis in variety, Ceanothus Veitchiana, Magnolia, Escallonia macrantha, and Pyracantha. On the east side there is only Ampelopsis, and on the west Jasminum and Honeysuckles."

MR. W. COLES.

THE SUNNY SOUTH SIDE OF WALLACEFIELD.

"Shall we inspect the conservatory next, or the terrace bedding?"

"The conservatory is not very large, but it is always decorated. The Hyacinths have been in flower since the beginning of February."

AZALEAS AND AMARYLLIS.

"And the Azaleas in bloom?"

"Sir John Llewelyn, Simon Mardner, President O. de Kerchove, Professor Waters, Anthony Koster, Empress of India, and Niobe, one of the best whites. The Amaryllis in flower are unnamed seedlings; in the second year of flowering I crossed one with a deep red. The process of hybridising is very fascinating, and I hope to do a fair amount."

"The decorations include several thriving Orchids."

"They are chiefly Dendrobium nobile, Wardianum, and Sanderæ, and Cypripedium Countess of Carnarvon. The latter has this year, for the first time, thrown up two blooms on a spike. The fine white Tulip is Lady Boreel, and it is one of the best. Primula sinensis Princess Mary, has been in flower for eight weeks; the Duchess is an older but a useful variety. The flowers of Primula kewensis have been exceptionally good. Arum Lilies, and Lilies of the Valley, which we have had here since Christmas, do well, and so do Spiræas japonica, Washington, and Queen Alexandra. Palms and hanging baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri exhaust the contents of the conservatory."

A DISPLAY OF HYACINTHS.

Descending the steps from the terrace, which is embellished with green seats and Portugal Laurels in boxes, my attention was temporarily absorbed by a very striking display of Hyacinths, ten rows on each side, making up a colour group of red, white, and blue.

"These varieties," said Mr. Cole, "are La Grandesse, Gertrude, and Czar Peter. They will be followed by May-flowering Tulips, La Merveille, with a groundwork of double white Arabis. These two beds are always a feature in spring and summer, and we aim to make them as bright as possible. The May-flowering Tulips will be succeeded in their turn by Geraniums King of Denmark, Hermione, and Black Douglas, edged with Echeveria and blue Lobelia. Taking the upper lawn first, it would be convenient to go through the Rose pergola, the path of which was put down only twelve months ago. It was bought from Messrs. Cheal and Sons' exhibit at the International Exhibition, before the latter was opened, having previously been used round the 'Ideal Home,' at Olympia."

THE ROSE PERGOLA.

"Have you enlarged or extended it?"

"Yes, it has been extended, and is now eighty feet long and eight feet wide. The stone walk affords an admirable contrast to the grass on either side. There are nine arches at intervals of eight feet each, and the varieties of Roses are Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Mrs. Flight, Hiawatha, and Carmine Pillar. On the pergola are also Clematis montana, Japanese Honeysuckle, Vitis purpurea, and Polygonum Baldschuanicum. The Daffodils in the bowl in the alcove at the end are Van Sion. This is an excellent variety, three bulbs having produced nine flowers. The Violas planted on each side of the pergola between the Roses are Maggie Mott. Most of these Roses are yellow, and we thus get a favourite combination of mauve and yellow."

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"How do you fill the long border which begins just outside the pergola?"

"In spring with a mixture of Darwin Tulips, Wallflowers, Arabis (double), and Myosotis. As to summer effects, last year we had Antirrhinums, Dwarf Tom Thumb, Carter's Pink, Coral Red, Cloth of Gold, dwarf Marigolds Legion of Honour, and masses of Tagetes. I expect to repeat the Antirrhinums this year, only in different colours, and to improve upon the Tagetes and Marigolds. The soil is light loam on chalk, and this border is rather dry."

"What kinds of fruit do you grow on the fence behind the border?"

"Pears, Bon Chretien and Marie Louise; Apples, Ribston Pippin and Sturmer's Pippin. They do fairly well, and look all the better now for having been root-pruned last year."

THE DECORATIVE ORCHARD.

"You seem to have here a decorative orchard, which, with its grassy path and herbaceous border, must be extremely attractive later in the year."

"We certainly get a fine show of flowers in the herbaceous border, which does not suffer in any way from the shade of the fruit trees. The border is arranged in groups according to colour. For example, among the yellows are Heleniums, Doronicums, Helianthemums, Lupins, Viola King Cup, and Asters. The blue groups embrace Delphiniums, Anchusas, Larkspurs, and Iris Celeste. The whites include Chrysanthemum Mrs. Lowthian Bell and Scabious; the pinks Antirrhinums and Gladiolus America; the reds Potentillas and Pyrethrums; and the orange Montbretias and Phlox. While the grass path in the centre makes the walk through pleasant, the fruit trees planted on either side, both when they are in flower or fruiting, are very ornamental. They were planted soon after the garden was made. The Pears are Easter Beurre, Beurre Bachelier, and Conseilleur de la Cour; the Apples, Ribston Pippin and Queen Caroline; the Plums, Monarch. We got a nice lot of fruit last year, and in addition to ornamentation, the standard trees make an excellent screen."

"So do the shrubs."

"Both shrubs and Roses. As well as the shrubs already named, there are in this border Laurels, Bays, Cerasus, Prunus pissardi, Laburnums, Lilacs, Spruce, Deutzias, Berberis in variety, Hollies, and Veronica Traversii. The garden Roses in the border are Little Pet, Richmond, Irish Beauty, Dean Hole, Madame Leon Pain, La Tosca, and J. B. Clark."

ROCKERIES EVERYWHERE.

We next paused at one of the rockeries, with an eastern aspect, and Mr. Coles observed:

"It may be better, as we have rockeries in various parts of the grounds—the main one being on the lower lawn—to mention a few varieties which are now in flower. These include Saxifraga apiculta, Potentilla pyrenaica, Anemone fulgens, Aubrietias Graceanum and Fire King, Viola gracilis, Campanula muralis, Cistus crispus, Dianthus cæsius major, Iberis sempervirens superba, Gentiana acaulis (now in bud), Onosma tamice, Daphne cneorum major, and Hepatica triloba cœrulea, a mass of blue flower."

"The appearance of this part of the garden is improved by the hedge of Gorse and Berberis with the little banks of Thymus below."

"Yes, they help to decorate the tennis lawn, another feature being the picturesque summer-house clothed with Roses, chiefly Aimee Vibert. The bed under the Chestnut tree is now filled with Tulips Keizerskroon and white Arabis; in summer, pink and white Geraniums will take their place. The border behind, now filled with Tulips, Wallflowers, and Polyanthus, will be devoted in summer to Antirrhinums, Nemesias, Marigolds, Scabious, and for edging blue Lobelias. Practically, there are flowers in greater or less number all round the tennis-court. We have still a portion of the lower lawn to see, but it will save time to take the kitchen garden on the way."

POPULAR ANNUALS.

So through a rustic gate, divided by a bed of Thujias and mixed shrubs, we passed into the kitchen garden. Here one of the first objects which claimed notice is a wide border with patches of annuals from which flowers for table decoration are cut, the principal being Salpiglossis, Pentstemons, Cosmeas, Clarkias, Godetias, Heliotropes, Coreopsis, and Asters. On either side of the main path are long herbaceous borders.

"The borders," continued Mr. Coles, "are planned in clumps, and the varieties include Heucheras, Phlox, Iris germanica, Pentstemons Newbury Gem, Erigeron speciosus, and early-flowering Chrysanthemums. Just here we have some rows of Sweet Peas. We run them in all colours, pink, white, salmon, and blue. They were autumn sown, and stood all through the winter. Elsewhere there are more Sweet Peas planted to prolong the season, and these embrace some of Carter's best named varieties. One of the trial borders in the kitchen garden is made up of Pansies Carter's Intermediate. We have a number of these trial borders, from which we pick out the best, and transfer them into the flower garden. I never put anything fresh into the beds until I have tested it."

"Is that, do you think, the secret of your success in the flower garden?"

"I think it has a great deal to do with the result obtained. Here, you see, is a collection of Phloxes in pots, all named. They will be planted out, and I shall choose the best to use in the flower garden, working up a stock so as to secure a mass of colour. There are twenty-seven varieties, and before planting permanently in the border, it is essential to know whether they are true to colour. Sometimes you get a variety described as salmon, which, when in flower, is a magenta."

A BUSY DAY IN THE GARDEN AT WALLACEFIELD.

"I suppose you find your frame ground very useful?"

"It keeps the conservatory going. Just now the contents include herbaceous Calceolarias, Schizanthus, late Primulas, and Darwin Tulips; also a number of Chrysanthemums in the earliest stages."

"How many Chrysanthemums do you grow?"

"About a hundred Japanese and decorative, forty bush, and forty single. In the early winter we depend upon them mainly to decorate the conservatory."

"You have a considerable quantity of fruit in the kitchen garden?"

"The most noteworthy is the collection of espalier-trained Apples, of which the six best are Cox's Orange Pippin, King of the Pippins, The Queen, Allington Pippin, Beauty of Bath, and Court Pendu Plat. The Plums are Victoria and Greengage. There are three rows of Raspberries, which do remarkably well, and two Strawberry borders with about six of the leading varieties, including St. Antoine. The vegetables are on a considerable scale, special attention being given to Asparagus, Peas, Brussels Sprouts, Celery, and Beans."

A RARE NEW ZEALAND PLANT.

We next made our way into the two plant houses.

"Here," said Mr. Coles, "we have a collection of Amaryllis seedlings in pots, about one hundred and fifty altogether. There are five in a pot, and they will be shifted into single pots in the spring. I hope to flower them in three years. There are also a number of seedling Gloxinias, twelve months old. Some of these are named. They were all grown from a half-crown packet of seed. They flowered last year, and made a good display. In the cool house we grow a few early Roses, and also a number of Orchids, including Vandas and Odontoglossum crispum. You may like to note that we have in this house a rather rare plant, which came from New Zealand two years ago. It is called Arthropodium cirhatum. The flowers are white, and resemble Lilies of the Valley. They were first introduced into this country thirty years ago, but these are from freshly-imported seed. The only fruit grown in the houses are Melons, Sutton's Superlative and His Eminence."

Returning to the house, across the lower lawn, I noticed the large Rose bed, and Mr. Coles, in reply said,

"The bed is entirely planted with William Allen Richardson in standards and half standards. For groundwork in spring there are Daffodils Emperor, and these are followed in summer with Viola Maggie Mott. This faces the house, and is in close proximity to the sundial in the centre of the lawn. This double-oval bed above is at present planted with yellow and brown Polyanthus, and May-flowering Tulips Parisian Yellow."

"Are there any special varieties in the borders round the lower lawns?"

"An Aster called Saturn is largely used, Geum Mrs. Bradshaw, and Lilium candidum in clumps. The hardy and half-hardy annuals are arranged to a colour scheme with an edging of Mrs. Sinkins Pinks, and Alyssum minima. These borders at present are planted with Narcissus Pheasant's-eye, double Daffodils, Darwin Tulips, clumps of various kinds of Wallflowers, and Polyanthus. A suitable background is formed by trees and flowering shrubs, which

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include double-flowering Peach, Copper Beech, and Maples."

"You have not mentioned the Rose bed planted with bushes?"

"The varieties are Hybrid Teas, Mrs. Waddell, Betty, Frau Karl Druschki, Lady Hillingdon, Avoca, Lady Pirrie, His Majesty, Dorothy Page Roberts, General McArthur, and Mrs. George Shawyer. There is yet another rockery facing the house, in which many lovely little Alpines are now in flower, and with this, I believe, the features of Wallacefield are pretty well exhausted."

"You appropriately finish with the Alpines, which contribute so materially to the beauty of the garden, and are represented by so many of the most delightful varieties. How long have you been in charge?"

"For two years. I was previously at Bromley, in Kent. In extent this garden covers about one and a half acres, and the two-fold purpose always kept in view is to make the most of them, and to invest them with every charm which can be produced by decorative effects. We try to have something in bloom in the beds and borders all the year round. Last Christmas Day twenty-four varieties of various flowers were picked outside in the open."

A GARDEN OF REST.

Reviewing the whole, it may be said that the prevailing note in this garden is one of restfulness—the kind of retreat which offers a marked contrast to the rush of the City. This 'atmosphere' is secured by the relatively wide expanses of smooth lawns, round which are grouped the flower borders already described. In laying out the garden, every care has been taken to screen the adjoining houses, and at the same time to keep open the pleasant vistas of a large private park opposite the house, the famous Croham Hurst, and the Fir-clad Ballards Hill. Although the garden is still in its early youth, the old Elm trees on the neighbouring properties have been skilfully worked into the garden plan, with a result which is distinctly satisfying to the eyes of the man who can appreciate the decorative value of big trees, especially when they do not encumber his own restricted acreage! ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week: The gardens at Holly Bush Lodge, Old Southgate, will be described.

CYCLAMEN FROM SEED.

IN recommending April sowing of Cyclamen seed, I know I am laying myself open to criticism, but I feel confident, from practical experience, that it is more favourable than sowing in July and August. Firstly, we are sowing the seed as soon as ripe, and consequently there is quicker germination; secondly, we have larger plants, so that there is no need for growing as many; thirdly, commencing so early in the year, we can grow our plants without having to subject them to high temperatures, thereby having foliage dwarf and strong, and thus better able to fulfil its functions, and allowing the flowers to stand well above the foliage, thus being more effective for decorative purposes.

SOW SEED WHEN RIPE.

To produce good plants of Cyclamen, seed should be sown as soon as it is ripe (which will be about the end of April), in pans containing a mixture of loam, leaf-soil, and sand in equal proportions. Place the seed one inch apart, and a quarter of an inch deep, and put them in a propagating case in a temperature of sixty-five degrees. They will germinate in two to three weeks, when they should be put close to the glass to prevent them becoming drawn. As soon as they have made two or three leaves, they are ready to move into a cooler house, where they can have more air, as when they are growing nicely, they must have plenty of air to keep them strong and sturdy. Spray them morning and afternoon, and shade from bright sun.

About the middle of July, the young plants will be ready for potting singly into thumb pots, taking care not to break the roots. Use a mixture containing a little more leaf-soil than for seeds. After potting they should be stood upon a bed of leaf-soil, slightly plunging the pots, as the retention of moisture by the leaf-soil is a great help to their growth, in addition to being a rooting medium for the young roots. From now onwards they will require careful watering, syringing, and shading. Avoid cold draughts when giving air.

Early in September they will be ready for another potting, which should be into 3-in. pots, using the compost somewhat coarser, and adding a dusting of bonemeal and sheep droppings, with one part coke breeze that has been passed through the ½-in. sieve. This coke breeze is a splendid aid to the production of fibrous roots, as they appear to delight in penetrating it, and, of course, anything that aids root production must show itself in the growth of the plant. After potting replace on the leaf-soil, keeping them in a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees, and always close to the glass.

THE FINAL POTTING.

Here they may remain until the end of March, when they should be ready for another potting, which can be their final, into 6-in. size, or into 5-in. to be potted on into 8-in. I prefer to flower them in 6-in. pots the first year, repotting and flowering in 8-in. pots the second year. For this potting prepare a compost of lumpy loam, two parts; leaf-soil, sheep droppings, and coke breeze, one part each, with a dusting of bonemeal, soot, and sand, keeping the base of the corm level with the soil when potting is finished.

About the end of April place them in a shallow cold frame on a bed of ashes, being careful to see to the shading against bright sun. Allow plenty of air after they have been in the frame a little time, and syringe them twice each day.

Toward the end of June begin to leave a little air on the frame all night, gradually increasing the amount until August, when the lights can be left off all night, as the warm, moist evening is beneficial to them.

FEEDING THE PLANTS.

When they are nicely rooted into the soil, feed them with liquid manure made from sheep droppings, always being careful to use it weak. Give also an occasional application of some approved fertiliser.

About the end of September they require taking into the house, keeping a temperature of fifty degrees, and spraying with an insecticide. If all has gone well, the grower will be rewarded with a continuous display of flowers from the end of October till March, all plants carrying blooms of good size and in great profusion.

A. S.

THE GOLDEN DROP.

A CHARMING plant, truly, is the Golden Drop, as Onosma taurica is usually called. It is well named, as the clusters of yellow flowers are like bunches of old-fashioned ear-drops. Nor does the beauty of the flowers constitute their sole charm; for they are Almond-scented, a fragrance not too common among our hardy flowers.

This Golden Drop is peculiarly suited to the rockery. If planted behind a stone its flowers hang prettily over it, and the contrast of the hard, dark stone with the pleasing form and colour of the flowers is a perfect and satisfying one.

KEEP DRY IN WINTER.

Onosma taurica is only a few inches high, and is splendid for a dry and sunny place in light soil. Its pet abhorrence is winter wet, rain, sleet, snow, hail, and frost to, often telling so severely upon its rough foliage as to destroy the plants. Given, however, a moderately dry climate, or in lieu of that, some winter protection by a sheet of glass, Onosma taurica should pull through the most severe winters in nearly all parts of the kingdom.

It may be raised from seeds, which are sometimes procurable, but increase by cuttings is not difficult. After the plant has been flowered, branches, each with a heel of the old wood attached, may be taken off and inserted in sandy soil, in a pot surfaced with sand, watered, and placed under glass. They may also be struck without a "heel," but some cultivators do not find them root so well in this way.

S. ARNOTT.

CYCLAMEN WELL STAGED, WITH CINERARIAS FOR BACKGROUND.

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THE GARDENS OF THE EARL OF DARNLEY, AT COBHAM HALL, KENT.

BY the courtesy of the Earl of Darnley, I visited the gardens at Cobham Hall in August. Described by Repton at the close of the eighteenth century as a splendid palace of the date of Queen Eliabzeth, the great pile of buildings which forms the hall, and stands on several acres of ground, is one of the most noble of the historic seats of England, and is surrounded by a park and gardens abounding in charms. As a matter of fact, it stands about three hundred feet above sea level, but as it lies in a hollow of a hundred feet below higher ground, the spring season in the gardens is later than usual. On the other hand, for that reason in summer they are always cool and moist at night.

"This," said Mr. J. D. Colledge, who is in charge of the gardens and showed me round, pointing out, as we proceeded, their most characteristic features, "is, of course, a material advantage, of which I endeavour to make the most. You may like to note the original Hall, dating from 1300; and the wing known as the West Court, whose base was rebuilt from designs by Inigo Jones in 1662. The south wing is dated 1584, and the north wing 1594. The principal creepers on the walls are Magnolia grandiflora, which goes right up the house, eighty feet high; Pomegranates, Bignonia radicans, Roses Macartney (still in flower) and Fortune's Yellow, and Wistaria sinensis. Here, on the west wing, where it may be convenient to start, are two magnificent Magnolias, with grand foliage and flowers."

The Beds in the Quadrangle.

"What is the extent of the quadrangle, with the flower beds in grass?"

"About two hundred feet on each side. Four of the beds are filled with Lavender and Roses, edged with Mrs. Sinkins Pinks; and two with clipped design of variegated Kerrias, Rosemary, and dwarf Lavender. The hedge is of Yew, and in the small paved space is a vase and pedestal nine feet high. In an ordinary season, the effect is a blue mist, but the cold this year killed a lot of the buds."

"It none the less is very impressive. What is the scheme of colour on the beautiful south front?"

"Blue and pink all through. We aim to make it striking, but not glaring, and the bedding is renewed each season, instead of changed. You will observe that the design is a strip of beds, with two lines right through, with grass as a border outside, and double Lobelias inside. The beds at each corner are Roses, Caroline Testout in one, and Madame Resal in the other, with pale blue Violas as a groundwork. Four of the beds consist of Ageratum mexicana, the tall-growing variety, and the dwarf, both blue, with Geranium Mrs. Mappin, pink; and there are four beds exclusively filled with Rose Alberic Barbier. In the centre one, two lines of Blue Grass, with double Begonia Semperflorens, and Centaureas."

"Is the Rose garden cut out of the grass on the lawn a modern addition?"

"Yes, it was made in 1904 by Mr. Goldring, from a plan approved by the Countess of Darnley. The Rose beds are surrounded by a Yew hedge, which we are going to cut into shape, and the varieties in the beds, which in no case are mixed, are Frau Karl Druschki, Madame Abel Chatenay, Liberty, and Grand Duc de Luxemburg. The standard Ramblers in the centre of each bed are Hiawatha, Dorothy Perkins (pink and white), and Blush Rambler. There is not a better Rose for effect than Blush Rambler; it flowers before it has time to smother itself with growth."

The Value of Violas.

"The soil must be congenial?"

"Unquestionably it is, as constituted. The place lies on chalk, but we brought in heavy loam soil, without fibre, from the park,

MR. J. D. COLLEDGE.

and there is little chalk on the surface. The groundwork of Violas accentuates the beauty of the Roses. The four varieties are Dunkirk, yellow; Mrs. Lumley, white; Charity, mauve; and Liberty, dark purple. The sundial in the centre tends to give distinction to the whole. The fountain on the lawn is decorated with Ivy-leaved Geranium Madame Crousse, bronze Cannas, and Castor-oil plants, with Lilies in the water, a bronze and pink effect. In the stone vases are Marguerites and Ageratums as groundwork."

"You appear to have a succession of beds on the lawns?"

"They are, as far as possible, made up for colour results. For example, here is a combination of blue and yellow, embracing Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, Nemesia Blue Gem, Calceolaria amplexicaulis, Anthemis Kelwayii, and Rudbeckia. By way of contrast in the vicinity is a Rose bed pegged down. The variety is Fellenberg, and it gives a mass of colour from June to October, or later. If I only planted one Rose I should choose Fellenberg. Then, there is a bed of Azaleas, with a frontage of Erica vagans alba, and Campanula pyramidalis planted through it. We grow a quantity of these Campanulas, nine feet high in pots, and they last a month in the house. Blue and yellow are represented in another bed by Delphiniums, Lupins, Œnotheras, Hypericums, and Isatis glauca (special variety). Earlier in the season there are Lilacs and white Spiræas, with Pyrus malus floribunda in the background."

"You have some large beds of Phlox?"

"We get two effects from Phlox—mauve on one side, and red and pink on the other. The former has a background of Rhododendron ponticum, and the latter of flowering Cherries and Ribes of great size. In the spring-time, a fine effect is produced by the Hollies surrounded by red Poppies. There are also Rhododendrons on this side. Rhododendrons are quite a feature of the gardens, and nearly three hundred have been planted in recent years. So long as there is no lime in the soil, it is not necessary to have peat. I have planted and grown Rhododendrons in sand. If they cover their own roots, they will thrive.

Three Effects from One Bed.

"Please describe a few more of the beds."

"They include one with Michaelmas Daisies sized to the back, and arranged to colour. I tried them in the kitchen garden first, and then transplanted them here. From another bed we get three effects. In spring, Azaleas and mixed Pansies. The Pansies are very fine, and last from spring to the end of September in flower. If they are manured and watered regularly, they can be depended upon to make a good show. These were only planted last autumn. In the early summer, Spiræas Bumalda and Liliums were a useful combination, and now, pink Ericas predominate, though Pansies still dispute the supremacy. Yet another bed is made up of white Agrostemmas, and a beautiful colour effect is produced earlier in the year by a bed of Rhododendrons Michael Waterer."

Pausing to inspect the border at the main entrance on the north side, where several trees, including a Spanish Chestnut growing right down to the grass, and two specimen Judas trees, planted in 1904, are conspicuous features, and a bank of Rambler Roses merits notice, we made our way into the new rock garden, designed by Lady Darnley, and planted last season.

"Lady Darnley," continued Mr. Colledge, "is very fond of her gardens. She not only makes many plans, but often works in the gardens herself. The rockery includes a Japanese temple, and a rustic bridge, at the foot of steps leading down to it by the side of a stream. Purbeck stone is used for vases to stand upon. In the water is a supply of goldfish, and the banks are clothed in the season with Irises. The collection of Alpines includes many of the latest novelties, of which you may care to mention a blue Pentstemon; Papaver Hildreckii, a lovely orange Poppy; and the Primulas, which are on a large scale, and include representative varieties. Adjoining the rockery is My Lady's Garden, with a handsome Copper Beech at the entrance. In this garden also is a specimen of Quercus ilex, seventy-five feet high; a Sophora japonica, eighty-four feet high, with girth at five feet, fifteen feet ten inches; and Maidenhair tree (Gingko biloba), seventy-three feet high, and girth at five feet, ten feet three inches. Roses roped along are one of the features of this garden, the varieties being mostly Wichuriana Polyanthas. At one end is a large Arbutus, and at the other a Pyrus, with a yellow Rose growing up it. The only Rose in the border is Charles Lefebvre, from which I get shoots five and six feet long. It flowers right along, and is fragrant as well as beautiful. I can recommend it for vases; it lasts a week in water. Facing the Rose bank is a Syringa hedge, over ten feet high, and about one hundred yards long, which, in the season, gives a mass of scented white bloom; and in front is a Thyme border."

Beyond the charming garden, on the slopes, is an arbour of Traveller's Joy and white Roses, intermixed with Dorothy Perkins; a couple of garden temples; a fine specimen of Magnolia

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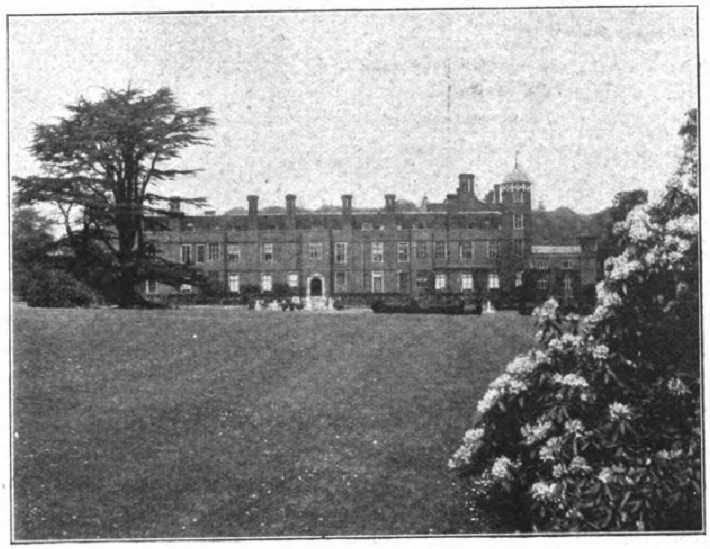
conspicua, planted in 1818; flourishing specimens of Bamboos; and a glorious specimen of Rhus cotinus."

"The Rhus continus," I observed, "seems like a great stretch of crimson cloud. Can you tell me its dimensions?"

"Its diameter is seven yards, and it is between ten and eleven feet high. The effect of colour is brought out more vividly in contrast to the Prunus Pissardi adjoining. We cut pieces of the Rhus cotinus for table decoration. Another excellent combination is made up of Wistarias and Laburnums; and the notable trees in this locality include a deciduous Cypress; Cedrus libanii, planted by the fourth Countess of Darnley in 1810; and Magnolia acuminata, planted in 1818. As to other trees, we shall see many in the terrace garden and upper shrubbery facing the north side of the Hall."



COBHAM PARK—SOUTH SIDE.

A Dickens Chalet.

As we climbed these beautiful banks, which in spring are adorned with thousands of bulbs, my attention was attracted by a real Dickens chalet, and I asked how it came to be erected in that conspicuous spot.

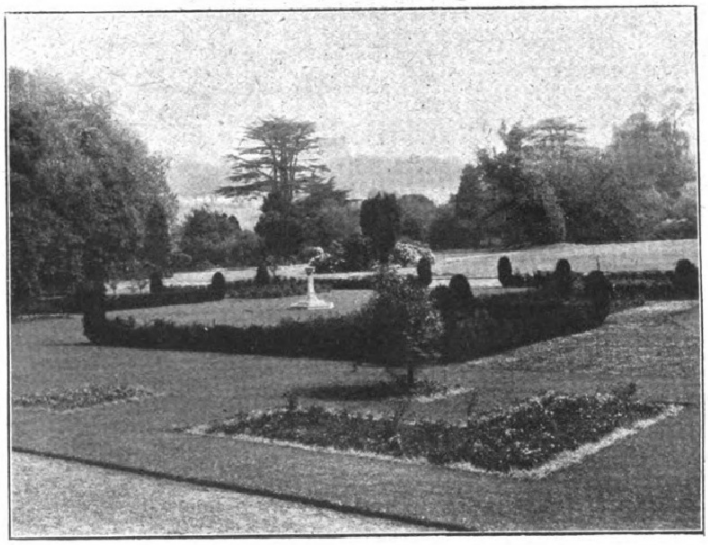
"It was presented by Charles Dickens when he resided at Gad's Hill, to the sixth Lord Darnley. He wrote many of his books in that chalet. In the upper shrubbery above the terrace garden, commanding striking views of the beautiful park, is Repton's seat, built by him at the time he planned the gardens. The most noteworthy trees are Liriodendron tulipifera, seventy-five feet high; Taxodium distichum, seventy-eight feet; Sequoia sempervirens, eighty-eight feet; Liquidambar, seventy-five feet; Quercus phellos, eighty-three feet; and two Cedars of Lebanon, respectively ninety-nine and eighty-six feet high. The tallest trees, however, are in the park, one of the Limes being one hundred and four feet, and two of the Ashes, one hundred and sixteen and one hundred and twenty-eight feet high. There are many representatives of Abies, Pinus, and Beech. Pines, especially, are represented by the Californian, the Italian, the Scotch, and the Silver Dutch. You may perhaps like to add that Ivy grows up the Firs from sixty to seventy feet high."

Millions of Hollyhocks.

"A feature of another kind is the remarkable border of Hollyhocks and Lavender immediately facing the mansion."

"With Roses on the wall behind. The border is three hundred feet long, and the Hollyhocks are all seedlings, representing, I think, every conceivable shade of colour. During the flowering season, I suppose there are millions of flowers. I do nothing to the plants, but as soon as there is a gap I put in others. The Fig-leaved Hollyhock does better than the other variety."

There was yet another flower garden to see, namely, the original Rose garden in front of Mr. Colledge's house, which has quite recently had its paths changed from gravel to grass, with most satisfactory results. Here, too, close to the house, is a remarkable yellow border, consisting of yellow Marguerites, Geum Crystal Palace Gem, yellow Antirrhinums, Violas, Pyrethrums, and Golden Privet. Finally, we entered the kitchen garden, with its range of houses.



THE ROSE GARDEN AT COBHAM PARK, MADE IN 1904 BY MR. GOLDING.

"The kitchen garden," said Mr. Colledge, "is upwards of two acres in extent within the walls, and, in addition, we used to have two acres for vegetable cultivation at the home farm. One of the features here is the blue border, one hundred feet long, with a companion border of pink, also one hundred feet long. The annuals are so timed that they flower all together, and you can imagine it took some time to accomplish this feat. In the blue border are the Larkspur, the Cornflower, the Nigella, the Asperula, the Phacelia, and the Nemophila. In the pink border are Larkspurs and Cornflowers in pink shades, Clarkias, Larkspurs, and Cornflowers in pink shades, Clarkias, double Godetias, and Eschscholtzias, finishing up with a seedling Poppy of the same shade of pink, which I have been selecting for years. Behind one of the Vineries is a long border of early-flowering Chrysanthemums, chiefly the Masse family and its varieties, all about the same height."

A Splendid Vine.

"And inside the houses?"

"First of all the four Vineries. One splendid old Vine has a house to itself. It is a Black Hamburgh, and has over two hundred bunches, most of them rather fine. We have to manure and water a quarter of an acre of gravel, as there is no border, and the roots travel a long distance. Two houses are devoted to Carnations, of which two thousand are grown. Malmaisons do particularly well. Other plants include Begonia de Lorraine, some of them three feet through; Gloxinias, which do especially well; and some fine varieties of Amaryllis. A long house is devoted to Ferns, and another to Palms. Then there are two Peach houses. In the great Peach case we get about two thousand Peaches and Nectarines in the season, and it supplies us with a good many hundredweights of Tomatoes. About one thousand Strawberry plants are forced here, and Beans, Peas, Lettuces, Cauliflowers, and Carrots, in succession."

"What about Strawberries outside?"

"One square of one hundred feet is taken up with small bush fruits, all young plants, put in four years ago, which always produce good crops. A similar square is confined to Strawberries, of which a quarter is trenched and replanted every year. The varieties are Royal Sovereign, George Monro, Laxton's Latest, Givon's Late Prolific, and Hericat de Thury. There is a long stretch of Raspberries in the dampest part of the garden, which never fails to give a splendid crop."

"Have you anything special to say about vegetables?"

"There are some very good beds of three-

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year-old Asparagus, which is sunk instead of being raised. By this means they get full benefit of all that is given them, whereas raised beds are apt to run off water. This year I am trying Cabbage and Savoy Sprouts. I am very fond of the old-fashioned way of gardening, and appreciate grafting, budding, and propagating, which is now so little done in private gardens. Celery, Seakale, and Broccoli are grown in abundance, and there are several rows of Maize for cooking in the cob. This is a vegetable not much seen at present."

"How long have you been gardener at Cobham Hall, Mr. Colledge?"

"Six years. My previous experience has been chiefly in Scotland and Ireland. In Scotland it included Philiphaugh, Selkirkshire, and in Ireland I was at Drumcar, in Co. Louth, Lord Rathdonnel's place, and Glenveagh Castle, in Co. Donegal, with Mrs. Adair."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week's interview will be with a Sweet Pea Amateur, Mr. Alfred F. Blades, of Rookfields, Reigate.

VIOLETS IN EARTH FRAMES.

EARTH or turf-built frames should be more numerous in gardens than they are. A neatly-constructed turf frame is not at all objectionable to look at, and far preferable to the rotting wooden frames one often sees. It lasts for many years if well built, and, owing to the even moisture arising from the turves, the plants growing near the sides are as healthy and robust as those grown in the centre. This is not always so in the case of wooden frames. The glass lights should rest on boards one and a half inches by four and a half inches, laid on the turf walls.

Hotbeds Unnecessary.

Violets do remarkably well in turf frames during the winter months. It is not at all necessary to make up hotbeds for these plants; good compost averaging one foot to fifteen inches in depth, and made rather firm while the soil is moderately dry, is best for them. They should be lifted now with nice balls of soil adhering to their roots, and be planted in the prepared frames about sixteen inches apart. The large-leaved varieties, such as Princess of Wales, for instance, should be put in two inches further apart, as over-crowding of foliage leads to damping.

All side runners should be pinched off at the time of planting, and any others that grow must also be removed as soon as they are large enough to handle. The leaves, when the plants have finally settled in the soil, should almost touch the glass. Give a thorough watering, and see that the plants never suffer through lack of it, but take care not to sour the soil by giving small surface waterings very frequently.

When the weather is fine enough, remove the glass lights, and at other times, except when fogs or frost prevails, tilt the lights to admit air.

In turf frames, Violets may be successfully grown in winter without glass lights if a mat be spread over the plants in frosty weather.

DELAMERE.

FRUIT CULTURE FOR AMATEURS.

INEXPERIENCED cultivators are generally very eager to gather the fruits, and store them. When quite ripe, they should be gathered and very carefully stored, but premature gathering results in the shrivelling of the fruits, and, in many cases, in decay, also. The fruits of early varieties do not, as a rule, keep long, so that ordinary storing is sufficient; but those of the late varieties keep, or should do, for a long time, if carefully stored.

The store room cannot be too clean. It should be cool and dry, and the internal temperature must remain pretty even without the aid of any fire heat.

?

WHY WAS THE TEA ROSE SO NAMED?

APPARENTLY, the gardeners were responsible for this, the name being bestowed on a semi-double, blush-coloured China Rose, which had a "most delicious fragrance, strongly resembling the scent of the finest green tea." French growers were also imbued with this idea, or else adopted our name, calling it Rose a Odeur de Thé, or Rose with the scent of tea.

Several names were given by botanists to the original Tea Rose, all indicating that it was sweet-scented. The oldest is Rosa indica fragrans, meaning the fragrant Indian Rose. R. indica odorata (scented), and R. indica odoratissima (sweetest-scented), are other names applied to it.

The yellow China Rose (R. i. ochroleuca) was said to be one of the parents of the varieties that have since arisen, but whether or not this was scented is not recorded. It was introduced in 1824, but the Tea-scented Rose was probably much older, since there were fifty-one varieties in 1844.

Why was the wild type named R. indica (Indian), seeing that it came from China in 1789? Well, Linnæus and other botanists of those days had a habit of calling everything Indian that came from the east of the Cape of Good Hope.

A building with a north aspect is most suitable. Elaborately-built structures are not necessary. Some ventilation must be given, but if the interior is open to the tiles or slates, it is a good plan to place outside on the roof straw, litter, or Fern quite one foot deep, then in cold, frosty weather, the temperature will not be suddenly lowered.

The fruits are best stored on clean lattice-shelves or stages, the very choice ones in single layers only, and the others in two or three layers, if space is restricted, but where it is ample, single layers for all should be the rule. Straw must not be used, either for laying the fruits on, or for a covering to them.

If there are two store rooms available, one a little warmer than the other, place the Pears in the warmest and the Apples in the coolest. Or, if only one store room, place the Pears at the warmest end, and the Apples at the coolest.

When the fruit parts easily from the branch, it is ready to gather. Every specimen should be carefully laid in a shallow basket or box, in which some soft hay or straw has been put, and as carefully placed on the shelves in the store-room. Bruised fruits will not keep sound long. After being in the store-room for a couple of weeks or so, the Apples and Pears will commence to sweat, and a dull-looking, sticky substance will cover them. Many amateurs wipe this off with a cloth, but wiped specimens will not keep. The sticky substance helps materially to preserve them.

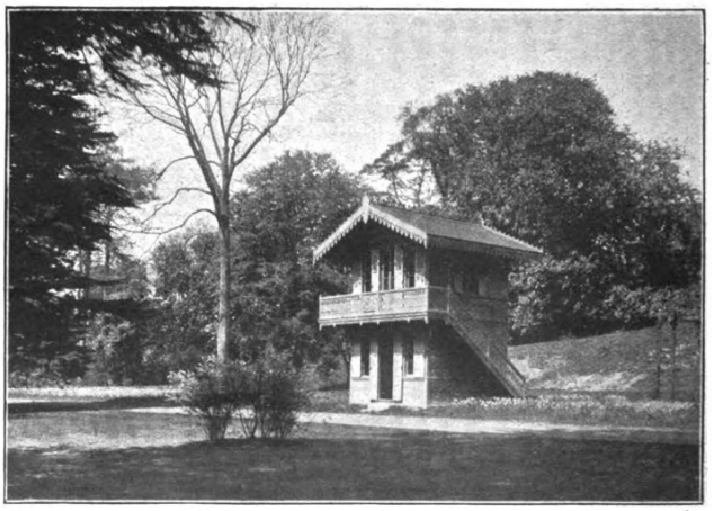
Ripening Late Grapes.

A moderate temperature, and a warm, buoyant atmosphere, are absolutely essential if Grapes are to be well coloured and ripened. The month of August was a very bad one for their good colouring. Early in the morning the cultivator must open the ventilators several inches at the top and the front of the house. If the sun is shining clearly, and the weather is calm, pretty full ventilation is required by half past ten o'clock. Begin to reduce the amount at three o'clock in the afternoon, and by five o'clock have only one inch in front and two inches at the top of the structure; this amount must be left on all night.

The pipes must be warmed at night, but allowed to cool again by three o'clock in the morning, if the weather is dry, but kept warm if it be wet or foggy.

Bunches containing many berries, must be carefully examined every day, as some may burst owing to the wet weather—the soil is very wet, still—and even one cracked berry, left in for two or three days, may cause the loss of a dozen, and so spoil the whole bunch.

G. G.



THE DICKENS' CHALET AT COBHAM PARK.

This chalet, in which Charles Dickens wrote many of his works, was presented by him to the contemporary Earl of Darnley.

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But it can hardly do so, I think, in every case. About a month ago I found a young bird in a hedge-sparrow's nest. I watched its growth with interest, but one day, when I went to see how it was getting on, it made no movement on my approach, and I saw it was dead. Probably some misfortune had befallen its foster-mother—I had several times noticed a cat not very far away—and it had died of starvation. It was nearly old enough to leave the nest, but even then it might have died from the same cause,

Mr. J. Comber.

for the young cuckoo seems to be very slow in discovering how to feed itself. A lady who tried to rear one in captivity tells me she always had to feed it, and, in consequence, she was unable to keep it alive. In the case of swallows, the young birds are said to be the first to migrate, but this can scarcely apply to the cuckoo. At any rate, if the bird I found had lived, it would not have yet been strong enough on the wing to have undertaken a long journey.

July 28th.—Are Potatoes as a profitable crop played out? Certainly new varieties are not, as the extraordinary prices obtained for some of them during the last few years testify. Even the growers of the ordinary eating varieties may do fairly well, as is shown by the experience of an Irish farmer. The figures are given in an agricultural paper. The crop of early Potatoes weighed four and a half tons per acre, and it realised £12 per ton, which is equivalent to £54 per acre. That by itself would be a very fine return, but it is by no means all. For on the same land Turnips have since been planted, and in this way the grower expects to increase the amount to about £75 an acre. Of course, these are gross returns. No figures are given which would help in reducing them to net, and, as expenses differ widely in different districts, it would not be safe to attempt to do so. But one thing is clear—the profits must be very large. In other cases, the returns were between £40 and £50 an acre. Many of the Cork farmers have lately taken to growing early Potatoes for the English market, and this is the result. If it is followed up on a large scale, as it probably will be, it will bring about a lowering of prices in future years, which should be good news for the consumer.

July 29th.—The Judas-tree (Cercis siliquastrum), shown in the photograph, was a wonderful sight towards the end of May. It was then so completely covered with its bright purple flowers that the branches could scarcely be seen. I believe there are other varieties with pink and white flowers, but I have never seen them. It is one of the finest of garden trees, and possesses the advantage that, if raised from seed, it will flower in three or four years. It is quite hardy, but in the North is best grown against a south wall.

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 200.—Mr. J. Comber, at the Gardens, Nymans, Crawley.

There are so many notable features of the gardens at Nymans that, on the occasion of my visit, in the middle of June, it was not easy, in the time at my disposal, to do more than form a fair idea of them. The beautiful residence of Mr. Ludwig Messel is five miles from a railway station, just beyond the village of Handcross, the drive from Crawley station being through a very lovely part of Sussex. The situation of Nymans, which faces the Downs, is also delightful, and Mr. Comber, the head gardener, enjoys the advantage of living in a pleasant house commanding a similar prospect. As it is close to the kitchen garden, of which there is a walled-in portion, and additions enclosed by hedges, we commenced our round by looking at some of the fruit trees.

"We grow a good breadth of the new Black Currant, Boskoop Giant," said Mr. Comber, "which you will notice bears fruit at the end nearly as large as at the base. It is a good variety, and the trees are free from the mite, which has caused so much havoc in some quarters. We also grow the new Red Currant, Comet, whose racemes, like those of Boskoop Giant, are long. The crop of fruit this year is excellent. As to other bush fruit, the Strawberries are Royal Sovereign, President, and Countess."

"And the wall fruit?" I inquired.

"It is bearing a good crop, especially the Figs and Greengages, the young wood of which is trained in systematically, like a Peach, not spoon-pruned, and the trees bear regularly."

"Which do you consider the most prolific Plum?"

"If I were a cottager, and going to plant one Plum, I should choose the Czar."

"Have you anything special in the way of vegetables?"

"The Asparagus is earthed up, like Potatoes, in order to get it long and white, and it is grown in single rows."

"You seem to have a number of shrubs in this section of the garden. Are any of them rare varieties?"

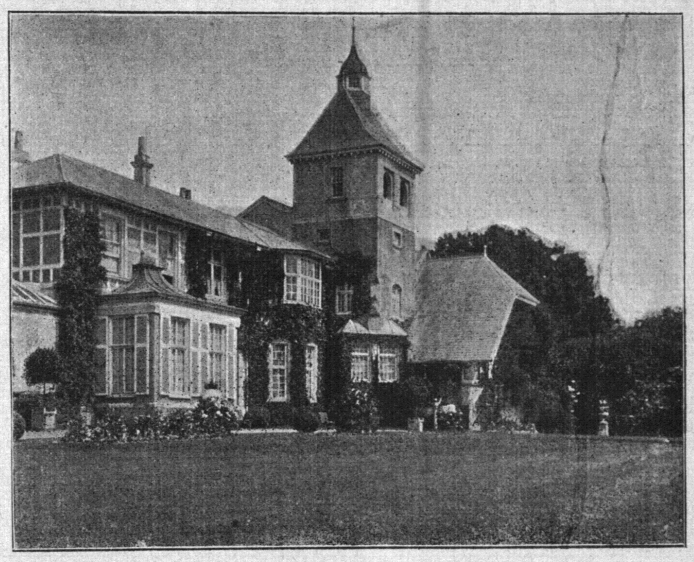
"Some are rare, and several are comparatively new, while all are on trial. Carpenteria californica and Olearia nitida will most likely prove too tender, but some, such as Grevillea rosmarinifolium and G. sulphurea, may succeed on southern slopes, and in the shelter of low walls."

"What are your most important glasshouses?"

"There are two large fruit-houses, containing standard trees, trained Greengages, and trees in tubs; and two Vineries (early and late), whose produce is well known in the neighbourhood. One house is devoted to Strawberries, which are followed by Figs in tubs. There are also a Fig-house, a Melon-house (Sutton's Triumph is one of the best), a Tomato-house (in which Malmaison Carnations, chiefly Princess of Wales and Churchwarden, are grown), and a late Peach-house."

"You have a splendid crop of fruit in the late Peach-house?"

"Yes, but it is not beyond the average. The



Nymans Mansion.

"You have a fine old specimen of Brunswick Fig?"

"Yes, it has a span of thirty-three feet. The Brown Turkey close to it has a rather better flavour."

trees are trained in the ordinary manner, and the varieties are Violette Hative, Barrington, Pineapple, and Humboldt."

"I see that here you have a cluster of Apple trees in a bed?"

"They are all Worcester Pearmain, a fine dessert Apple, which crops well."

Then we entered a tall, span-roofed house, containing Peaches, grown on large, untrained standards, and I inquired the age of the trees.

"They are about nine years old," rejoined Mr. Comber. "I planted them a year after I came to Nymans, and they are about eighteen feet high. The varieties are Belgrade and Pineapple, and the fruit obtained from them is well up to exhibition standard."

"What are your principal varieties of Grapes?"

"Alicante, Muscat, Gros Colman, and Madresfield Court. The average weight of the bunches of the last three is three pounds. In growing Vines I make it a point to allow four feet between each. Very often too little space is allowed. Plums (Jefferson) are grown in pots, and Early Rivers Nectarines, as standards, with Greengages in front of them."

Then, with a glance at a bed which had been gay with Daisy Alice, and a pretty enclosure for Roses, including the best of the Ramblers, we proceeded through the park to the pleasure grounds. The view of the surrounding country from this point is grand, but I had hardly expressed my admiration before we arrived at the Heath garden, which immediately claimed my undivided attention. This is one of the more remarkable features, and I was amazed to learn that it was only made four years ago, although portions of the wild garden had been previously planted with Ericas.

"It was designed," said Mr. Comber, "by Mr. Messel, who takes the utmost interest in his gardens, and often assists me with his advice. We had no plan, but I got it out to scale, and, Mr. Messel having approved, we carried out the idea together."

"Have you any notion as to the number of varieties?"

"There are about fifty. Here are the best:—Erica australis, rosea, arborea, ciliaris, cinerea, rubra, codonoides, mediterranea, tetralix rosea, tetralix Mackiana, vagans purpurea, and alba; Callunas vulgaris, Hammondii, carnea, suprea, Alportii, flore pleno, and Foxii (dwarf); Menziesia polifolia, atropurpurea; and Bryanthus empetrifolia."

"The natural walks and undulations enhance the effect, but the Heaths themselves grow splendidly."

"Yes, the sandy loam suits them. As you observe, dwarf Rhododendrons and other plants suitable for mixing with Heaths are grown in this garden, such as Rosa microphylla lucida, Andromeda cassinefolia, and the new Azalea, Vasseyii, a soft shell-pink colour."

The Heath garden is divided by the Heath walk, and on the side of the hill is the croquet-lawn, the slope being covered with rock plants instead of with barren grass. Close by is an imposing pergola, which Mr. Comber informed me was only built two years ago.

"It is seventy-three yards long; the piers are of sandstone, large Larch trees being laid from pier to pier, with crosspieces of the same material, and Oak lattice-work. The creepers grown on the pergola are Actinidia Kolomicta, A. polygama, and A. Chinensis; Caprifolium giganteum, and C. periclymenum of sorts; Clematis montana, and the new variety, C. M. rubrens, Cœlestris scandens, Forsythia suspensa; Polygonum multiflorum, and P. Baldschuanicum; Vitis Coignetiæ; Wistarias sinensis, s. alba, and multijuga; Roses, Wichuriana, multiflora of sorts, and Polyanthus of sorts. As the Wistaria grows, it is to be permitted to cover the whole pergola."

"Who constructed the rockery of natural sandstone rock?"

"Messrs. Pulham and Sons. A feature of the rockery is a series of steps leading to the croquet lawn."

"Which do you consider your best Alpines on the rock wall?"

"They include Helianthemums, of all colours, and Lithospermum prostratum. Then there are carpets of such plants as Arenarias, Thymes, Cerastium, Saxifrages (especially Guildford Seedling), Aubrietias, Antennarias, and the smaller Campanulas."

"And the larger masses?"

"Gentiana acaulis, smaller Rhododendrons (ferrugineum and others), Genistas of several kinds, Phlox setacea in many colours, Æthionemas, and Alyssum gemonense sulphureum. On a sandy bank there are Cistuses formosus, algarvensis, lusitanicus, salvifolius, and undulatus. Other dwarf plants suitable are:—Juniperus tamarixifolia, Cotoneaster horizontalis, Escallonia valdavensis, Cotoneaster congesta, Diplopappus chrysophyllus, New Zealand Veronicas, V. buxifolia, V. carnosula, V. Hectorii, V. salicifolia, V. salicornioides, V. Traversii, V. cupressoides, dwarf Abies, Spiræa crispifolia, Genistas radiata, sagittalis, prostrata, and pilosa, and Philesia buxifolia."

"Which are the rarer plants?"

"Haverlea rhodopensis, Ramondia pyrenaica, Trilliums grandiflora and erecta, Iberis gibraltarica (growing on sunny slopes), Linnea borealis, and Epigea repens (in company in damp place). Nepeta glechoma variety succeeds outside, scrambling over rockwork. The rarer Alpines also include Cypripedium spectabile, Onosma taurica, Shortia galacifolia, Dianthuses glacialis, alpinus, and neglectus, Armeria setacea, Asperula suberosa, Acantholimon venustum, Primrose Miss Massey, and Androsaces sarmentosa, Chumlyii, lanuginosa, and others."

"I conclude that the mound adjoining the rockery is artificial?"

"It was made of soil excavated from the rockery, and modelled as a rough knoll on a Heathy common, with Rosa Wichuriana in many varieties on the base."

From the rockery we went to the lawn, which has a good background of trees and the older hybrid Rhododendrons, twenty feet high, well grouped. The specimen trees are chiefly Picea morinda (with drooping branches), Pinus excelsa, groups of Magnolias, and Azaleas (old Ghent, over fifty years of age), Prunus, Cryptomeria japonica, Padus, and a fine Araucaria imbricata. The Rose garden contains five vases of carved Istrian stone in the centre.

"And the varieties?"

"Hybrid Teas, of which the best are Antoine Rivoire, Belle Siebrecht, Caroline Testout, Enchantress, G. Nabonnand, Gruss an Teplitz (planted in masses at corners), Hon. E. Gifford, Jules Finger, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La France, Madame A. Chatenay, Madame Jules Grolez (very good), Madame Lambard, Marquise Litta, Madame Cusin, Madame de Watteville, Souvenir de President Carnot, and Souvenir C. Guillot. The climbing Roses include Euphrosyne, all the Wichurianas (except new seedling varieties of 1904), Reve d'Or, Carmine Pillar, and Polyanthus of different kinds."

"What are the creepers on the mansion?"

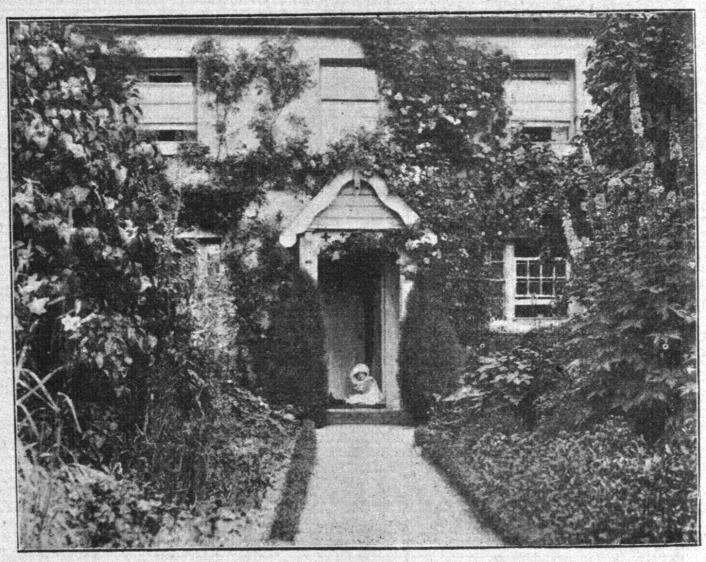
"Pomegranate, Passiflora cœrulea, Banksian Rose, Forsythia suspensa, Wistaria, Clematis montana, and Ceanothus Veitchiana."

"You have some fine specimens of Araucaria excelsa in the conservatory."

"Yes, and, as climbers, white and red Lapageria, Tecoma grandiflora, Streptosolen Jamesonii, and Geraniums. The other notable plants here include Musa japonica and Strelitzia regina."

We next inspected the new orchard, the paths of which form a cross, with a sundial in the centre. On each side is a noble herbaceous border, a hundred yards long and twelve feet wide.

"The trees look healthy," I remarked.



The Gardener's House at Nymans.

"There is no doubt that they are thriving. The dessert Apples are Worcester Pearmain, Sussex Forge (a great favourite with Mr. Messel), Beauty of Bath, Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Scarlet Pearmain, and Sturmer Pippin; the cooking varieties, Lord Suffield, Warner's King, Lord Derby, Wellington, and Scarlet Pearmain, which is used for both cooking and dessert."

"When was this drive made?" I inquired, as we arrived at another feature, with groups of shrubs.

"Only last year. The more rare shrubs in the new drive are Magnolias stellata and stellata rosea, in groups of fifty, mixed; a group of thirty-six of the new Cherry, James H. Veitch; a group of thirty-six of Cistus Præcox; the same number of Prunus triloba: and a group of fifty of the double-flowering Sloe."

"Can you tell me the names of the principal families grouped together in your great collection in the Pinetum?"

"There are very numerous choice varieties. The best of the Pinus are:—Avacahuite, aristata, Banksiana, Coulterii, densiflora, flexilis, Jeffreyii, Koraensis, ponderosa, palustris, monophylla, sylvestris argentea, Sabiniana, Thun-

bergii, and Torreyana. The other varieties include Prumnopitys elegans, Sciadopitys verticillata; Sequias g. pendula, g. aurea, sempervirens, sempervirens pendula, and gracilis; Taxodium distichum, Taxus (in rare varieties), Thuias orientalis (in fourteen varieties), Thuia japonica, Torreyas grandis and nucifera, and eleven varieties of Tsuga."

"Then, there are the Cupressus family?"

"They are a very large quantity, including Cupressus macrocarpa, lutea, Milford Blue Jacket, Silver Queen, Allumii, versicolor, Wissetii, Triomphe de Bosskoop, arizonica, Crippsii, C. Goveriana, and Stewartii. The Junipers are chinensis aurea, chinensis albo var., japonica, aurea, communis pendula, communis hibernica, communis nana, recurva, drupacea, and virginiana in variety."

"What about Cedars?"

"The principal are Cedrus atlantica glauca, C. a. aurea, C. deodara aurea, C. d. erecta, C. d. robusta, C. d. Sargentii, and C. d. viridis. In the Pinetum are also Cephalotaxus pendunculata, Cryptomeria japonica arachnoides, C. falcata, C. monstrosa, C. pungens, and C. Lobbii; Retinosporas lycopodioides, tetragona aurea, compacta nana, filicoides, pisifera (in variety), and squarrosa sulphurea; Fitzroya patagonica; Ginkgo biloba; and Larix leptolepsis."

When we had spent a couple of minutes in the temple at the upper end of the Pinetum, which commands a very extensive view, we descended the hill to the Lily pond. Here I saw a fine collection in vigorous health.

"There are nine inches of good loam at the bottom," observed Mr. Comber, "and I make a yearly division. Masses of Gunnera, Spiræa, Arundo, Giant Hemlock, Japanese Flag Iris, and Iris siberica are also grown here."

"I should like the names of the Nymphæas."

"Caroliniana, N. c. nivea, and N. c. perfecta (which are specially good), N. marliacea albida, N. m. carnea, N. m. chromatella, N. colossea (the largest of all), N. Elliscana, N. gloriosa (very good), N. Laydekerii lilacea and N. L. purpurata, N. lucida (very good), N. odorata, N. o. rosea, N. o. Luciana, N. o. Exquisita, and N. o. suavissima, N. sulphurea and N. sulphurea grandiflora, N. pygmæa and N. p. helveola, N. Robinsonii, N. Seignourettii, and N. tuberosa Richardsonii. In the lake further down, which covers about three acres, with an elegant boat and bathing-house on the shore, we plant the surplus Water Lilies."

"Although we cannot get a glimpse of the Arboretum, you might name some of the young specimens growing there."

"Acer miyabœ, Acer Nickoense, Betula Maximowiczii, and others. We have recently planted there, as an experiment, Eucalyptus rostrata, coccifera, amygdalina, cordata, rezinifera, ficifolia, Gunnii, coriacea, and Resdonii."

Retracing our steps, we passed along the back drive, and here the Scotch Rose thrives, while irregular beds contain Rhododendron hirsutum, Kalmia angustifolia rubra, and Spiræa Antony Waterer."

"And you have been at Nymans ten years?" I said, when we got back to Mr. Comber's house.

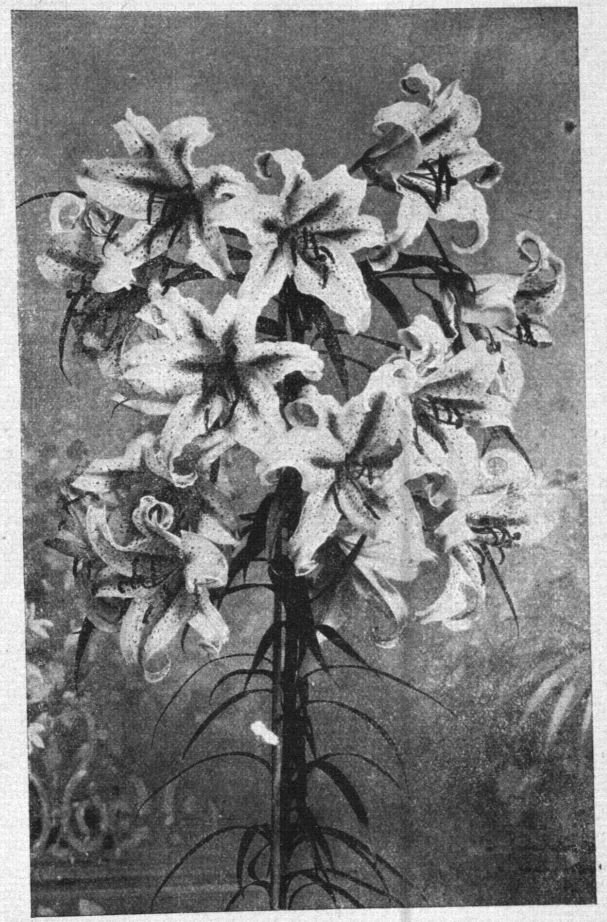
"Yes, and most of my time has been spent in Sussex, which is my native country. After being for three years journeyman at Tilgate, and half that time in the same capacity at Ashby Lodge, Rugby, I was for three years at Drinkstone Park, Bury St. Edmunds, under Mr. Palmer, now superintendent of Hampstead Heath and Golder's Hill. Then I was foreman for some time at Longford Castle, under Mr. W. H. Ward, who has now a nursery at Raleigh, in Essex. My first post as head gardener was at Bignor Park, and at the end of two years I was recommended by the late Mr. J. H. Johnstone, M.P., to Mr. Messel, coming here in 1895 with the best wishes of the family at Bignor. We do not show, but we keep on making improvements, and do the best we can to render all departments of the gardens attractive."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 156.—LILIES IN THE GARDEN.

DEAR KATE,—The Lilies in my cool greenhouse are out, and those in the shady peat borders at the end of the lawn will soon follow, for they are covered with fine, swelling buds. I think I mentioned, a few weeks ago, that Lilium Henryi was growing enormously tall and strong in the open border, and it is now five feet six inches high, with twenty-three buds, and a girth near the soil of about four inches. There is also a secondary spike, which is flowering, and another smaller one, so that I think this Lily, from the mountains of Northern China, is making itself pretty well at home in British soil. I bought the bulb seven years ago (for half a guinea!). It was a miserable specimen, having had all its roots cut away before it left China, and, consequently, its first flowers (two) were very poor. I kept it in a pot for two years, however, and took great care that it never became very dry, nor yet was soaked with water when dormant in winter, also it was well top-dressed in spring, and not given much fire-heat. It recovered a little, and formed fresh lower roots, and the second spring I planted it in the border, which is of well-drained, gravelly soil, with a good mixture of peat and leaf-mould, in a position half-shaded by distant trees. This evidently suited the Lily, for it has grown stronger, and produced more flowers each year. We cover the bulbs for the winter with a conical pile of fine coal ashes, taking these away in April, when a flat mulch of rich soil is substituted for them. With this precaution, we find no difficulty in growing Lilies out of doors (except, of course, L. Harrisi, and L. neilgherrense, which we keep under glass in winter); but the bulbs must have their lower roots intact to survive the first winter. Without these, they invariably rot, unless kept almost dry in a pot, and out of the way of frost and rain. Yet Lilies must never be "dried off" and "put in a bag"—that terrible fate (so unnatural, for Nature keeps no paper bags!) is responsible for many of the failures to bloom from which our friends'



A FINE SPIKE OF LILIUM AURATUM.
Everyone admires this grand Lily, and the picture shows how to grow it.

it does not pay to send empty pods to market and to attempt to sell them as Peas. Or will he need a few more lessons?

July 17th.—Another result of the wet weather is that most lawns are in perfect condition this year. They have, of course, required a good deal of mowing, but that we must expect if the grass is to be green and vigorous. Where the soil is

MR. T. F. CONWAY.

sandy, however, the moisture soon drains away, and the lawn is apt to turn brown, even in the dampest summer. A correspondent has been writing to the Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society about such a lawn, and the advice given him may be useful to others. He is recommended to dress the lawn in showery weather—or, failing that, to water afterwards—in early April, the middle of June, and the middle of August, with one ounce of nitrate of soda, one ounce of sulphate of ammonia, and two ounces of bonemeal to every two square yards. If that should not prove completely successful, he is told to try one ounce of muriate of potash, two ounces of superphosphate of lime, and one ounce of sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda, applied at the same rate and the same times. Of course, anyone beginning now would begin with the August dressing, and go on with the other two.

July 18th.—Experiments are being performed all over the globe with a view to testing the relative values of different chemical manures and dung. They are of the greatest interest for the horticulturist, and already some general principles seem to be emerging. In some Belgian experiments in connection with vegetables, several plots of ground were treated with dung, others with superphosphate of lime, sulphate and nitrate of potash, and others, again, with dung, combined with the chemical mixture. As the result, the best crops of Spinach, Onions, and French Beans were obtained with chemical manure alone, but all other vegetables, in almost every instance, yielded larger crops when dung was combined with it. Here is an indication of the direction in which economy may be effected by market growers, and other large (and even small) users of manure. For dung costs much more than its equivalent in chemical manure, and the substitution of the latter for a portion of the former would mean a considerable saving.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 94.—MR. T. F. CONWAY, AT THE GARDENS, HAM HOUSE, PETERSHAM.

AN adequate sense of the beauty of the gardens at Ham House, the historic residence of the Earl of Dysart, cannot be obtained by a passing glance from a river steamboat. The real charms of this glorious place lie behind the mansion, which dates from the time of the Stuarts, and has not much changed in appearance since the Earl of Lauderdale, who married the widow of Sir Lionel Tollemache, made alterations. It has always been the policy of the owners to maintain their old-world character, and Mr. T. F. Conway, who is now in charge of the gardens, has faithfully adhered to traditions. Nothing strikes one more in wandering through this sylvan paradise, so near the busy scenes of men, and yet apparently so far removed, than the fact that every feature is in keeping with the fine old mansion—the famous archaic iron gates, the avenues of noble trees, are carefully preserved. And yet, wherever you go, there are indications that nothing escapes the eye of Mr. Conway and his staff. The element of order is as strongly in evidence as that of antiquity, from the magnificent lawn (three acres in extent), in front of the house, to the delightful spot which, though known as the Wilderness, because everything in that part of the gardens is allowed to grow wild, has no weeds in its mossy paths.

"Now," I said to Mr. Conway, as we started on our rounds, "tell me, please, whether there are any special characteristics of the gardens, as, if so, I should like, in the limited time at our disposal, to pay particular attention to them."

"Of course," he replied, "we try to do our best with everything, but fruit and vegetables for use are the subjects of our chief concern, and I endeavour to make them a special study. For instance, in the Lodge garden, where we now are, I grow Strawberries in frames on the annual system, planting them about eighteen inches each way, after the soil has been well prepared and manured."

"When do you layer them?"

"In June, in 'forty-eights,' when they make very strong stuff. I plant them in August. I let them remain all through the winter, and in the early part of March I put some lights on, and give them a little air in favourable weather. By this system I get a good crop of fruit about the end of April and in May, at a time when there is a gap in the fruit supply, and Strawberries are very acceptable."

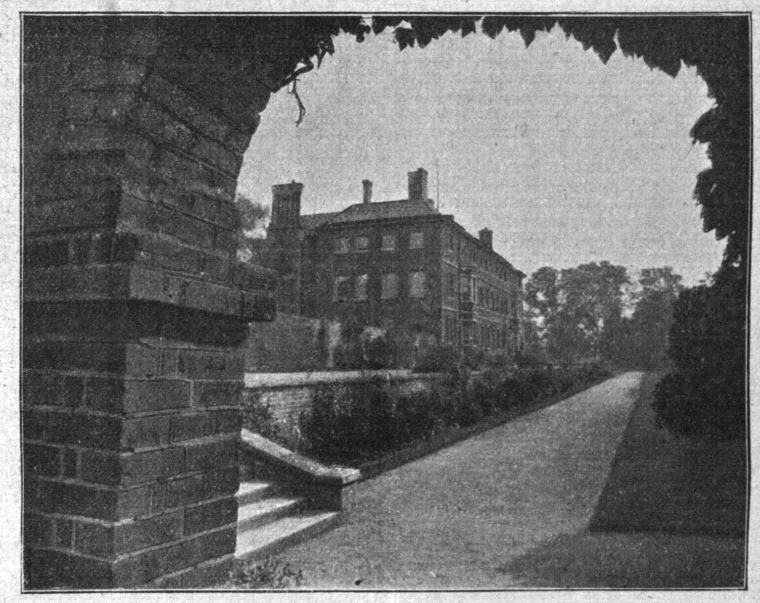
"How many plants did you have this year here?"

"About five hundred. I use Noble only for this purpose. I tried Royal Sovereign, but it did not do; there was too much foliage. But I think of trying Fillbasket next season, with Noble. This year I divided the frames into three sections. I have a flow and return hot-water pipe in the earliest season. By starting this section in February, the second section early in March, and the third at the end of March, I had a regular supply of fruit from April 28th to June 15th. Had I been without pipes in the earliest section, the late frosts would have probably destroyed the crop. As it was, they were a great success, and we picked eight or nine pounds of Strawberries a day when they were worth five shillings a pound."

"I see that the frames now contain Tomatoes?"

"Yes; as soon as the Strawberries have finished fruiting, I chop them out—I grow others outside to layer from—then I plant Tomatoes. Winter Beauty is the only variety grown in these frames. As soon as the Tomatoes are over, I shall put in Strawberries again."

Close by is the Cherry house, and Mr. Conway mentioned that for six or seven years in succession there has been a splendid crop of fruit.



THE TERRACE, HAM HOUSE.

"Do you force them rapidly?"

"No; we bring them on gradually. Cherries will not stand hard forcing. When first the Cherries were started, it was thought that they would be a failure, but after a year or two they began to thrive exceedingly, and now we start picking about the middle of April, getting a regular supply for five or six weeks."

"Which do you consider the best varieties for house culture?"

"Black Eagle, Bigarreau Napoleon, and Knight's Early Black are the best in flavour, and May Duke the most free in fruiting. Other good varieties are Bigarreau De Schreken, Bigarreau Cleveland, Bedford Prolific, and Early Rivers."

Passing into the Fig house, Mr. Conway observed that there had been an excellent fruit crop.

"What about the second crop?"

"We do not trouble about a second. I want the trees to make strong, short-jointed growth, so I keep full air on night and day. If I kept the house warm now, we should have not only a second, but a third crop. That would be at the expense of next year's fruit crop, which we value most. Brown Turkey only is grown in this house."

"You have some fine Nectarines in your early Peach house?"

"Yes; Cardinal and Early Rivers are among the best. But the finest in respect to size is Goldoni. The Alexander Peach is grown here, and Winter Beauty Tomato, in pots. The second Peach house contains Stanwick Elruge Nectarine, which can always be relied upon for a crop, together with Humboldt and Rivers' Early Orange Nectarines, and Exquisite Peach."

"And the late Peach house?"

"The Princess of Wales' Peach; and the Nectarines include Pitmaston Orange, Rivers' Orange, and Humboldt."

Then we went out of doors, and Mr. Conway pointed out that there would have been a very good crop of Apricots on the walls if the frost had not killed them.

"What is your system as to Cauliflowers?" I inquired, noticing some healthy-looking plants.

"I sow them in January, and then pot them up into 'sixties,' planting them out directly the weather is pretty open. This year it was the end of March. I find it better to sow in January than in the early autumn, but there must be no starving of the plants. These early Cauliflowers are sometimes badly attacked by maggot and finger-and-toe. To prevent this, I mix with the soil, about the roots when planting, a trowelful of the following:—sifted leaf-mould six parts, fresh lime and soot one part each. I mix the whole together, and let it stand a few days before using, otherwise the lime will burn the roots. This year, out of about two thousand plants, we have not lost one. I sowed four varieties together, Sutton's First Crop, Sutton's Magnum Bonum, Universal, and Veitch's Autumn Giant. Magnum Bonum is not easy to beat."

"Have you anything to say about dwarf Peas?"

"Some of them want knowing; they would then be more largely grown, I feel sure. I have Sutton's Harbinger, Sutton's Seedling Marrowfat, and Sutton's Green Gem. All these are good Peas, far better than the old American Wonder."

"Strawberries, I observe, are also a big feature out of doors?"

"Yes; we go in for them largely. Laxton's Fillbasket is an enormous cropper, and a very good flavour. We plant eighteen inches apart for the first year, let the plants fruit, and, after they have fruited, cut out every alternate row, and every alternate plant in the remaining rows, so that they are left three feet apart. This is not too much space for such strong growers as Fillbasket and President. Being so close to the river, the Strawberry plants have a tendency to get mouldy, and if they are only two feet apart the foliage overlaps. Nor does every variety do well here, Royal Sovereign, for example. I think that Mentmore is about our best Strawberry here."

"Here," continued Mr. Conway, as we came to the Apple trees, "is another proof of the damage done by the frost. About eighty per cent. of our Apples were killed before the buds opened. The only Apple which came through safely is Worcester Pearmain, and it seems as if it were a frost-resister. The frost also destroyed the Peaches grown as bushes."

"They are rather a novel feature. What varieties do you grow on bushes, and how do you treat them?"

"Alexander, Hale's Early, and Condor. I restrict them in size by pruning root and branch. Two years ago the trees were unprotected, and then I decided to have frames, so that lights could be put up. I give the trees plenty of loam. This year, up to April, they were in good condition, but just as they were passing out of flower the frost killed them."

"How many trees are there altogether?"

"A dozen; and I have had seven dozen Peaches from each tree. The great advantages of this system are that if there is a little fly the lights can be closed and the trees fumigated; and, by closing early in the afternoons, after the fruit has stoned, it ripens earlier, and is much finer than fruit from trees on outside walls. I syringe my Peach and Cherry trees on the walls in the winter with a solution of caustic soda. This destroys all the eggs of aphis which may be harboured in the crevices of the walls."

As we made our way into the west garden, Mr. Conway called my attention to evergreen Oaks, and the old Scotch Firs, which are said to have been planted about 1650. The west garden is given up to herbaceous plants, and flowers can practically be gathered nine months in the year. The varieties are numerous, and include many of the most popular.

But," as Mr. Conway remarked, when we arrived at the south front of the mansion, "the place being old, we do not go in for gorgeous bedding, though the border on the south terrace, from the end of June, is generally very effective."

Herbaceous beds are, again, quite the feature of the east garden, which, however, looks its best in August, when the Phloxes, Solidago, Lilium tigrinum, etc., are out. At the time of my visit, Delphiniums were in great force, and the flowering Seakale distinctly ornamental. At the north front, facing the river, the fine Bays, entirely unprotected, claimed attention, and then we strolled into the frame yard, where Melons and Cucumbers are grown.

"Here, likewise," said Mr. Conway, "we force Tulips, Hyacinths, Azalea indica, Spiræa, and other things, until we can cut from the outside."

"Do you grow Tulips largely?"

"Yes. Amongst the best are Picotee, Gesneriana major, Golden Crown, and Bouton d'Or. After that we have Gladioli, including Colvillei (red and white), which are very fine for cutting. The Blushing Bride, a variety of Gladiolus nanus, is very charming. The cultivation involves considerable trouble. The nanus should have lights put over them as soon as they are planted; some litter, or leaves, should be thrown on the lights; and occasionally a little air given. Practically, they want much the same treatment as Calceolarias in frames. They will stand a low temperature, but not frost. If they can be preserved through the winter, they are beautiful. I have a collection of twelve varieties, including Sarnian Gem, Salmon Queen, Faust, and General Grant."

In the kitchen garden, to which we came next, is the principal range of Vineries, and here I was at once impressed by the Muscats, which were equal (if not superior) to any I have seen.

"What is the secret of your success in fertilising Muscats?" I asked.

"I attribute it largely to syringing," replied Mr. Conway. "Some years ago we moved an old Muscat, and the next year I did not intend to fruit it. But in order to induce it to grow, I kept it syringed frequently, and two or three bunches that showed on it set as freely as an Alicante. This gave me the idea. William Speechley, gardener to the Duke of Portland, writing in 1789, recommended a very moist atmosphere at the time of flowering of shy-setting varieties of Grapes. It seemed to me that if moisture was an aid to fertilisation then, it would be more so now, with our modern heating appliances."

"But you do not rely entirely upon syringing?"

"No; though I am inclined to do so. Temperature is another important point. I keep the house from sixty-five to seventy degrees at night, and do not damp it down in the morning. About 12 o'clock I go over the bunches with a rabbit's tail. At 2 p.m. the house is shut, and the Vines are syringed with soft, tepid water. I have always had a fine set since I commenced syringing three years ago."

"You put written instructions in the houses for the men to work by?"

"Yes. I have done that for some time, and I think that it is a good plan. It leaves no room for making mistakes, and, in early forcing especially, there is urgent need for keeping the temperature exact."

"Do you syringe other varieties than Muscats?"

The Gardener's Lodge at Ham House.

"Some of them, such as Madresfield Court. Syringing is a great aid to fertilisation. Our earliest Grapes include Foster's Seedling and Black Hamburgh, as well as Muscats. Other varieties are Diamond Jubilee, Lady Hutt, Muscat of Alexandra, Mrs. Pince's Black Muscat, and Appley Towers. In the newly planted house the Vines are about four feet apart. I put in supernumeraries, so that I may be able to secure a crop off them next year, and a crop from the others the second year."

"Is it your experience that Muscats fail on the Lady Downe's stock?"

"They failed here. But they did well on the Alicante stock. So, by degrees, I am taking out the Muscats on Lady Downe's stock, and substituting Vines on their own roots."

"You are very fond of Grape-growing, I imagine?"

"I have always been so."

"Perhaps you would say a little more about your treatment?"

"In December I take away the surface soil from the border until I come to the roots. Then I top-dress them, the winter top-dressing consisting of equal parts of fresh horse-droppings, cow manure, and turfy loam. I mix with each bushel four pounds of the following mixture: bone-meal two parts, sulphate of potash one part, and gypsum one part. I apply the whole two inches thick, not later than December. Directly the Grapes are thinned, I apply a pound of bone-meal per square yard, wash it in with water, and mulch with quite fresh horse-droppings. If this treatment is followed up year after year, the roots are kept well up on the surface, and there is nothing in the ingredients used that they will not face. They require no further manure. When I crop them, I crop heavily."

Passing out into the open again, I noticed some beds of Alpine Strawberries, and Mr. Conway said,

"We have these up to the end of September. Though small, the Alpines are of very good flavour, but few people cultivate them."

"Are they difficult to cultivate?"

"Not at all. They should be sown every year about the beginning of April, in heat, in a shallow pan, pricked out in boxes as soon as ready, and planted out about the end of June. They should, by this time, be nice plants, with six or seven leaves. Plant in well-manured ground, about two feet apart each way. All the runners should be pinched out, and the flowers also, until the end of May. Otherwise, the crops would come on at the same time as other Strawberries. In a dry summer, water should be applied frequently. I do not advise anyone to go in for them in small quantities. As the fruit is small, a fair-sized piece of ground should be assigned to them."

"How many plants are there in your piece?"

"About three hundred. They are Sutton's Large Red Alpine. We have also, as you see, a bed of St. Joseph, which is an intermediate Strawberry, between the Alpine and the large varieties. It is grown on the annual system. We lay a bed out each year, pinch out the flowers at the end of May, and in August we get a grand crop, the fruit being almost as large as the main crop."

"How many years have you been head gardener at Ham House, Mr. Conway?"

"Six years, last March. I was previously foreman for between two and a-half and three years. Before I came here I was foreman for three years at Buckminster Park, Leicestershire. Houses were the chief feature there."

"I suppose that some changes have been made under your auspices?"

"Several. I laid out all the straight beds in the west garden. Also I did away with the large shrubberies near the house, which were out of character with it, and substituted grass."

"You have not touched the old trees?"

"No; they are one of our great features. The Juniperus Virginiana, near the Orangery, is very old, and is greatly admired. In addition to the gardens, I look after the avenues. This means a good deal of work, and, altogether, our twelve men are kept fully occupied. Unfortunately, the Elm bark beetle (Scolytus destructor) has destroyed many of our best Elms, and we have decided not to plant any more. Limes are taking their place."

"I believe you do not show much?"

"No; only at local shows. I have very little time for exhibitions."

ALFRED WILCOX.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

No. 51.—TABLE DECORATIONS AND LILIES.

DEAR KATE,—So you are going to give a luncheon party, and want to know how to decorate the table, etc.? You know it is the fashion to keep the decorations low, nowadays, and I think the Anglo-Indian plan of table-decoration will suit you best, as you say you have not silver bowls or antique china to display. When I was in India I used to admire the

A SIDEBOARD BOUQUET.

work of the native servants in this line very much; they have so much taste, and they don't mind what trouble they take; but then, of course, there were plenty of them, and each man had his own work.

They decorate the table in the way I am going to describe for each meal, every day; and clear away the flowers with the table-cloth, afterwards. But then, again, the gorgeous East is full of flowers—just like a great hot-house—and it is one servant's work to keep the house supplied with them.

First, they lay down flat wreaths of light greenery—Smilax, Asparagus plumosus (don't oh! don't call it a "Fern!"), Selaginella cœsia, a lovely thing, with metallic-blue leaves, or any light green leaves or Fern fronds, flat on the cloth, surrounding the central dish, or lamp, and extending from that in a sort of star, or scroll, to surround the bon-bon dishes, etc., in any direction that seems necessary. Having made this pattern quite straight and even on each side of the table, they lay down flowers lightly on the cloth, along the greenery, at intervals of two or three inches, so as to form a sort of flat wreath; Pansies, Sweet Peas, Roses, Marguerites, or many other flowers are suitable for this, but the stems should be cut short, and the ends can be hidden under the greenery. In hot weather it is desirable to put the flowers in water for an hour or two before using them, but this is such a quick and easy way to decorate a table that it need not be done more than an hour before the guests arrive, if you get all the things ready for it beforehand. The corners can be done to match the middle of the table, and you can use a table-centre, or not, as you like. The silver basket of fruit in the middle is wreathed with Smilax, to match the table, and the flowers used in the photograph I send you are pink Sweet Peas, with Roses at the corners and in the middle. The table-centre is painted on chiffon, over pink satin. Then, for the side-board, you will need a tall bouquet, as (this being at a distance from the table) low and small flowers would not show at all. We find that useful invention, called "Floral Aid," so nice for these bouquets; you can put the thing into a bowl, and arrange any tall flowers you like, with the help of this, without any chance of their toppling over, as they always do without it. Gladioli, white Foxgloves, single Pæonies, Day Lilies, Madonna Lilies, and blue Delphiniums can all be managed quite easily in this way. The bouquet I send is of Bride Gladioli, pink Shirley Poppies, and Sweet Peas, to match the table decorations, and I think you will do well to keep to one colour only (though you may use different shades of it), with any amount of white blossoms, Ferns, and Grasses, or Gypsophila, which is so light and elegant, with the flowers.

Be sure to make the whole effect light, for this is the special aim of modern table-decorations. The colour you choose should harmonise well with that of your dinner service and dessert china, or the effect of the whole may be spoiled. The bowl holding the tall bouquet is in white Coleport china, which I find very useful, as it looks well with all colours. Of course, if you care to make your table-decorations more elaborate, you can add ribbons, twisted amongst the greenery and flowers on the table, but I think they look quite as well without it, if arranged with taste, and you have plenty of flowers.

We always have a supply of Sweet Peas and other flowers, in the kitchen garden, for cutting, and it is a good thing to gather all kinds of blossoms before they drop, for seed-bearing exhausts the plants much more than blooming, and when they have ripened seed they seem to think their duty is done, and produce no more flowers, whilst they will go on blossoming much longer if the blooms are regularly cut. This is specially true of Sweet Peas and Tea Roses, also of Shirley Poppies, but you should cut these before they are quite expanded, in the early mornings, for, if once the bees have visited them, the petals will drop very soon, although they will last for days if cut just as the buds show signs of opening.

I am so sorry to hear of your disappointment about your Madonna Lilies, which you say have died, though you planted them with care in the autumn. Unfortunately, many of these bulbs are afflicted with a disease which has attacked them of late years, and that may be the cause; but it also may be that you did not know that these lovely Lilies (L. candidum) are different from all the rest, as they form a clump of leaves directly after flowering, and if these are interfered with, the bulbs are apt to disappear. So that the best time to put them in is just now (or early in August), and I advise you to get some bulbs from a good source, where the Lily disease is not known, and try again. But they seldom do much the first year after moving, for they like to be quite left alone, when they grow into great clumps, and have from ten to twenty blossoms on each stalk. All they need is to be well planted, and mulched with rich soil early in the spring. As your soil is rather heavy, it will be as well to make a hole for them eighteen inches deep and wide, and fill this to the depth of six inches with broken crocks (I don't doubt your servants keep you well supplied with these, as mine do) and ashes. Then mix the soil you have taken out with a 6-in. flower-pot full of soot (which can be brushed from your chimneys by

made for the side, would not they, after they had exhausted the soil there, draw their subsequent supplies from that in the centre? I am merely suggesting a possibility, not making a statement. I have seen hundreds of excellent Chrysanthemums with which the usual practice was not followed. To save trouble, they were moved into their flowering pots from small pots (sixties), and when they were turned out at the end of the season, though the roots were, of course, most numerous round the outside, the centre was also full of them. This does not prove that there is no gain from gradual

MR. H. COOK.

shifts, but it raises a doubt as to whether some of them may not, in certain circumstances, be omitted with advantage.

THE ORIGIN OF SOME PLANT NAMES.

April 23rd.—The transposition of a letter often makes a surprising difference in a word. How many persons associate Borecole with the Dutch boer? Yet it is really Boer-cale, that is, Peasant's Cabbage, and therefore easily expressed by our Cottagers' Kale. Kale is derived from the Latin caulis, a stalk, and appears in various forms—in Cauliflowers, Colewort, Kohl Rabi, and so forth. Cabbage has been curiously altered in its passage from language to language. From the Latin caput, a head, comes the Italian capuccio, a little head, and then the old French cabuz, and finally the English Cabbage. Such changes were often the result of ignorance. An old gardener of mine always used to speak of a well-known Rose as "Glory D. John," and in earlier days such a name might easily become stereotyped.

WHY NOT GROW SALSAFY?

April 24th.—It is not easy to understand why Parsnips should be so common in gardens, and, in comparison, Salsafy so rare. The latter is much the better vegetable; though, perhaps, if it is to be at its best, it requires more trouble in cooking. That may be the reason for its scarcity, for the cook has more to say in what shall be and what shall not be grown in the garden than would be imagined. A mistake not infrequently made with Salsafy is to sow it too early; it is then sure to run to seed. The end of April or the beginning of May is quite soon enough. Afterwards it should be kept supplied with plenty of moisture.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Specimen copies of GARDEN LIFE will gladly be sent to any reader who will distribute them.

Famous British Gardens.

CAPENOR, NUTFIELD, near REDHILL.

Interview with Mr. H. Cook.

FROM Redhill the road winds slowly upward to the little village of Nutfield, some five hundred and sixty feet above sea level. At the summit is Capenor, the handsome residence of Mr. H. B. Brandt. This, from its position at the head of the valley, commands a glorious panorama, extending over a wide range of country, with the South Downs in the distance and Ashdown Forest a little nearer. Altogether the estate comprises about two thousand acres, split up into various farms; the gardens and pleasure grounds, which are under the charge of Mr. H. Cook, cover twenty acres.

It was towards the end of January when, by its owner's courteous permission, I paid a visit to Capenor. The weather for the preceding week had been balmy and springlike; but on this day, as though to show how bad it could be, the rain descended in a steady, persistent downpour, while the wind, undecided from which quarter to blow, at times seemed to blow from all quarters at once. The distant views were consequently blurred and indistinct, though nothing could entirely mar the beauty of the outlook. But the contrast between the wild conditions outside, and the feast of colour in the corridor into which Mr. Cook at once led me, was most marked—and not unwelcome. This corridor is about a hundred feet in length, and runs transversely to the range of greenhouses, each of which has a door opening into it. Poinsettias had been brought from a warm house, and the crimson bracts were very effective. Then there were large plants of Wistaria, which had been in their pots for seven years, and were now in full bloom. The yellow of the Daffodils served to tone down the vivid scarlet of the Zonal Pelargoniums; Cinerarias were in many colours, with blue predominating; and some especially fine Arum Lilies caused me to inquire as to their origin.

A GOOD VARIETY OF ARUM LILY.

"They are Godfrey's variety," said Mr. Cook, "and are much better than the ordinary form, giving at least three blooms to the other's two. Some of them carry half a dozen blooms each. All the plants in this corridor are used for house decoration."

"Do you make a display for each season?"

"Yes. This corridor is a feature, and is always gay with flowers. As one thing goes off another comes on. In spring we shall have Schizanthus, Clarkias, more Pelargoniums, and plenty of bulbs and other subjects. Then in summer we have Bougainvilleas, the pillars decorated with Plumbago, Cassia fulva, and Streptosolen Jamesonii, while other plants in bloom are brought in from the houses. With autumn we have other changes."

Having gone the length of the corridor, we retraced our steps, and entered the first of the houses. The plants were of varied character, miniature Hyacinths, many coloured Primulas, and large plants of the blue Coleus thryrsoideus being especially noticeable.

"The Coleus," said Mr. Cook, "is very useful, for we have no other big things of this colour which will bloom at this season. The miniature Hyacinths have come in very well, and fill in the gap between the Romans and the large-flowered type. They could have been had in bloom by Christmas, but they were not wanted then. The white variety is L'Innocence, and the soft rose, Lady Derby. Another large plant which I find very handy for big work is Begonia fuschioides, a dainty thing in its way. The standard Heliotropes will be used for bedding later on."

WINTER FLOWERS WITH LITTLE HEAT.

Perpetual-flowering Carnations occupy a section of the next house, among the chief varieties being Triumph, Mary Allwood, May Day, Britannia, Lady Alington, R. F. Felton, and Baroness de Brienen; and beyond these I noted a nice batch of Cyclamen in bloom, and Schizanthus coming on for spring.

"One of the lessons we learned through the war," Mr. Cook remarked, "is that we can have plenty of flowers in winter without a high temperature. There are many beautiful plants, such as Clarkias, Schizanthus, Primulas, Perpetual-flowering Carnations, and various

THE SOUTH FRONT OF CAPENOR, NUTFIELD.

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others, which are available for winter decoration, and require very little heat. Even plants that had been held to be tender have, in many cases, been found to be as well, or better, without so much fire heat."

"Do you grow many Streptocarpus?" I asked, seeing some plants on the staging.

"Before the war we went in for them largely, and gained a silver medal for a group at Chelsea; but they had to be dropped, and I am now working them up again. They are Carter's strain, as also are the Cyclamen and Primulas."

A visit to the Peach houses came next. The early house, which had just been started, has Early Rivers and Cardinal Nectarines, and Peregrine and Dymond Peaches; in the second are Barrington and Duchess of Cornwall Peaches, and two Stanwick Elruge Nectarines.

The next range is the orchard house, a well-built structure with admirable ventilation. The fruit trees are Apples, Plums, Pears, and Figs.

BEES AS FERTILISING AGENTS.

"The trees are so forward," Mr. Cook explained, "that I was afraid the birds would attack the buds, so I have brought them in. Two years ago I was able to supply the house with dessert fruit from August to Christmas."

"How do you fertilise the blossoms?"

"I have tried all ways, but find nothing answers so well as bees, so a hive is brought in when the buds open. It can be done with a rabbit's tail tied to a cane, but even with this you must be very gentle, or the buds may be damaged."

"What do you put in here after the fruit trees go outside?"

"This house is filled with Chrysanthemums in autumn. We grow fifteen hundred, mostly Singles and Decoratives. They are inserted three of a kind in 3-in. pots, to save time and labelling. The large varieties are taken as soon as we can get cuttings, and struck singly in small pots."

"You also have Sweet Peas in the border?"

"Yes; I find them very useful in spring for table decoration."

HOME-GROWN BANANAS.

From the orchard house we made our way to the stove. Here were many interesting subjects, but none more so than a large plant of Musa Cavendishii.

"Do you manage to get fruit from this?" I asked.

"We get a good bunch of Bananas every year, and one season had a bunch weighing just over a hundred pounds. The plant, as you see, makes huge growth, and is worth cultivation for its leaves alone. After it has fruited and the stem is cut, it throws up several suckers, and I take one and grow it on, throwing the old plant away. I took one at the beginning of January, and this will replace the parent plant later on."

Then, after noticing a very fine batch of Clivias, we passed into what used to be the Palm house. A miscellaneous collection is now staged, a large and well grown specimen of Acacia armata being a feature. Four plants of Coelogyne cristata were indicated, and concerning them Mr. Cook observed:

"Coelogynes do not like to be disturbed. These plants were repotted last year, and consequently did not flower. This year they are very profuse. Cypripedium insigne combines well with Roman Hyacinths for table decoration. There are also a number of seedling Cypripediums; and other Orchids here are Cattleyas and Oncidiums. This Begonia Rex growing under the staging was frozen when the heat was cut off owing to the shortage of fuel, and I thought it was killed; but it has come up again. The Anthuriums suffered badly, and so did Clerodendron Balfouri."

GOOD MELONS AND CUCUMBERS.

The greenhouses having been visited, and the rain still pouring outside, we now made our way to the Melon houses, where Hydrangeas, Spiræas such as Queen Alexandra, Dicentra spectabilis, and other plants were undergoing gentle forcing.

"Are these houses used for Melons and Cucumbers now?" I inquired.

"Yes," said Mr. Cook, "we managed to get two crops of Melons last year. The first house has Melons, the second Cucumbers, and the third Tomatoes. The Melons are Hero of Lockinge and Blenheim Orange. Then we grow Melons in frames, and get good results with very little heat. The two best varieties are King George and Little Heath, which, by the way, is not a small Melon. We also grow the Canteloupe in frames."

"What Cucumbers do you prefer?"

"We have only two varieties—Carter's Model, a very handsome variety, and Lockie's Perfection, an old sort, but really good, especially for winter work. As to Tomatoes, Carter's Sunrise and Ailsa Craig are our two principal red varieties; and Carter's Golden Sunrise is the only yellow."

"Do you find the yellow Tomatoes as good for cropping as the reds?"

"Quite, and also as good in flavour. There is one other variety we grow, Red Cherry, which is especially liked for salads. The fruit is small—about the size of a Cherry—and is put in whole."

MUSA CAVENDISHII BEARING A BUNCH OF BANANAS.

"Then I see you have a lot of Regal Pelargoniums coming on here."

HOW REGAL PELARGONIUMS ARE GROWN.

"There are many named varieties, and we make rather a feature of this flower. I hope to be able to stage a collection at the Chelsea Show this year. Among the best are Sir Trevor Lawrence, Eventide, Queen Mary, John Bright, and Ethel, which is the finest pink."

"Do you follow the usual method with these plants—ripening and drying off after flowering, and then cutting back?"

"No; I have what I think is a new idea. The plants are struck in small pots, and then moved into forty-eights. In these they flower. Then, instead of ripening them off, they are grown on, and in August or September are potted on into 6-in. pots. When they have rooted nicely—not before—the old plants are cut back. The treatment after this is to spray lightly, and pinch or stop the new growths until about this time, towards the end of January. After that they are allowed to grow on, and they make plants two feet across, and are in flower by May, earlier than the others."

The Vinery, which we next visited, is a three-quarter span structure, and in its two sections there are no fewer than seventeen varieties.

SEVENTEEN VARIETIES OF GRAPES.

"It is not often that you find so many different varieties in a Vinery such as this," said Mr. Cook. "The borders are all inside, which is an advantage where there is little or no heat. In the early house there are Muscat of Alexandria, Bowood Muscat (which is similar, but earlier), Madresfield Court, Foster's Seedling, Black Hamburgh, and Buckland's Sweetwater. We were practically without heat last year."

"Did you manage to finish the Muscats without heat?"

"No; we used just a little to finish them, but none to start them, merely closing the house. In the other house there are Black Alicante, Appley Towers, Diamond Jubilee, Lady Downe's, Mrs. Pince, Golden Queen, Lady Hutt, Gros Maroc, Mrs. Pearson, Melton Constable, and Prince of Wales. Appley Towers makes a good companion to Black Hamburgh, and Prince of Wales is a grand Grape; but I would not advise anyone to grow Diamond Jubilee, which is mealy or turnipy."

A lull in the rain came opportunely, and we made a hasty trip round the gardens, leaving the kitchen garden, where the Vinery is, until our return. The lawns are of considerable extent and undulating character, and to keep them in order three men and a boy are constantly working. A three-foot motor lawn mower is used for some parts.

"During the war," I was told, "the lawns had to go, but we are now getting them back, though some will perhaps never be restored."

Approaching the house—which is sheltered from the north by a rise in the ground, and by many handsome trees, beneath which I noticed bulbs by the thousand, already pushing up their green blades—a couple of long, herbaceous borders are a feature in summer. In January they were little else than bare soil, but, thanks to the mild weather, it had been found possible to remake and replant them.

The path here leads down to the terrace walk, facing south, from which grand views are obtained across the valley. Off to the left is a wild garden, and half-way down the sloping lawn is a "ha-ha." In the loggia, which opens on to the terrace, Camellias are trained on the wall. There were buds in plenty, and some were already open. A well-made rockery is in front of the loggia, and runs along by the house, while on the other side of the terrace path is a long border, filled in spring with bunch Polyanthuses, the colours ranging from white to yellow. Already there were abundant indications of the glorious display that would follow later. Juniperus sabina tamariscifolia gives a nice bit of green colouring. In summer these are replaced by Heliotropes, whose fragrance is wafted through the open windows of the house. Another plant in bloom thus early was Rhododendron præcox, and here and there I caught a glimpse of the yellow of Winter Aconite. That birds are not forgotten was shown by the half-coconuts suspended here and there for the tits.

We did not linger on the terrace, however, but making our way to the right, walked round a very large plantation of flowering and foliage shrubs, where Dogwoods, Willows, and others gave a touch of colour even in the depth of winter.

THE ROSE GARDEN.

Still farther round, across another lawn, we came to the Rose garden, filled with modern varieties, in groups to colour. The walk here takes us under a fine rustic pergola, with Wichuraiana Roses on the sunny side, and Clematis, Honeysuckles, Wistarias, and Ampelopsis on the other. Here are four large beds, filled respectively with Roses Prince de Bulgarie, Mons. Joseph Hill, General McArthur, and Caroline Testout.

"We cannot do without Caroline Testout," said Mr. Cook. "It is such a good, all-round Rose. Other Roses we find do well here are Lady Hillingdon, Madame Ravary, Lady Pirrie, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Pharisäer, Mrs. Theodore

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Roosevelt, Ophelia, George C. Waud, Warrior, and Rayon d'Or."

"Is the soil good for Roses?" I asked.

"It is very mixed. In places it is fairly good; but in others fuller's earth is found a few feet down, and so we cannot get good drainage. Much of the soil has to be made up, but fortunately we can get plenty of manure."

There are some very fine specimen trees on the lawns, Hollies being especially handsome. Araucaria imbricata also gives a good account of itself.

A HARD TENNIS COURT.

Before turning to come round by the other side of the house, we made a diversion to see the hard tennis court. This, which was constructed by En-Tout-Cas, Limited, has the advantage that it can be played on directly rain has ceased, and no matter how heavy it has been.

"It is perfectly resilient," said Mr. Cook, "and is the only thing we have found to answer the purpose. We tried other forms, such as asphalte and concrete, but they were too hard, and not satisfactory. Frost is the only thing that affects it, and it is not advisable to play on it soon after a hard frost. It required no special drainage—just three inches of clinkers, and then a thick layer of the specially prepared red earth, which is rolled down well."

Retracing our steps, and making now for the other side of the house, I noticed, immediately in front, a very large bed of Ghent Azaleas, full of bud, and in a hollow a little way off an equally large bed of Rhododendrons, which I was informed are all Pink Pearl, and furnish a grand sight in May. Other large clumps of Rhododendrons are also to be seen in different parts of the lawns.

As to bedding on the lawns, Mr. Cook said:

ANNUALS FOR SUMMER BEDDING.

"At present the beds are filled with such things as Forget-me-not Sutton's Blue, Aubrietias, Wallflowers, and bulbs. A pretty effect is produced from a bed of Darwin Tulips carpetted with Limnanthes Douglasii, seed of which is sown in September. In summer we make good use of annuals, such as Clarkias, Stock-flowered Larkspurs, Lavatera rosea, giant Candytuft, Mignonette, and others. Some, such as Shirley Poppies, Nigella Miss Jekyll, Nemophila, Limnanthes Douglasii, and Sweet Peas, are sown out of doors in autumn. Zonal Geraniums are not much in favour, but good use is made of Begonias, and plenty are raised from seed. We also raise large numbers of Antirrhinums and half-hardy annuals, which not only give colour in the beds, but provide quantities of flowers for cutting."

Many other features of interest were to be noted, but we hurried back towards the kitchen gardens, of which there are two, covering a total area of three acres. In the one nearest the house, all the paths are edged with Pinks, Catmint, and similar subjects. Three-stemmed, upright cordon Gooseberries occupy a large fruit cage, which has ordinary wire netting round the sides, while the top is covered with ordinary tanned netting, which is taken off when the fruit has been gathered, and so saves the trouble of breakage through heavy snow, or with drip falling on the plants.

The orchard is some distance away, and as rain now recommenced in earnest—it had not actually ceased at any time—we did not go there, but adjourned to the shelter of the greenhouses again. Here, in reply to my questions, Mr. Cook said:

"The best Potato of all with us is Eclipse. The soil seems to suit it, and it comes like the old Early Rose, and can be kept for a long time. British Queen will not do at all, but gets streaky. Another good early variety is commence lifting this as soon as the tubers Epicure, which is a wonderful cropper. We are large enough. Our two best maincrops are King Edward—which is very good if kept till after Christmas—and Arran Chief. We grow a lot of Peas, but we do not go in for the large marrowfats. The ideal is the Petit Pois type, small and round. For the earliest we have Little Marvel and Carter's First Crop; and follow these with round-seeded varieties like Fillbasket. We finish with Latest of All, a grand Pea, absolutely mildew-proof."

GOOD WINTER GREENS.

"And the Cabbage family?"

"In this, again, we grow a lot, and have a good supply for winter. There is one that I think is not sufficiently known, but which I cannot praise too highly. This is Couve Tronchuda, or Portugal Cabbage. As a winter Cabbage, lasting well up to Christmas, it is the best I have ever tasted. The leaves are good as greens, and the midribs can be cooked like Seakale. We also grow Russian, Scotch, and Cottager's Kale, and a couple of rows of Perpetual Kale, which is very similar to Thousand-headed Kale, and is very useful in a hard winter. Then we sow Savoy Tom Thumb and Rosette Colewort in the middle of June, and late-plant them to fill in any vacant spot. These will give us a cutting up to the end of January. Another Savoy much liked is Dwarf Green Curled. For Broccoli we start the season with Carter's Autumn and Sandringham Winter White, which are followed by Veitch's Self-protecting and Snow's Winter White. For spring use the varieties are Knight's Protecting, Penzance Early, Late Queen, and Model. The Cauliflowers are Snowball for early work, and Autumn Giant for maincrop. Cabbages are Ellam's Early and Flower of Spring; and Brussels Sprouts Carter's Exhibition and Dwarf Gem."

BEANS FOR DRYING.

"Beans, of course, are another important crop with you?"

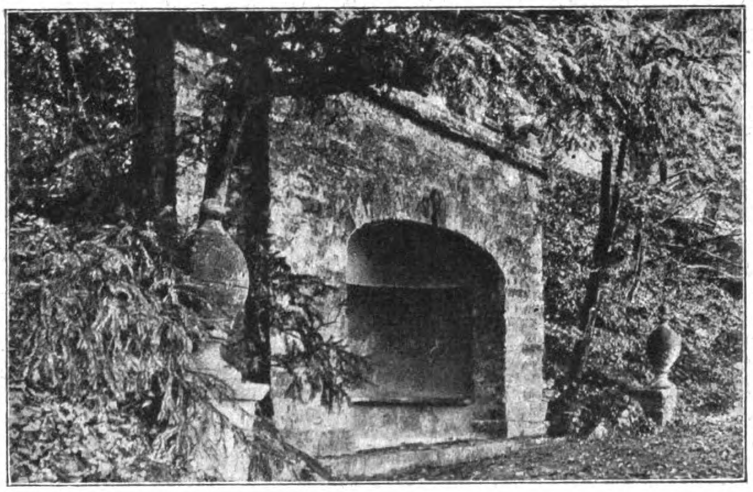
"For early work indoors we grow only two varieties—Osborne's Forcing and Canadian Wonder. The Runner Beans are Carter's Scarlet Emperor and Giant White Runner, of which we saved some seeds to use as Butter Beans. As Haricots we have tried many sorts, and the best of all is Dickson and Robinson's Canterbury. It is sown direct in the bed, pulled, and ripened in the Vinery. Both as a cropper and for flavour it is perfection."

"Then as to Carrots and Turnips?"

"We go in for Carrots very largely, and have young ones for pulling all the year round. We sow from January to the middle of August, starting with Early Shorthorn and Carter's Golden Ball in frames. For early summer use we have Carter's Summer Favourite, and for maincrop Carter's Red Elephant. Our Turnips are Red Globe for winter, and Jersey Lily for summer. We also grow the garden Swede. But we grow Kohl Rabi largely in place of Turnips. It is a good stand-by in a dry summer, and the leaves are delicious as a vegetable just now. Ailsa Craig is our principal Onion, and for the latest we rely on Bedfordshire Champion, and James's Late Keeping."

Mr. Cook, who has been at Capenor for seven years, commenced his gardening career at Southampton, going from there, in succession, to Midhurst, Petworth, and Harrow. His first place as head gardener was at Rogate Lodge, Petersfield, where he stayed for six years, and he was for a similar period at Bryony Hill, Witley, which he left for Capenor.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.



AN ARBOUR IN THE GROUNDS OF SHERBORNE CASTLE, DORSET.

Pope is said to have written much of the "Essay on Man" here, hence it is called Pope's arbour.

THE TAMARISKS.

The Tamarisk of Homer's Iliad and Scripture fame is well worthy of attention where something out of the ordinary is looked for. Tamarix hispida æstivalis is a most beautiful tree, producing masses of slender twigs, and branches clothed with delicate, sinuous foliage in silver, green, gold, and red, with clouds of feathery pink flowers that shimmer in the lightest breeze. Add to this an entrancing perfume of honey, and the drowsy hum of myriads of unseen bees that raid the golden plunder, and you have an idea of the beauty of the trees from which it is said Solomon chose the ornamental wood that adorned the temple of old.

The Tamarisks thrive best in sandy soil, hence they are often seen in seaside gardens. They also form splendid, thick-set hedges.

T. gallica is not particular as to locality, but though it bears masses of rosy-tinted flowers, it is not in any way equal to the roseate magnificence of æstivalis.

R. D. P.

DRUMHEAD KALE.

Just a pinch of seed of Drumhead Kale sown in the open ground in April or May will provide a number of plants that, if put out in well manured ground, will give splendid vegetables by October. It is not always appreciated that this dwarf-growing Kale takes up little room, and most of the leaves are edible. It is worth bearing in mind now, and will prove very welcome in the late autumn. Try it!

WALSHAM.

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frequent cause is the dragging of a heavy roller on to the lawn from the path, a thing which should never be done without first putting down a wedge-shaped piece of wood to help it up and to protect the edge of the grass. But where these deep indentations do exist they should be filled up. The common method of removing them by taking a new line inside and cutting away turf beyond is sheer folly. It is mischievous folly, too, as anyone can test for himself by setting to work to put a new edge to his lawn, a task which will give him plenty to do for some time to come. The shapeless beds in so many lawns have had the same cause—the reckless use of the edging iron. They began as circles or squares, or some other definite

Mr. W. A. Cook.

shape, but it would puzzle anyone to know what to call them now. They should be cut afresh, or filled in—in most cases, I think, filled in.

March 17th.—In a lecture on "Fruit Culture at the Cape," delivered before the Horticultural Club, Mr. H. E. V. Pickstone gave a very interesting incident in the career of the late Cecil Rhodes, which seems to have escaped the notice of the daily papers. At least, I have never seen it in any of them. "I met him up there," says Mr. Pickstone, referring to a fruit farm at Wellington, in Cape Colony, "and he was very much interested in the whole procedure, and took some time asking all sorts of questions. On leaving, he asked me if I had the same confidence in the possibilities of fruit-growing at the Cape as I had always had. On my replying 'Yes,' he asked me to come down to Cape Town to see him at an early date. I went, and he said, 'Look here, you have always believed in this fruit business. You have a farm in Drakenstein Valley. I want to buy the whole valley; how much would it cost?' As it is twenty miles long by ten miles wide, and contains a number of farms and a small village, you will understand that the order was a big one, and I did not know how to take it. I said, however, that I thought it might be bought for a quarter of a million. He simply replied, 'Then go and buy it.' That is the way that the Rhodes' fruit farms were started." If our cousins across the sea often do this sort of thing, it is not surprising that they are driving us out of Covent Garden. Yet there is still money in fruit-growing at home if money is put into it, and put into it in the right way.

March 18th.—A failure of Carnation cuttings has been brought to my notice. In every case the cause is the same, all the stems being much too woody to form roots. The cuttings, being more or less dormant, have lived through the winter, but since the rising temperature has started the leaves into activity, and as there are no roots to supply their requirements, a complete collapse has been the result. There is no great difficulty in striking a fair percentage of Carnation cuttings if they are properly chosen, but they must be taken off above the hard wood. In other words, the stems must be herbaceous.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 129.—Mr. W. A. COOK, F.R.H.S., at SHIRLEY PARK GARDENS, CROYDON.

Although Mr. Cook only took up his residence as head gardener at Shirley Park Gardens last autumn, he is well known in horticultural circles, and has held two very important appointments, one of them for several years. The post which he now fills comes under the same category, for Shirley Park is a notable historic place, and the pleasure grounds and houses are on an extensive scale, with many features of much interest. Colonel R. H. Simpson, who has a lease from the family of Lord Eldon, has carried out many improvements since he became the tenant. He has put down a very fine electric plant, driven by a pair of fine engines, established telephonic communication with every room in the house, also with the stables and the head gardener's house, put in a complete set of hydrants and fire escape, etc., and introduced a perfect system of sanitation. Colonel Simpson is extremely fond of the gardens, and very anxious that they should be kept up to the highest possible standard.

"In fact," said Mr. Cook, after we had spent our available time in looking round, "Colonel Simpson encourages me, in every way, to turn my experience to the best account."

"I believe that you have enjoyed a rather wide experience?"

"Well, I have certainly been in various parts of the country, and carried on gardening operations under differing conditions."

"Where did you start?"

"I was apprenticed for three years under the head gardener at Sherfield Manor, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Then I went to Rayners, in Buckinghamshire, the seat of Sir P. Rose, Bart., where the gardens (which are very fine) had just been made. I was next at Wooburn House for about three years. Fruit was a great feature under glass. I suppose we had two hundred trees in one house, and we had also a fine range of Vineries, and also grew Pines. From Buckinghamshire I went to Wiltshire, and was at Norman Court, Salisbury, the country seat of the Baring family, a grand old place, for two years."

"Where did you go at the end of that time?"

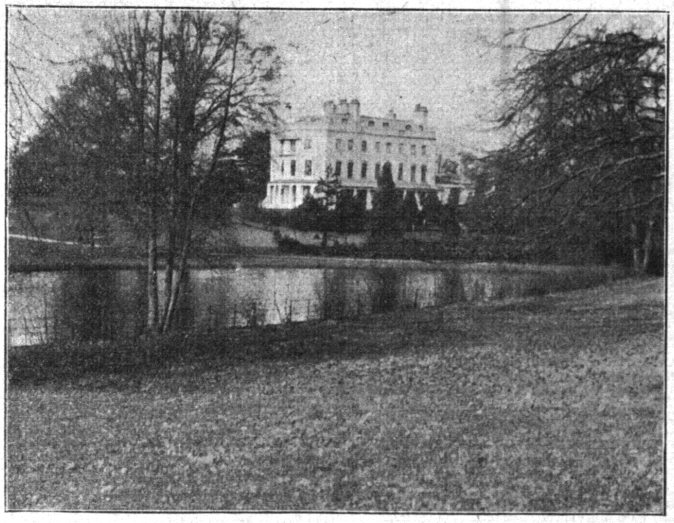
"The Pineapple nursery in Maida Vale, which is now extinct, and afterwards I was with Mr. Rochford at Page Green, and then with his son at Turnford. My next post in private gardens was at The Cedars, East Sheen. When I left The Cedars I went to the Crystal Palace as foreman for a few months, and thence as head gardener to Lady Wells, at Holme Wood, Huntingdonshire, a very pretty place, famed for herbaceous plants and a collection of stove plants. I returned to Wiltshire, before the end of three years, in order to take up the position of head gardener at Compton Bassett."

"How long did you remain there?"

"Thirteen years. The pleasure gardens at Compton Bassett are on a considerable scale, about twenty acres. Nearly all the houses were new, and were built by Gray of Chelsea, and we had one of the best collections of Peaches and Pears in the West of England. Peaches were largely grown in the open. There were also five acres of kitchen garden, all walled in."

"Did you do any showing?"

"Yes; I began my showing experience there, and succeeded in taking many prizes at the county and local shows, for collections of fruit and vegetables, stove and greenhouse plants, and Chrysanthemums. I also used to frequently act as judge at the shows, where there was always something interesting to learn, and nearly always something new. After I left Compton Bassett I was head gardener at Earlstoke Park, also in Wiltshire, for nearly a year.



Shirley Park, Croydon.

Earlstoke is rather famous, as well as a big estate, and one of the features is a series of lakes (eight in number), with a cascade and waterfall—in fact, it has been one of the prettiest spots in the country."

"Then you came here?"

"Yes, just after I had been elected a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. I hope to exhibit here occasionally, and commenced in the autumn at the Croydon Show, where we got first, second, and third prizes for a collection of fruit and for Chrysanthemums."

"What is the extent of Shirley Park Gardens?"

"The pleasure gardens, kitchen grounds, and houses cover upwards of sixteen acres, but the Park is about two hundred. There are several miles of shaded walks through shrubbery, Pine trees, etc."

"Shall we take the houses first?"

"There are five Vineries. As you have seen, the Vines in one of the early houses are just flowering. The varieties in it are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. In the second-early houses there are Muscats and Black Hamburgh. Of the remaining houses one contains Black Hamburgh and Madresfield Court; and another Alicante, Muscats, Black Hamburgh, Duke of Buccleuch, and Gros Colmar. The fifth house is devoted to seedlings. We had a lot of them until nearly the end of February, when the rats got in. They are a great pest in a Vinery, and we had considerable difficulty in getting rid of them."

"How did you manage it?"

"We took up a portion of the floor in the fruit-room, and let traps down level, and covered them over with bran. After doing this we were successful the first night. When setting traps for rats one should always use gloves, as the rat is so cunning he can detect by smell at once the presence of traps."

"What varieties of Peaches do you grow in the range which is devoted to them?"

"Royal George, Early Alexander, Hale's Early, and Dymond. The Nectarines are Pine Apple and Humboldt. If I grew one variety of Peach only, I should choose Dymond, both for inside and for outdoor cultivation. It is of very fine flavour, a beautiful cropper, and a lovely colour."

"As to the range of plant houses," continued Mr. Cook, "there are now in flower several of the best varieties of Amaryllis, to which we give special attention, Begonias, Cypripediums of several varieties, Masdevallias, of which M. Veitchi is conspicuously fine, and Azaleas."

"You have a large variety of Azaleas?"

"Yes, the mollis, indica, and pontica are all represented. Also Fielder's White, which, I think, is about the purest white. It is a very old variety, one of the easiest to force, and not particularly expensive. The flowering house also contains Lilies of the Valley, Hyacinths, Cannas, Spiræas in variety, Cyclamens, Dendrobium nobile, Begonia Gloire de Sceaux (a fine winter-blooming variety, as also is Royalty), and a number of Ferns."

"The stove house, I notice, has Orchids on one side and stove plants on the other."

"That is our plan. The Orchids now in bloom include Cattleya Schroderæ and Trianæ, Dendrobiums nobile, thyrsiflorum, and Wardianum. On the Orchid side are some nice specimens of Cocos Weddeliana, Pteris Childsii, Cheilanthes elegans, Davallia Veitchi, and other varieties of choice Ferns; while on the other side are quantities of Crotons, Horas, Dracænas, Gardenias, Dieffenbochias, Asparagus, small Palms, and other decorative plants. In the second stove house one side is full of Eucharis, with Palms interspersed, over which is a fine Stephanotis of the Elvaston variety."

"Do you regard that variety as exceptionally good?"

"The best there is. The plant is exceedingly floriferous, and the perfume of the flowers is very sweet. On the other side of this stove are Crotons, Dracænas, and small Orchids, also Pandanus in variety, and Acalypha Sanderiana. The house next is devoted to Cucumbers, and the one beyond it to plants at one period of the year, and later I hope to fill it with Tomatoes. Carter's Duke of York is, I think, one of the best Tomatoes, whether in respect to flavour, colour, or shape—the three essentials. In this house, Leeks, Celery, and Cauliflowers are pricked off in boxes, subsequently transferred to cold frames, and thence to open ground."

"What about the dark house under ground?"

"That is used exclusively for forcing vegetables, and we are growing there just now Rhubarb, Seakale, Dandelions, Chicory, and Endive."

"You have done a good deal in the way of forcing vegetables?"

"Yes, and I think it is of great importance that forced vegetables should receive attention, owing to the fact that the demand is increasing so steadily, and that one's own are better and fresher than those bought from the shops. In the heated frames outside we force Potatoes—Sharpe's Victor is the only variety—Carter's Forcing Radish, and Carter's Early House Carrot. We keep two batches of Asparagus going."

"What do you grow in the other frames?"

"Bulbs, a large number of Freesias, Chrysanthemums, and Lilies. There are about two thousand Freesias, so nice for sprays and buttonholes. We have a few of the red variety, but refracta alba is better. There are also some Callas, black and yellow."

"With regard to Rhubarb, when do you begin to force it?"

"As soon as ever it can be got out of the ground. It is wise, however, to leave it out for a week or ten days before taking it inside to force, because then there can be no doubt that it has had a thorough rest and check, which is so necessary. We force Early Champagne, and The Sutton."

"How long do you continue forcing?"

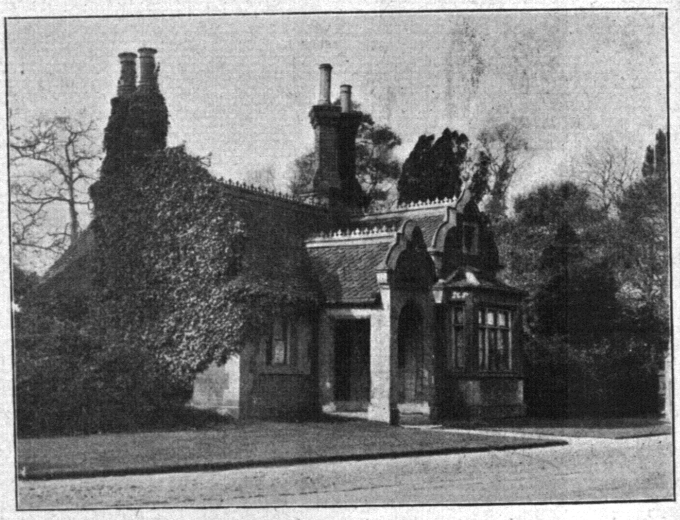
"Until we get it outside. As a rule, Rhubarb can be brought on outside as early as the end of March, or, if means are not to hand, can be forced on the ground where grown quite as easily by Christmas by covering it over with boxes, tubs, baskets, or pots. The great thing is to keep the crowns protected. One drawback to taking up Rhubarb to force it very early is that an extremely large stock is necessary. After it has been taken up to force in a house it is not much good afterwards, and had better be thrown away. The stock must be made up by propagating annually, providing seedlings, or buying in established crowns. We forced more than a hundred plants this year."

"Should Seakale be treated in a similar manner?"

"Yes, the methods are nearly identical. Seakale should be taken up as soon as the foliage has somewhat died down. The roots require to be exposed, in order to receive the check which is essential. They may either be put into pots, or planted out in a bed of soil."

"Perhaps you would give me a few hints about Asparagus?"

"As soon as the foliage has been cut away Asparagus should be taken up, and it is an advantage to leave the crowns exposed. While Seakale has to be grown in the dark, Asparagus needs the light. It should be put into frames, the crowns placed together as thickly as possible in about six inches of soil, and after the frame is filled with roots they should be covered all over with finely-sifted soil to the depth of two inches. The temperature of the frame should be fifty-five to sixty degrees, and plenty of air should be given on all favourable opportunities."



One of the Lodges at Shirley Park Gardens.

"Do you go in largely for Chicory?"

"Considerably, as it is always valuable for salad. It is taken up and stored the same as any other roots, and may be planted in a large pot or in boxes. As long as the roots have enough heat to start them, they are sure to be satisfactory. Chicory must be kept in the dark, in order that the plants may be bleached perfectly. The treatment of Dandelions is much the same."

"How do you treat Endive?"

"It has, first of all, to be sown out of doors, either late in the summer or early in the autumn. Or on the approach of frost, it should be taken up and laid closely together in frames. Then the plants should be tied up in small bundles, and introduced into a warm house as often as may be necessary to keep up a succession."

"I suppose you force a quantity of Mustard and Cress?"

"We need to do so, for Mustard and Cress is put on the table every day throughout the year. My plan is to sow seed every week, in a box, a couple of boxes of each. The seed is sown on the top of the soil, and pressed down with a slate or piece of wood. A good big piece of

slate is kept over it for a couple of days till the seed begins to germinate. Then it is tilted, to let in a little light, and subsequently the Mustard and Cress are put in a position near the glass, in just a growing temperature."

"When should Leeks be sown?"

"In January. They should be pricked off, as soon as ready, in the middle of February, gradually hardened off, and planted out in April. The best Leek is Carter's Holborn Model. Celery (which should be sown at once) should be pricked off into other boxes as soon as it can conveniently be handled. Our early Cauliflowers are already planted out. I have several lots in different stages of growth."

"How many do you grow?"

"About two thousand. The Brussels Sprouts (about a thousand in number) are also all up. We grow about fourteen hundred Broccoli."

"Now, about the fruit in the kitchen garden?"

"We grow a number of Peaches, including Amsden June, Hale's Early, Bellegarde, Early Silver, Noblesse, Barrington, Salway, Sea Eagle, Alexander, and Dymond. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Early Rivers, and Cardinal."

"And Pears?"

"The principal Pears are Duchesse d'Angouleme, Jean de Witte, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Beurré Clairgeau, Jargonelle, Beurré Diel, Williams' Bon Chrétien, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Comice, Catillac, Uvedale's St. Germain, etc."

"Gooseberries seem to be a great feature with you?"

"Yes, we have many varieties, of which Whinham's Industry is one of the best. Other varieties are Crown Bob, Keepsake, Whitsuntide, White Eagle, Lancashire Lad, Warrington, Fascination, Jenny Lind, Golden Drop, Albion, King of Trumps, Beauty of England, and May Duke. As you see, we use nets freely."

"Are the birds troublesome?"

"Very. The netting is put high up on the poles, in order that we can walk underneath, prune, gather, or mulch the fruit. I introduced it since I came here. We also net the fruit all round the walls, as soon as it shows colour, in the autumn. The birds will always take the best. In this part of the kitchen garden we have had a quantity of Gooseberry and Currant bushes, also Plums, Peaches, Nectarines, and Pears."

"How many varieties of Strawberries do you grow?"

"The best of them are British Queen, Laxton's Leader, Fillbasket, Royal Sovereign, Trafalgar, Veitch's Prolific, Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury, Climax, Waterloo, and Monarch. We force a good many Strawberries, and begin to get fruit about Easter."

"Which do you consider the best of your large collections of Apples?"

"Among the best are Cox's Orange Pippin, Bismarck, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Lord Suffield, Twenty Ounce, Hereford Queening, Mason's Codling, Dutch Codling, Norfolk Beaufin, Wellington, Fearn's Pippin, Devonshire Quarrenden, and a fine lot of Winter Queening. We picked the last up to the first of March. Altogether we have about two hundred trees, and they are grown according to every system—espalier, pyramid, cordon, and standard."

"You might mention the principal Plums?"

"Greengage, Jefferson, Victoria, and Oullin's Gage. We have five or six Fig trees, Brown Turkey; and also a few Medlars, Chestnuts, Filberts, and Cob Nuts."

"What is the width of your herbaceous border in one of the kitchen gardens?"

"Ten feet, and a hundred yards long. We have most of the best varieties in the border. Perhaps, before leaving the kitchen garden, I should mention that we grow an acre of Up-to-Date and Windsor Castle Potatoes out of doors. They are the two best here."

"I should like to add some details of the outside flowers?"

"We have a very good collection of Chrysanthemums, some of which are bush varieties. The indoor varieties, about 700, are Japanese and Incurved; and all the best sorts of Border Carnations are grown, while the Malmaisons include Calypso, Mrs. Trelawny, Mrs. Martin Smith, Madame de Satge, Churchwarden, and Prime Minister."

"Your Rosery, with its summer house, must date back a good many years?"

"I believe that, like the mansion, it dates back more than two centuries. There are between twenty and thirty beds in it. We have another bed of Tea Roses near the mansion, and a number dotted about in the borders."

"Do you do much spring bedding?"

"A fair amount. The Crocuses just now are a feature; they look very attractive. By the end of March we shall have cut Hyacinths, Tulips, Irises, Narcissi, Ranunculi, Daisies, Pansies, Auriculas, and single and double Wallflowers."

"What is your programme for the summer?"

"Our summer bedding will include a lot of Begonias, Heliotropes, Calceolarias, Gladioli, Lobelias, and Geraniums. This year I am introducing Salvia patens and Salvia Bluebeard, also Lobelia cardinalis in quantity."

"There is no conservatory attached to the mansion?"

"No; but there are big groups of plants just inside the front door, thirty plants in vases in the dining-room and drawing-room, and flowers are placed in all the corridors and on all the landings. Moreover, the dinner-table is always decorated with fresh flowers and foliage. The electric light has a bad influence on florists' flowers, which means that the supply has to be larger than would otherwise be the case."

"Is there anything remarkable about the shrubs?"

"Near the lake there is an acre or two of Rhododendrons, many of them named. There are several very fine specimens of trees, notably American Oaks, Planes, Beeches, Pinus, Wellingtonia, Cupressus, Bays, etc., and Mountain Ash by the score."

"How many men are there on the gardening staff?"

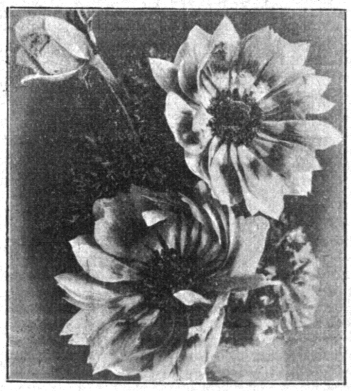
"Nine, and they are all good men, from the foreman downwards. There is a bothy, and Colonel Simpson is a very kind and considerate employer. I make it a point to have everything, from fruit trees to small plants, labelled, whether indoors or out of doors. The names are interesting as well as useful. Another and most important point is cleanliness. There would not be half the number of insects about gardens and houses which there often are if more attention were paid to cleanliness. I impress upon everyone the need of it, and I am sure that it cannot be too strongly insisted upon."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 86.—ANEMONES, FUEL, AND BULBS.

Dear Kate,—What a comfort it is to see the sun at last! All the flowers, which have been dawdling along for want of sunshine, have suddenly hurried up, and rushed into blossom in a wonderful way lately. My garden is bright with Crocuses in all sorts of tints, purple, white, and orange; Anemones, in scarlet, pink, etc., Daffodils all over the place, Violets galore, in purple and white masses, and the lovely azure blue of Chionodoxa luciliæ, with Erica carnea, Lenten Roses (hybrid Hellebores), etc., etc. What a splendid blaze the intense scarlet of Anemone fulgens gives! And the French hybrid varieties of A. coronaria are very beautiful; L'Oracle du Siècle is one of the prettiest, with semi-double blossoms in salmon-pink, with a circle of carmine rays. There is something particularly fascinating to me in the Windflower, and it is so easily grown that everyone should have plenty of Anemones in the garden.



Anemone Coronaria.

If you want to have a good variety of spring flowers you should get some first-rate seed of A. coronaria in April; it is very woolly, and needs to be rubbed between the hands in sharp sand or dry soil (you can wear thick gloves, you know) until every seed is separate from the rest.

Then get a box, eighteen inches square, and about eight inches deep, drain it well with crocks and ashes, and fill it to within an inch of the top with good loam, with sand and charcoal, the uppermost inch being put through a fine sifter. You must then hammer the seed-bed down till it is quite firm, then sow the seed, and just cover it (no more) with fine, sandy soil. Make it firm again with the back of the trowel, and sprinkle the whole lightly with tepid water from a fine-rosed can till it is quite moist. The box can stand in a shady place in the greenhouse (not over the pipes), or in a frame, or, if you wait till the end of May, out of doors; it should be covered with a piece of brown paper to exclude the light for about three weeks, when the seedlings should be just visible, after which you should take off the paper and give them more light and air, placing the box out of doors as soon as the little Anemones are well up.

Don't plant them out until the autumn, but you can give them two or three light mulches of fine, rich soil at intervals, and they must be kept moist all the summer.

What do you burn in your stove? I don't mean the small one in your greenhouse, which is, of course, heated with paraffin, but in the large stove for your Vineries? We have given up using coke, in favour of anthracite coal, which, though it is a little more expensive at first, gives a far steadier and hotter fire, which lasts much longer, too, so that, it is probably cheaper in the end to burn anthracite. Besides this, the cinders from the coal can be riddled, and used again, when they will last as well as the coal; there are also no "clinkers" in it, and every bit can be reduced by this double burning to the finest ashes. But the greatest improvement of all in the change of fuel is that there is no smoke. My stokehole is near the house, and though it looks like a bower of creepers outside, it used to be quite a nuisance when the fire was made up in the late afternoon, when the wind often blew that horrid "coke-smoke" right into the house, and all over the

are consequently put to the unnecessary labour of elaborating them afresh when next they begin to grow. This might be given as a reason why Raspberry canes should not be cut down as soon as they have fruited. If, however, they are examined then, or very soon afterwards, they will be found to be practically dead. Most, if not all, of the changes mentioned have already occurred in them, and even if they have

MR. A. V. COOMBE.

not there is another consideration. If the young canes are to fruit well they must have light and air to ripen the wood, and when they are crowded by the old canes, as must almost inevitably happen except in new plantations, the old canes must go as soon as they have served their purpose.

THINNING FRUIT.

August 2nd.—It is sometimes said that when fruit trees are over-loaded they can be thinned in a rough-and-ready way by shaking them, and so bringing down all blighted and useless fruits. But does this help? The mere fact that such fruits are ready to fall shows that the sap has ceased, or nearly ceased, to pass into them, so their removal can benefit very little, if at all, the fruits that remain. There is a natural reluctance to thin because it seems to be waste. But if immature Pears cannot be used for any purpose, young Apples, if not too small, can be cooked, and so can young Plums, even when they are quite hard. A good deal of the Greengage jam on the market is made of green Plums. It is certainly a mistake to let fruit get wedged together in tight bunches, for under such conditions it is impossible for satisfactory growth to be made. Thinning requires care, otherwise the spurs are liable to be dragged off. H. C. DAVIDSON.

At last week's meeting of the R.H.S., the Hon. Vicary Gibbs' gardener, Mr. Edwin Beckett, brought up from Aldenham a large group of plants of Pelargonium crispum variegatum. This is a sport which Mr. Beckett found, and has successfully propagated. The grey-green leaves have a distinct margin of creamy white, and, as in the type, are sweetly scented. They are densely arranged and finely crisped. The new variety achieved the honour of a First-class Certificate.

THERE was a time when Ramsey Abbey was of considerable ecclesiastical importance, for it was the second largest establishment of its kind in England. This was before the dissolution of the monasteries in Henry VIII.'s reign, when it was already venerable with age, its foundation dating back to Saxon times. Two of the ancient buttresses are incorporated in the present building, and the old guard house also remains; but most of the vast pile has disappeared, though pieces of masonry are occasionally dug up when the soil is trenched. Nowadays, Ramsey Abbey is famous for its gardens and pleasure grounds, which extend to about twenty acres, and are under the charge of Mr. A. V. Coombe.

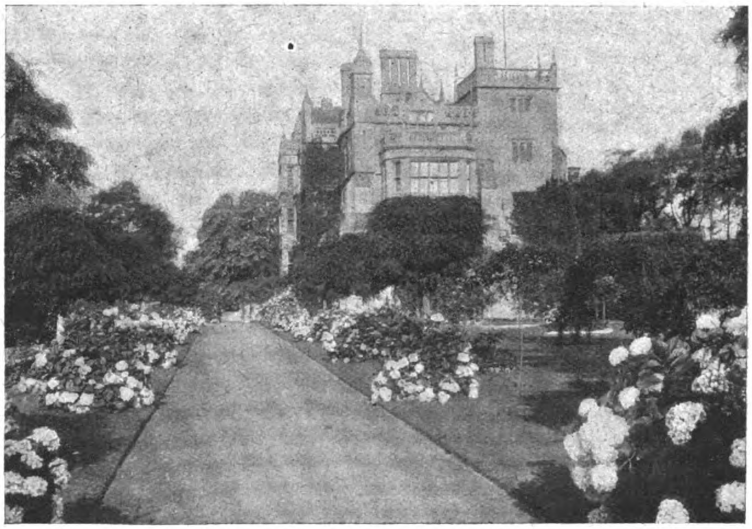
When, by kind permission of Lord and Lady de Ramsey, I visited the gardens a few days ago, the Rambler Roses were at their best, and provided a wealth of colour and beauty of form such as pen cannot describe nor pencil depict. Nor are the Roses the sole attraction: the herbaceous borders are a strong feature; the rock garden contains much of interest; while many of the trees are of majestic proportions and great age.

Mr. Coombe's house, whence we started on our peregrination, is some distance to the north of the mansion, and close to the walled-in kitchen garden. On the outside walls are trained fruit trees, and the borders all round are occupied with herbaceous and other plants. Facing us, under the west wall, the border was filled with broad plantings of blue and yellow.

EFFECTIVE HERBACEOUS COMBINATIONS.

"This used to be entirely a blue border," said Mr. Coombe; "but we felt that it needed brightening up, so now, between the clumps of Delphiniums, Anchusas, Pentstemon heterophyllus, and other blue flowers, we have masses of Anthemis tinctoria Kelwayi and yellow Antirrhinums, which have greatly improved the general effect. When the weather is dull an all blue border seems to lack life, although it is very cool and pleasing in appearance in bright sunshine."

On the opposite side of the path the border has for background a tall hedge of the Wichuraiana Rose Paradise, a pretty shade of pink which replaces Crimson Rambler.



THE EAST FRONT OF RAMSEY ABBEY, WITH THE TWO ANCIENT BUTTRESSES.
Standing on the lawns are Hydrangeas in tubs.

At the end of the path we turn under a Rose-covered arch, and see on our left a wide Rose border running the full length of the kitchen garden wall, and on our right a short border where good use is made of the salmon-scarlet Phlox General van Heutz, with rich blue Delphiniums at the back. Beyond these is a very effective combination of Lychnis chalcedonica, whose scarlet flowers blend well with the pale mauve of Erigeron Quakeress, while in front is the vivid crimson of Agrostemma coronaria (Rose Campion) above soft grey foliage. Interspersed amongst them are bold clumps of Verbascum, and fragrance is added by Madonna Lilies.

This border is continued for some little distance, and behind it is the Rosery, a large space with climbing Roses on arches and posts running round the outside, and numerous others on pillars. Rubin, a fine rich crimson, was very striking; and Tausendschön, a wonderful mass of rosy pink, well deserved the English translation of its name, Thousand Beauties. Another that was very attractive was Blush Rambler. As to the beds, most of which were newly made last year, they are cut in grass, and each is filled with a separate variety, among which I noted Ophelia, Louise C. Breslau, and

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Mrs. Bertram Walker as being especially satisfactory.

"You have many new Roses here?"

"We try practically every new variety that comes out. Altogether we have somewhere about three hundred different sorts, and have probably discarded as many during the last few years."

"And the Madonna Lilies do well with you?" I asked, the border round this garden having a large number of them.

"We have no trouble with them. A few years ago the Lily disease appeared; but we sulphur them now when we are replanting, and that keeps them healthy."

"Do you replant the borders very often?"

"Almost every year we make some changes. For next year, this herbaceous border that we are now approaching will be made into a Rose border, and herbaceous perennials will take the place of the present Rose border."

We had now left the Rosery, and returning to the herbaceous walk, Mr. Coombe pointed out some of the combinations as we went along:

"This clump of Chrysanthemum maximum," he said, "is Kenneth, a great improvement on the older variety Mrs. C. Lowthian Bell. The Pentstemons in front make a nice contrast. Here is a plant, Salvia turkestanica, which always catches the eye of visitors because of its peculiar colour, a sort of greyish pink. It has a by no means pleasant smell, however. These crimson Ten-week Stocks show up well in front of the bright yellow Anthemis; and here is more of the Rose Campion, whose vivid colour goes nicely with the yellows and blues behind."

BORDERS OF HARDY PERENNIALS AND OLD ENGLISH FLOWERS AT RAMSEY ABBEY.

GOOD COLOUR SCHEMES.

At this point we look down a path at right angles, running along the east of the kitchen garden wall. The border just under the wall is a study in yellow and purple, with the yellow predominating. It is a long border, and among the tall, yellow-flowered plants are Verbascum olympicum, Œnothera Lamarckiana, and Rudbeckia laciniata, with Coreopsis, Chrysanthemum Morning Star, Rudbeckia Newmanni, Cheiranthus Allioni, and Isatis glauca giving dwarfer plants. There are other yellow flowers, also; but the purple is restricted to Clematis Jackmanni on posts, and strong clumps of the annual Larkspur, which is sown in boxes in September, and stood in a cold house for the winter. "Rain is likely to rot it," said Mr. Coombe, "if it is sown outdoors in autumn."

The colour-scheme is highly successful, and so is that on the other side of the path. Glancing along the border, the eye takes in the bright scarlet of the clumps of Lychnis chalcedonica, which stand out at regular intervals; between them are equally large plantings of Delphiniums; while in front, and dividing them, is seen the soft green foliage of the Montbretias, whose display is to come later. The effect, as the sun shines along the row is remarkably fine.

THE ROCK GARDEN.

But we do not pursue this path, however, for the rock garden claims our attention. This, which has been constructed during the last five years, is approached by a broken paved path, edged with the lavender-blue Nepeta Mussini, over which which flowers standard Roses Hugh Dickson, to give a warmer touch of colour. At the beginning of the path are two handsome fifteenth century Italian pillars and a well-head. The rock garden is sunk in parts, and is reached by rough stone steps, while it has for background many majestic old trees, chiefly Elms.

In the lower parts of the rockery, which is often under water in winter, is a good collection of Japanese Irises of the newest varieties, and the best of the moisture-loving Primulas. The Saxifrages, Gentians, Alpine Phloxes, Pinks, Lithospermums, and many other favourites—which do well here in their seasons—were, of course, over; but patches of deep crimson were provided by Dianthus Napoleon III. (surely the best of the Mule Pinks); intense scarlet by the creeping Verbena chamædrifolia; reddish mauve by Pentstemon Bridgesii, which is hardy here; crimson and scarlet respectively by Potentillas Miss Willmott and Gibson's Scarlet; and other colours by Heucheras, Rock Roses, Aubrietias, and Astilbes Salmon Queen and Ceres.

Passing from this garden towards the main path leading to the east side of the mansion, I remarked on the splendid old trees which towered towards the sky.

"There are magnificent trees of many sorts here," said Mr. Coombe; "but Elms are most numerous. There are some fine specimens of the Huntingdon Elm, which I have not seen elsewhere. They have a straighter bole than the common Elm; and they are not subject to attack by the larvæ of the goat moth, which work havoc with the others."

Hereabouts are tall, neatly clipped Box and Yews, with Tropæolum speciosum climbing over them; a fence of Laburnum, with Rose Albéric Barbier presenting a sheet of yellow and white in front; a little farther on, a row of Prunus Pissardii, whose deep purple foliage contrasts well with the silver and green of the Japanese Maples planted alternately with them; and a pretty arbour is formed by a Weeping Elm.

On either hand, as we go on, the beauty of the Ramblers, and their varied forms, makes a swelling note of colour, which reaches a crescendo on the front lawns.

A sheet of crimson, shading down to rose, is made by La Flamma and Mrs. F. W. Flight, trained on wires in the shape of a circular table. Near by is a "basket," the outlines and handle formed by the Wichuraiana Paradise, the inside by General McArthur—a happy blending of blush and crimson-scarlet. In the background, against the dark green foliage of Abies Pinsapo, a weeping standard of the crimson Excelsa shows up well. Next we stop to admire a "balloon" of Evangeline, a single-flowered variety in white and pink, and the deep salmon-pink François Juranville, which is seen all too seldom.

At right angles to us runs another path, across which are the chief lawns, on the edges of which twenty-four tubs of Hydrangeas are stood out.

RAMBLERS AT THEIR BEST.

The principal front of the house, which we now reached, faces south, and is clothed with Ampelopsis Veitchii. On a sheltered eastern corner, near the old buttresses, Solanum crispum finds a home, and was already giving promise of the sheet of mauve it would become later on.

"Before the war," said Mr. Coombe, as, standing with our backs to the house we looked across the lawns, "we were noted for summer bedding; but we have now grassed down sixteen beds, and replaced them with weeping standard Rose trees."

"You seem to have a large number of varieties?"

"As with the bedding varieties, we try almost every new one as it comes out, and those that are not satisfactory we discard."

"Are they then thrown away altogether?"

"No; they are planted on the outskirts, as hedges and fences. We have several fine Roses that do not seem to be generally known. Here is Robert Craig, after the style of Albéric Barbier, and quite as free, but with more yellow in it. Chatillon Rambler is another. It is near the colour of Dorothy Perkins, but the petals are very prettily crinkled, and it is, I think, a finer flower."

On the lawns, as we crossed them, fresh combinations came into view. Single specimens as weeping standards, balloons, tents, and pillars, were in profusion, and the beds were harmonies in pink, and crimson, and white Roses, with here and there other subjects to give the necessary relief. A bed of the dark crimson Princess de Sagan had an edging of white Violas The Queen; another combined the dwarf Polyantha Orleans with standards of Jessie. A "tent" of Tausendschön has a border of dwarf Hybrid Teas; a "basket" of the single Rose, Mrs. Rosalie Wrinch, has its carmine-pink beauty enhanced by Delphiniums, which form the groundwork; while pillars are adorned with Lady Godiva, Dorothy Perkins, American Pillar, Excelsa, Paul's Scarlet Climber, Lemon Pillar, and others, which likewise figure in groups, and in some cases as weeping standards. One Wichuraiana there is which, though pretty when at its best, does not open properly, and is to be relegated to the outer gardens—this is Coquina, a single flower of blush pink.

SOME ATTRACTIVE BEDS.

But there are many other beds and specimens in addition to the Roses. Earlier in the year standard Wistarias, dotted here and there, are

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smothered with their fragrant blossoms; a large, round bed has in the centre Castor-oil Plants and Maize; the groundwork is Centaurea dealbata, with grey, finely cut foliage; standards of the Lemon-scented Verbena, Aloysia citriodara, break up the flatness of the bed; and an edging of the dwarf Polyantha Rose Jessie gives it a finish.

A large blue and mauve bed is made up with Nepeta Mussini on the outside; next to that comes Erigeron Quakeress, and behind these are Delphiniums; while in the centre are crimson Roses on pillars and arches. On another part of the lawn a bed filled with Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles, above the blue of which rises a pillar of the crimson Excelsa as a centrepiece.

"The Ceanothus is pruned back every year," Mr. Coombe explained, "to keep it dwarf. This bed is one suggested by Lady de Ramsey, who is a keen gardener, and a good judge of colour effects. Many of the combinations in the beds and borders are from her suggestions."

Cut in the turf near each path are narrow beds, not more than two feet wide, but running almost the full length of the lawn. In these are planted vigorous-growing dwarf Roses of the Hugh Dickson and J. B. Clarke type, which are trained along ropes looped to meet standards. The first crop of Roses was over, but sufficient remained to show how decorative these edgings are when at their best.

Then there are the shrubs and trees. Close to the path, near the west side of the house, is a small lawn, backed by flowering shrubs—Philadelphus of sort, Lilacs Marie Legraye and Souvenir de L. Spathe, and others. Then there is a fine specimen of the rare tree, Davidiana involucrata, fully twenty feet high, which flowered well last year, but for some reason has not done so this season. Near this is a bed of Pæonies, with posts of American Pillar and the uncommon climbing Polyantha Rose, Baronesse van Ittersum, a bright crimson on orange, which keeps in flower for a long time.

A PATRIARCHAL CEDAR.

At the end of the lawns are many grand forest trees, one old mountain Elm being particularly fine. Nearer the centre, and almost facing the entrance to the Abbey, there was, until a couple of years ago, a Cedar which was said to be one of the finest in the country. It was also believed to be one of the original Cedars first introduced from Palestine. Now, as the result of a stroke by lightning, it lies prone, but its trunk and many branches attest its majestic proportions.

Other trees of especial merit to which Mr. Coombe called attention included a beautiful Service Tree, Sorbus domestica; Pavia macrostachya, whose branches droop all round, and root where they touch the ground; Weeping Birches and Copper Beeches, and a fine example of Laburnum Watereri, which carries longer racemes than the ordinary form.

Before leaving the lawns, we walked across to the far side, towards the tennis courts, at the end of which is another rare and exceedingly beautiful Walnut, Juglans adiantifolia, the foliage suggesting that of the Maidenhair. We measured the spread of this tree, and found it to extend to fifty-four feet each way. It bears plenty of fruit, though this is not edible.

Beyond the pleasure grounds a walk, known as the Coronation Walk, has been made by Lord de Ramsey, the trees including Catalpas, Laburnums, pink Hawthorns, and others of similar habit, which in time will grow and meet overhead. The ground beneath them is planted with bulbs, Primroses, and other spring flowers. This walk is of considerable length, and partly encircles the grounds.

ROSE RAYON D'OR AND SHADE.

And now we turned our faces towards our starting point, but following a different path, on the outskirts of the grounds, where the trees were more numerous. Here we came across more Rose beds, as before, each planted with one variety. Lady Pirrie, Madame E. Herriot, Prince de Bulgarie, and Mrs. Wakefield Christie-Miller are among the best; but most interesting of all was to note the sturdy growth and healthy appearance of Rayon d'Or.

"You seem to have no trouble with Rayon d'Or here," I observed.

"None whatever," replied Mr. Coombe; "and, as you see, it flowers very freely. There is another bed a little farther on which is just as good. The plants were first grown on the front in full sun, and were so wretchedly poor that they were going to be thrown on the rubbish heap. However, I thought I would try them here, where they get a little shade from the tall trees, and since I moved them they have done excellently, and make earlier and much stronger growth, which ripens in good time. It is evident that they perfect their growth when not in the full glare of the sun."

THE ROCK GARDEN AT RAMSEY ABBEY.

"You have here, too some uncommon Roses?"

"Yes; there are several. This weeping standard with pale pink, fully double flowers, is Dr. van Vliet. It has been in bloom for several weeks already. On this pillar the single Rose is Sarah Bernhardt. The colour, rich crimson, is much liked, and the flowers are as large as those of Mrs. Rosalie Wrinch."

Arrived at the orchard, which is three-quarters of an acre in extent, and lies at the back of the kitchen garden, I inquired as to the fruit prospects this season.

"Apples should be very good," I was told. "Pears are generally good, and Plums an average crop. Peaches are good, but Apricots are a failure. We grow all the best modern varieties of each section, also some very old Apples, such as Sleeping Beauty—a pale green fruit of indifferent quality—and London Pippin. To make the most use of the ground we crop with greenstuffs under the fruit trees."

"And what is grown on the walls of the kitchen garden?"

"Outside, on the east wall, there are mainly cooking Pears; but the soil generally is too heavy for Pears, which lack flavour. On the inside east wall the trees are practically all Apricots. On the north walls are Morello Cherries, which are apt to die away in parts unaccountably. It is not the lack of lime in the soil, for plenty of that is given. On the south wall outside are two old Peach trees, Dymond and Dr. Hogg, and two of Early Alexander, only four years old, but carrying good crops of fruit."

A FRUIT PERGOLA.

A substantially built Apple pergola, running right across the kitchen garden, is one of the most striking features, and, as Mr. Coombe said, is beautiful in spring, when the trees are in bloom, and again in autumn when the fruits are colouring, which they do well on this soil.

"We grow all the usual vegetables here," he went on, "but, of course, not many Potatoes. I might mention, however that last year I grew five rods of Windsor Castle here, carrying out a spraying experiment for Mr. Rogers, of the Board of Agriculture, and when the crop was weighed it worked out at the rate of twenty-four tons per acre."

We next visited the greenhouses, the first two containing Peaches Cardinal, Early Rivers, Early Alexander, and Amsden June. Then came the Melon house, where Sutton's A 1 is grown, with Carter's Model Cucumber on the back. Then passing through another Peach house—the varieties are Dymond and Dr. Hogg—we came to the longest house, where Malmaisons are staged when in bloom. Brown Turkey Figs, carrying nice crops, are in the next house, with a few Maidenhair Ferns.

"The Maidenhair Ferns were caught by frost last winter," said Mr. Coombe; "for we had no fuel. They have not yet recovered. You will notice in this next house that Tomatoes are grown in front of the Peaches. The two lower tiers of the Peaches are never any good, as they do not ripen properly, so I stand pots of Tomatoes on the border, stopping them before they go high enough to shade the Peaches."

In the course of further conversation Mr. Coombe informed me that he carries out a system of intensive cultivation, as he can get plenty of manure, and he grows quantities of early vegetables in heated frames. He has been in the service of Lord de Ramsey for sixteen years, the last seven years at Ramsey Abbey, the previous nine at Haviland, Norfolk, in both places as head gardener. He has also been at Longford Castle; the Orchid houses at Tring Park; and was in with Messrs. Veitch and Son for a short time.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week.—A well-known Sweet Pea raiser and exhibitor: Interview with Mr. George Herbert.

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The Gardens of MR. GEORGE CADBURY, J.P., at Manor House, Northfield.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS GERTRUDE COPE.

ALTHOUGH Northfield is only a short distance from Birmingham, the residence of Mr. George Cadbury, Manor House, is in the heart of picturesque country. Visiting the gardens on a dripping wet day in September, I was none the less impressed by the beauty of the drive approaching the summit on which the house stands, and the charms of the situation. Some recent additions to the gardens, made under the auspices of Messrs. J. Cheal and Sons, first claimed attention, Miss Gertrude Cope, who has sole charge, pointing out a glorious herbaceous border, facing three fine tennis courts (two grass and one asphalte), with Sweet Peas behind, to hide the bare trellis. From the end of the wide path between the border and the tennis courts are delightful views of the park, with a large croquet lawn intervening.

"What is the length of the border?" I asked.

"Seventy-five yards, and four yards wide. It is intended," continued Miss Cope, "to train Roses up each pillar of the trellised wall behind this border, and between them Clematis, Vitis, Jasminum, and Lonicera in variety will find place on the trelliswork. The Sweet Peas, which are mixed, are a temporary expedient. The plants in the border are in clumps, not arranged for colour, but mixed. In front are such flowers as Violas, double Pinks, Phlox Drummondii, and Nemesias (mixed), while behind, Campanulas persicifolia, Doronicums, Pæonies, Iris, Œnothera, Lupins, Phlox, early-flowering Chrysanthemums, Hollyhocks, and Dahlias (Cactus and Pompones) are conspicuous. The early-flowering Chrysanthemums are Ralph Curtis, Horace Martin, Marie Masse, Crimson M. Masse, Firefly, Polly, Harrie, Market White, and Jennie."

"Is there any special point in Dahlia cultivation?"

"No, we grow from cuttings, and the tubers are put into heat in February to start them. With regard to Pompones, they are grown in order to send blooms to Mr. Cadbury's adult school on Sunday for buttonholes."

"How many blooms are required for that purpose?"

"The average is five hundred. We begin early in September, and go on to the commencement of November, or until the frost cuts off the flowers."

"Are flowers supplied for the Sunday class at other periods of the year?"

"Yes, before the Dahlias, we cut Sweet Peas and Roses, and in the spring, Daffodils. After the Dahlias are over, we do the best we can with Chrysanthemums. From January until the beginning of April, we have little to send, but from April to the end of December the supply is well kept up."

THE MANOR HOUSE FROM THE LAWN.

Favourite Blooms.

"What varieties of Pompone Dahlias do you find most useful?"

"Red Indian, George Brinckman, Amber Queen, Sunset, Mars, Captain Boyton, Thalia, and Kitty Barnett. Of Sweet Peas, which are grown in clumps, the best are Constance Oliver, Countess Spencer, Edward VII., Jeannie Gordon, Evelyn Hemus, Lady Grisel Hamilton, James Grieve, Miss Willmott, Mrs. Collier, Lord Nelson, John Ingman, and Helen Pierce. The Daffodils, which are grown in a little fruit orchard near the wild garden, are chiefly Sir Watkin, Golden Spur, Beauty, Glory of Leyden, Emperor, and Empress."

Lenten Helleborus.

"You have borders also on each side of the walk near the rock steps leading up from the drive to the tennis courts."

"Yes, and on the side of the steps we are going to have Lenten Helleborus. We had a border of them, and I know they do well here. They do not have any very special treatment; but spring or early summer planting is preferable to autumn. I have also found that they grow better in heavy than in light soil. They flower in March, and last for a month. In the two long borders leading from the terrace to the new garden are principally clumps of Sweet Peas, Dahlias, summer-flowering Chrysanthemums, Phlox, Pyrethrums, Asters, Iris, Hollyhocks, and annuals in variety."

The Hollyhock Pest.

"Do you escape the Hollyhock pest?"

"Not quite. I gave up growing them for three or four years because of the pest, and have only just started again. There are some seedlings in the long herbaceous border, but these here are last year's plants. The latter are very little infested, and the seedlings are doing very well."

"You stake them?"

"Always. In fact, we have to stake almost everything, because we are so windswept. Even Stocks are staked. Among the annuals, there is a pretty blue corner, consisting of Nemesias Blue Gem, with Cornflowers behind; these are followed by Gladiolus Brenchleyensis. Now we come to the Italian Rose garden, which was recently made out of an orchard."

The Italian Rose Garden.

"How many beds are there in it?"

"Sixteen of one variety each, and four with four varieties in them, and a weeping standard in the centre. In the beds the best are Richmond, General McArthur, Mrs. Stewart Clark, Empress Alexandra of Russia (fine colour, quite distinct), Frau Karl Druschki, Grace Darling, Warrior, Lady Ashton, Gustave Grunerwald, Lady Roberts, Avoca, Corallina, Mrs. E. Mawley, Bridesmaid, and Gruss an Teplitz. These Roses were only planted in June, but the season has been favourable to them."

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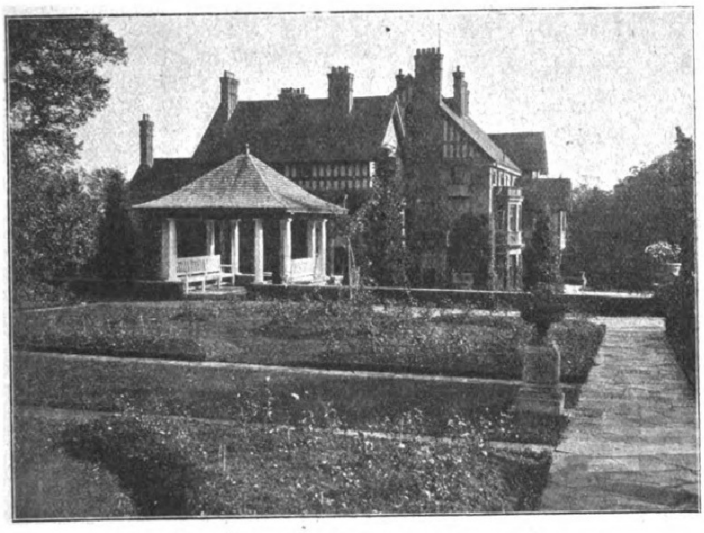
"They are looking extremely well. What is the soil?"

"All clay. Roses like a clay subsoil, provided that it is well drained, but we plant them in ordinary loam from the field."



THE PAVILION AND ROSE GARDEN, MANOR HOUSE, NORTHFIELD.

The Wild Garden.

Proceeding along a wide path, we arrived at the wild garden, which was recently transformed, and the croquet lawn, which was made a little more than a year ago. This, as all the ground slopes, was a considerable undertaking, but the result is very satisfactory. From this high point, protected by trees, may be seen the ornamental pool. The wild garden itself is notable for three separate beds of Scotch Roses (white, yellow, and rosy-pink), and large beds of Ericas and such flowering shrubs as white and Spanish Brooms, double Deutzias, double red Thorns, and ornamental Brambles. Close by is the effective and skilfully arranged rockery.

"When was it made?" I asked.

"The original portion three years ago," rejoined Miss Cope, "but this year it has been made quite half as large again as it was. The new portion is not yet planted, but I am now beginning, and shall finish in spring."

Features of the Rockery.

"Is the rockery all your own work, then?"

"The original part was, and I think that the great point in a rockery is to grow individual plants. I have pursued that system."

"Tell me, please, some of the contents?"

"There are Saxifrages Guildford Seedling, Hostii, Greisbachi, apiculata oppositifolia, and Burseriana major. Gentiana acaule usually flowers well. Primula rosea grows and flowers splendidly in a peaty bed. Anemone apennina sows itself, and comes up everywhere. Anemone pulsatilla makes a very fine clump. Shortii galacifolia flowers well, and the colours of the leaves are beautiful. It is planted facing south-east, and is rather shaded by rocks. Curesia coccinea has just found a home, shaded by a rock, and has started to grow flowers well. Anthyllis montana was specially good this year, and attracted the attention of many visitors. Lithospermum prostratum makes a splendid mass of blue. Other varieties which flourish are Acantholimon venustum, Synthris reniformis, Cyclamen neapolitanum, Silene Schafta, Narcissi minor, minimus, and cyclamineus, Azalea rosea, Iris reticulata, and I. cristata, Phloxes Vivid and G. F. Wilson, and Soldanella alpina."

"You mentioned visitors. Do you have many?"

"A great many in parties all through the summer. Three times a year, in the Daffodil, Rose, and Chrysanthemum seasons, the gardens are thrown open to the public on a Sunday afternoon for two or three hours."

"How large are the gardens?" I enquired, as we walked in the direction of the Bamboo dell, between the two drives.

"Not less than twenty acres, which includes a little golf course of three holes, where Mr. Cadbury plays every evening and Saturday when he is at home. The Bamboo dell was originally a pool, and was drained between three and four years ago. The centre was then planted with Bamboos, and the sides with hybrid Rhododendrons, Royal and Lady Ferns. The soil was light and had a good dressing of farm manure and leaves before planting, and afterwards it was well mulched again with farm manure."

Passing the manor house, I observed a bank of Rhododendrons in front of the terrace, and asked about the varieties.

"They are Cynthia, Stella, Alarm, Mrs. Russell Sturges, Sapho, Mrs. W. E. Gladstone Kate Waterer, Mrs. John Waterer, Mr. John Spencer, and Pink Pearl. The soil being so heavy, special beds have to be made for these, but as there is practically no lime in it, there is not that difficulty to contend with."

Chrysanthemums and their Cultivation.

"The conservatory appears to be in the centre of your range of houses."

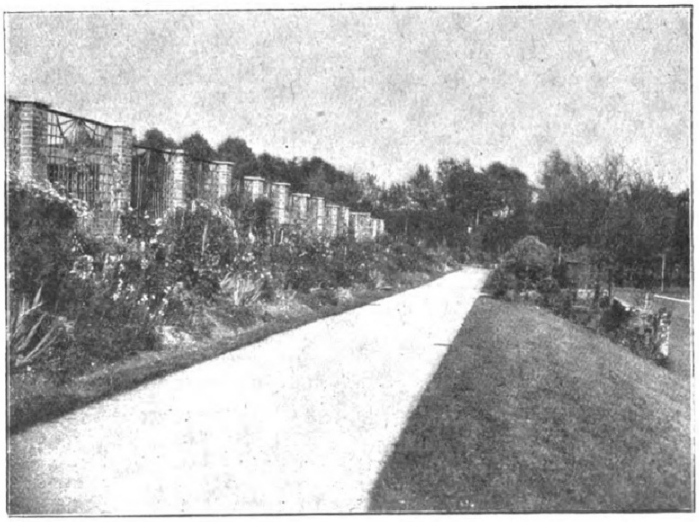
"Yes, it is, but before we go into the conservatory, we might look into the Tomato house, which is full of Chrysanthemums."

"You go in largely for Chrysanthemums?"

"We have always done so, and they are spread over a long season. My predecessor here used to show, but though I do not show, we grow now three times as many. I said that I do not show, but we send a group of foliage and flowering plants to Bournville three times a year, to the village show. We never show for competition."

"Which do you consider the best varieties of Chrysanthemums for big blooms?"

"Miriam Hankey, Buttercup, Mrs. A. T.



THE HERBACEOUS BORDER.

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Miller, F. G. Oliver, F. S. Vallis, Mary Donnellan, Mrs. Norman Davis, W. R. Church, Valerie Greenham, Algernon Davis, Mr. W. Knox, Kimberley, W. H. Lincoln, and Louise Giles. Of Singles, I find that the best are Mrs. E. Roberts, Mary Richardson, Mr. R. A. Parkinson, Bronze Edith Pagram, Mrs. S. A. Ball, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Stella, Oldfield Glory, and Elsie. The Decorative varieties are Niveus, Western King, Mrs. W. J. Scott, Madame Oberthur, Tuxedo, A. J. Balfour, Monsieur Bachman, Safeguard, and Allman's Yellow."

"Which do you grow for specimen plants?"

"Charles Davis, Viviand Morel, Lady Hanham, Madame Oberthur (specially good, late), Queen Alexandra, Baron Hirsch, Phœbus, Guy Hamilton, and Miss Evans."

"Do you observe any special points with regard to cultivation?"

"I suppose we grow them in the same way as most people do. Our main object is to have them in bloom as long as possible. The early-flowering varieties flower in the greenhouse in September, and the late ones last till the end of January. By that time, bulbs of different kinds, and the Arum Lilies, are well in flower, and we welcome a change. We take cuttings of all the varieties of Chrysanthemums as soon as we can get them good. They are struck in a warm brick pit, and, as soon as they are rooted, they are taken into a cool, dry, airy house, and potted on as required. The stocks of those varieties wanted for specimen plants are selected as early as they can be cut down. They are shaken out, and potted into 7-in. or 8-in. pots. When these are full of roots, and the plants are growing well, they are put straight into their flowering pots, according to the size they grow. The final potting soil consists of a mixture of good loam, leaf-soil, sand, stable manure (well rotted), oyster shell, charcoal, bonemeal, and patent manure."

THE ROCKERY AT MANOR HOUSE GARDENS, NORTHFIELD.

The Cocoa Tree Fruiting.

"What Tomatoes do you grow in this house?"

"Carter's Sunrise and Holmes's Supreme. We have grown the same varieties out of doors, and usually get a good crop outside. We plant them out when they are just starting to fruit."

"I see that in the stove there is a Cocoa tree."

"Yes, and it is fruiting. We have had five pods on it altogether. It was planted out in the border five years ago, but did not fruit the first year. We are trying to fruit one in a pot, but it remains to be seen whether we can succeed. Nepenthes are another feature in the stove. We do not treat them in any special way, but when the growths become too straggly, we cut them back. They are basketed in fibrous peat, sphagnum, and charcoal. Cuttings of the three varieties we grow root readily enough in the propagating frames."

The Blue Pea.

"Then you have a nice show of Ixoras."

"These have been here ever since I came. In the spring they are given clean pots, and the drainage is seen to. Fed with liquid stable manure, and well cleaned, they usually flower well. You will like to make a note of the fact that we have the blue Pea from Jamaica. It is a perennial, and, as a rule, it flowers in the summer, from June onwards. Allamandas are grown simply for covering the roof, and for specimen plants. In their season, we have a quantity of Calceolarias and Cinerarias. At the Royal Horticultural Society's meeting in June, we showed a new seedling Calceolaria."

The New Calceolaria.

"What is its colour?"

"Yellow, with crimson spots, an intermediate between the herbaceous and ordinary golden bedder. It is very good for the greenhouse, and nice for bedding. Outside, the habit is dwarf; inside, it will grow three feet high, and three feet through. With regard to treatment, I propagate from cuttings taken in the autumn. The seedling was raised four years ago, and I am going to show it again."

"Have you anything special in the Fernery?"

"The varieties of Nephrolepis are very useful for mixing with other plants in the house. We make a point of growing plenty of green for using in the house and conservatory. Palms are a feature of the Palm house and conservatory, but, of course, the contents vary according to the seasons. Just now they include some nice specimens of Fuchsias, including Marinka (almost of self colour), and Mrs. George Rundle (pink and white). The climbers are Roses (Niphetos, Perle des Jardins, and Devoniensis), Plumbago capensis, Solanum Wendlandi, and S. jasminoides, Tacsonia exoniensis, Lapagerias, and Jasminum grandiflora."

Flowers in the Kitchen-Garden.

"What are the creepers on the Manor?" I said, as we left the houses.

"Jasminum, Pyrus japonica, Clematis Jackmanni, and Rose Claire Jacquier. Here is another little flower garden, which, before the alterations, was within the kitchen garden. We call it the Yew garden. It includes some mixed Rose beds, such varieties as Madame Jules Grolez, Viscountess Folkestone, Princesse de Sagan, Laurette Messimy, Pharisaer, and La Tosca. In the centre of the kitchen garden is another herbaceous border, and the pergola is covered with Clematis and Roses in variety. Jersey Beauty forms an arch by itself, though a part of the pergola, and other climbers are Dundee Rambler and Tea Rambler. The latter is very useful for table decoration. In a small border each side of the vegetables we grow Rose Pæonies and blue Iris; both flower together early in June, and make a striking contrast. They last for about three weeks; the Pæonies require to be staked. Near this border in the spring is a long one of Narcissus Pheasant-eye, which looks very nice when it is in flower, and next season we are going to have a long border of Roses to cut from. They will be the newest varieties, and will be just behind the trellis, so that they can be seen from the pleasure grounds. On the inside pillars of the trellis, early dessert varieties of Apples are grown as single cordons."

"You have a large collection of fruit and vegetables."

"A fairly large one. The dessert Apples are King Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Mr. Gladstone, Irish Peach, Ribston Pippin, and Annie Elizabeth. Apples are grown on espaliers in the garden, and on standards in the fruit orchard. Some varieties keep splendidly till June, amongst the cookers being Newton Wonder and Reinette du Canada, and amongst the dessert, Winter Peach and Annie Elizabeth."

How to Treat a Famous Plum.

"What about Pears?"

"We have only a few varieties grown on fan-trained trees on the wall, and espaliers. The varieties which ripen well are Louise Bonne of Jersey (particularly good), Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Diel, Duchess d'Angouleme, Souvenir du Congres, and Marie Louise. The Plums on the walls are Jefferson's Gage, Pond's Seedling, Guthrie's Late Greengage, and Coe's Golden Drop. The last does not usually ripen on the trees, but is picked, each Plum wrapped in tissue paper, and put in a dry, airy place, to finish. Treated in this way, the Plum is delicious. Victoria and Pershore are grown in the orchard. Of Peaches, Hale's Early is decidedly the best. You will have noticed that we have no fruit houses."

"Do you do much root-pruning?"

"Yes, we do. The soil being strong, the trees run to wood most frightfully, and root-pruning is constantly necessary to keep them bearing. We always try to do it in October or November, but sometimes it has to be done a little later. Top-dressings of stable and farm manure are given in the winter; walled trees are well watered during the summer, and liquid stable manure administered."

"When do you start picking Strawberries?"

"At the end of June, and continue to August. All bush fruit is netted, and sweet and Morello Cherries are grown on the wall. The only variety of Melons is Cantaloupe; it is grown in frames, and we get ten or twelve good-sized fruits in the season from a two-light frame."

Peas and Celery.

"Just a few questions about vegetables. Do you go in largely for Peas?"

"We do not pick them much before July,

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because we are cold in the spring and early summer; but we can keep on until the end of the first week in October. The first lot is started in boxes with movable bottoms, in heat, and planted out when nine to twelve inches high. We sow Carter's Early Morn in this way; it is also sown outside, to follow on. Carter's Eight Weeks, sown on a south border, is not far behind those sown inside, and it is a very useful dwarf variety. Only two varieties of Celery are grown. It is sown in January and February, pricked off into boxes, then planted in cold frames on a bed of well-rotted fat manure. When wanted for final planting in trenches, this manure is cut through between the plants, so that each plant can be lifted with a ball and without disturbing the roots. Constant dressings of soot and lime over the leaves keep the Celery-fly in check. Potatoes have always been grown in the field, and this year, owing to the kitchen garden being made smaller by alterations, none have been grown here."

Miss Cope's Career.

"How long have you been in charge of the gardens, Miss Cope?"

"Six years. Before I had charge of everything, I had the flower and fruit garden under my care, then the wild garden, and eventually, on the death of the old head gardener, the entire place. I was trained at Swanley for two years, and then for two years at Kew. After I left Kew, I was three months head gardener at a physical training college at Halesowen, and while there I was asked to come here. As to assistants, Miss Hutchings, who was trained under me, works in the flower and fruit garden, and eight men and a boy form the rest of the staff."

"During your experience, have you had any difficulty with the men?"

"Practically, none at all. They have worked extremely well since I have had charge, though most of them were here before I came. I have only had to dismiss one man for incompetency."

ALFRED WILCOX.

The Interview next week will be with Mr. William Sydenham, of Kings Newton, Derbyshire, on "The Cultivation of Violas and Early-flowering Chrysanthemums."

Work Under Glass.

THE PEACH HOUSE.

THE final pruning of the trees and the washing of the house may be taken in hand at the earliest opportunity after the leaves are all down. Very little cutting will be required upon Peach trees at this season, if disbudding was properly carried out in spring, beyond the removal of old fruiting wood. Indeed, much of the latter might be taken out immediately after the crop is gathered, thus giving the furnishing shoots the benefit of more light and air during the maturing season of autumn.

Fruiting Growth.

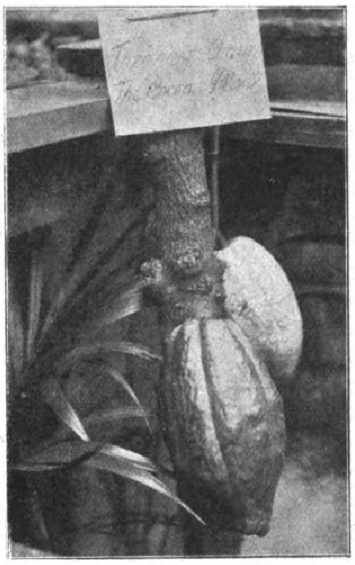
When pruning Peach trees, it should be remembered that the fruit is borne upon the growths produced the previous year. For this reason, the main branches should be disposed fan-shape, and as much of the current season's wood should be trained between as space will allow, without overcrowding.

The disbudding performed in early spring ought to have provided a well-placed shoot near the lower extremity of every two-year-old growth, besides, perhaps, two or three others at regular intervals higher up. In all cases, this lowest shoot must be retained to take the place of the spent fruiting growth from which it sprang, but it is very probable that any others upon that same growth cannot be accommodated in the allotted space. Where such instances occur, do not hesitate to cut the superfluous wood clean out, as near as possible to the base of the shoot which is to be preserved.

Dead portions of the tree should be removed, the pruner taking care to cut back into live wood. A small saw is a very handy tool for severing branches of several years' growth, the wounds being afterwards pared smooth with a sharp knife. When all is completed, and the trees again in position upon the trellis, next year's fruiting wood should not be less than four inches apart.

Circumventing Insect Pests.

Immediately after pruning, all ligatures should be cut, and the branches thoroughly washed with insecticide, applied upon a soft but good-sized paint-brush. For many years we have used Gishurst compound for cleansing fruit trees of insect pests, and, if a really hot solution is worked well into all cracks and crevices, we have great faith in its efficacy as a winter dressing. The older parts of the trees will require the most careful treatment, as they afford many lurking-places for insects and depositories for their eggs.



THE COCOA BEAN.

If red-spider, mealy-bug, or scale has been especially persistent during the season, give two or three dressings on successive days, taking care to wet every part and to dislodge every insect seen. The glass, woodwork, etc., should be scrubbed down, using hot water and plenty of soft soap, and the walls should receive a coat of hot limewash. Prunings and other rubbish should be raked off the border and burned.

J. E. S.

Early Carrots.

THAT the supply is not at all times commensurate with the demand should be sufficient to induce the possessor of a few frames to undertake the cultivation of this almost indispensable vegetable. To begin, a large hotbed should be made up; do not stint the manure, for if an insufficient quantity is used, the heat will probably fail before the crop is ready for pulling, and extra trouble will be entailed in removing the old material and substituting new therefor. When the hotbed is ready, place the frame in position upon it, and spread finely-sifted and rich soil to the depth of about ten inches.

Maximum Temperature.

The first sowings can be made in November, and further sowings for succession at intervals as required. The seed should be sown broadcast, and covered with a thin layer of the soil. The lights may then be put on, but must be opened a little whenever the temperature in the frame rises to higher than sixty-five degrees, which should be the maximum heat. Thin the young seedlings out as soon as they can be conveniently handled, giving a space of, say, three inches every way between each. On all fine days, and whenever the surrounding conditions are favourable, raise the lights, to give as much air as possible; but keep them close during severe weather, and always at night. If frost threatens, it is well to throw matting, old sacks, or suchlike, over the frames, as a protection.

Outdoor Sowings.

By the beginning of March, or a little earlier in mild localities, the first of the outdoor sowings may be made. The ground should have been prepared some time beforehand. A light, sandy soil, in a position receiving a good amount of sunshine, is essential to success. Only well-decayed manure should be used, and this must be dug in deeply. The ideal plot for raising Carrots is one that has been well manured previously, and on which another crop has first been grown.

Mis-shapen and forky roots are results attending the use of fresh and rank manure, or planting in heavy clay soil. Where the latter predominates, the usual plan is to make fairly deep holes in the ground with a dibber, and fill them up with fine soil, to which some sand has been added. Seeds (say three) are then placed in these holes, and are thinned out later to one apiece. This method of culture is too cumbrous and troublesome where Carrots are wanted in any quantity; but good specimens are frequently raised in this manner where the soil seems altogether unpromising.

Thinning-out.

The seed should be sown thinly in narrow drills, the rows being about nine inches to a foot apart. Owing to the lightness of the seed, it is usual to mix with it some dry sand or earth. It is thus more easily sprinkled in the drills, after which it must be covered with some fine soil. As the weather at the time of these earlier sowings is apt to prove inclement, it is wise to afford some protection until the seedlings are strong enough to dispense with it. Thin out as the young Carrots grow. If care be used in this thinning, it is possible to obtain some small but tender roots before those remaining are full-grown. When finally thinned out, there should be from six to nine inches between each plant, according to the variety. Keep the space between them free from weeds.

Among the many good varieties suitable for early culture may be mentioned Golden Ball, the roots of which are almost as round as a Turnip, but are of excellent flavour; Inimitable Forcing, one of the earliest varieties on the market; Early Gem, producing thick roots about four or five inches long; and French Forcing, which, as its name implies, lends itself well to forcing.

ILEX.

WHERE it can be obtained close at hand, or without much trouble or expense, a good supply of the dead fronds of the common Bracken (Fern) should be procured at once. It is very light and soft, and makes an excellent protecting material for plants of doubtful hardiness, Chrysanthemums, etc., as well as Potatoes and other things.

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THE GARDENS AT KEMNAL MANOR, CHISLEHURST: A GREAT REVIVAL.

FOR five years Kemnal Manor was closed, and when Mr. Rosenthal purchased the property little more than twelve months ago, it presented a sadly neglected appearance. Weeds had not only assumed the form of giants; they had taken possession of the pleasure grounds. But it was obvious that there were possibilities of restoration. Delightfully situated in the midst of typical Kentish scenery, the estate is about a hundred acres in extent, and previous owners must have derived much enjoyment from the gardens, the shrubberies, the orchards, and the woods. Mr. Rosenthal, no doubt, realised, that in spite of seeming obstacles, the expenditure of time and money might easily revive all the glories of the place. When I saw Kemnal, on a pleasant March afternoon, the revival had to a very large extent been realised, though, as Mr. Corke, who is in charge of the gardens, informed me soon after my arrival, there are many more improvements still in contemplation. Anyhow, no one would now imagine that Kemnal had ever been a scene of desolation. The manor house has been rebuilt, and is a charming modern residence; the gardener's cottage is attractive to look at, as well as comfortable inside; the entrance lodge conveys the impression that there are things worth seeing beyond. And this expectation is not disappointed. The drive to the house does not exceed a hundred yards in length, but the surroundings are picturesque, and the outlook from the sloping lawns is charming. Just outside the front door are fine clumps of ordinary Rhododendrons, backed by Laurels, but these are to give place to choice varieties such as John Waterer, John Walter, and Cynthia. Among the original features, with which it is not intended to interfere, are numerous fine specimen trees, including Cedars, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Scotch Firs, Oaks, and Araucarias. These are in different parts of the lawns, which run round three sides of the house, and tend to invest it with distinction.

MR. G. CORKE.

Discussing the flower beds, I asked if the Rose beds had been in existence for some length of time.

"Yes," replied Mr. Corke. "They were here when Mr. Rosenthal came; but it is proposed to shift them. At present they are grown mixed, the old varieties—several of them very old, with no clue to their names—being supplemented by Lady Ashtown, Lyons, La France, White Killarney, Frau Karl Druschki, Caroline Testout, Madame Ravary, and Betty. The beds are edged by Myosotis and Arabis now, and Ageratum for summer."

"I see that the Narcissi are beginning to bloom in some of the Rose beds."

"Yes, they precede the Roses in certain beds, and Tulips in others. Kaiserskroon is the variety, and it promises to do well. The other feature of spring bedding is the Wallflowers, which occupy seven beds. The varieties are Blood-red, Primrose Dame, and Cloth of Gold. The edging is Myosotis and Arabis."

SUMMER BEDDING.

"And the summer occupants?"

KEMNAL MANOR, CHISLEHURST.

"Geraniums Double White, Paul Crampel, Henry Jacoby, and Ivy-leaved Madame Crousse, edged with Candytuft and dark blue Lobelia growing close to the turf. The largest of the beds is filled with Geum coccinea, edged with Candytuft and Lobelia, thus making up a combination of red, white, and blue."

"Do you edge the standard Roses close to the house?"

"Yes, we have Pansies King of Blacks below them; and Ghent Azaleas between the standards. Underneath the windows of the billiard room are two beds of Ericas. Carnea is one of the best of a collection of fifty varieties."

"What is the natural soil?"

"Mainly clay, but near the house it is gravel. We have put fresh soil in two of the Rose beds, and are waiting to see the results. The climbers on the house are Roses, Red Gloire de Dijon, William Allen Richardson, and Dorothy Perkins on the south and west; Wistarias on the south; and Pyracanthas on the north. These, I think, will make a nice show in time. One of the additions to be made next autumn is a tennis-court in the field adjacent to the summer-house."

SHRUBS IN THE WILDERNESS.

From the front we proceeded to the Wilderness, and here shrubs are strongly represented.

"The Wilderness," continued Mr. Corke, "has been greatly changed. Many trees have been cut down, and a rockery is the latest innovation.

"I should like to know the names of some of the shrubs which you have planted. They will help to guide other people in choosing under similar conditions."

"Andromedas; Aucuba japonica; Azalea mollis; Acer negundo variegata; Bambusa nitida, japonica, aurea, fastuosa; Berberis dulcis; Baccharis patagonia; Buddleia globosa; Sweet Bay; Choisya ternata; Chamærops excelsa; Cryptomeria elegans; Coronilla glauca; Deutzia hybrida Lemoinei; Dracæna australis; Eleagnum Simonii and pungens aurea; Eulalia japonica; Eurybias Gunneria; Escallonia candidissima alba; several forms of Erica, Forsythia suspensa; Garry elliptica; Hydrangea amœna hortensis; double Lilacs; Laburnums; Olearia Fosterii, macrodonta, and Haastii; Pampas Grass; Photinia serrulata; Pernettya speciosa; Phormium tenax; Retinospora aurea, ptarmica, and squarrosa; Salix rubra; Sambucus argentea; Spiræa Reevesiana; Tamarisk africana and gallica; Viburnum lucidum; Veronica Traversii; and Kalmia latifolia. For further decoration, we have introduced blue and white Agapanthus, Ferns in variety, including the Royal Hart's-tongue, Osmundia regalis, Hypericums, Sedums, Lupins, and Tree Lupins, and Primula japonica. These, with others added hereafter, will materially add to the beauty of The Wilderness."

"Which will also gain in interest by the addition of the rockery. When was it commenced?"

"At the end of October only; and when we began it, the place was in a shocking condition."

THE PLAN OF THE ROCKERY.

"Was it designed by an outside expert?"

"No; I planned and arranged most of it, subject, of course, to the approval of Mr. Rosenthal. As you see, the rockery is surrounded by water supplied by a running stream, which rises some distance away. The water first enters a small pond, made in order to collect all silt. From that point it flows for about twenty yards with the Lily pond. Thence over a miniature waterfall it proceeds under the path, round the rockery,

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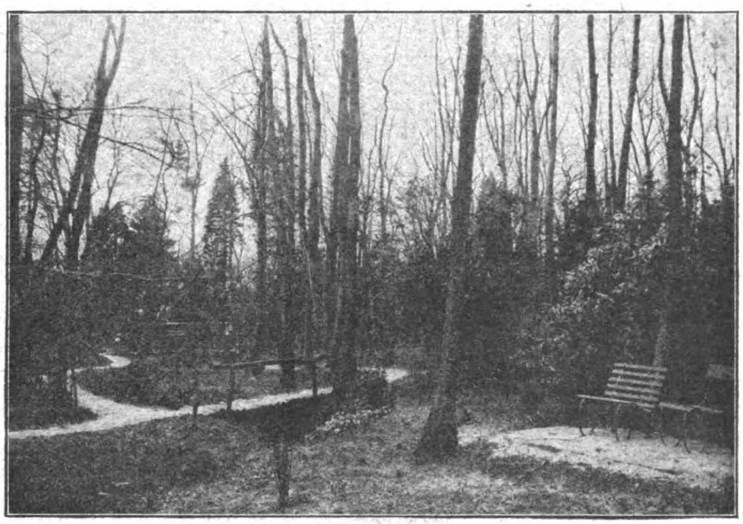
and winds away through the Wilderness. The stream is spanned by three rustic bridges; and the water travels round the rockery by means of two small weirs, which divide the water so that the large quantity flows in one direction and the smaller in the other."

"You have managed already to get together a good assortment of rockery plants?"

"The principal are Aubrietias; Alyssum saxatile and montanum; Arabis, single, double white, and variegated; Silenes, Saxifrages arctioidis, umbrosa, rahi, palmata, Wyncote, camposil, retusa, longifolia, and marginata; Sedums aboreum, Ewersii, and populifolium; Campanula carpatica; hardy Cyclamen in variety; and Irises, blue and white Flag, English, and Spanish. On the banks of the rockery we grow Flag Iris on one side and Ferns on the other. The present work is to extend and develop the Wilderness, this being the most popular portion of the grounds, though the far wood, which is some distance from the house, runs it closely. Next month the Bluebells will give it a carpet of dazzling blue."

"How large are the gardens altogether?"

"With two orchards, the woods, and the kitchen gardens, one inside the walls and one out, quite twenty-five acres."



THE WILDERNESS, KEMNAL MANOR.

THE CULTIVATION OF PRIMULAS.

Retracing our steps we entered the kitchen garden inside the walls, and made a tour of the plant and fruit houses. In the flowering house, Cineraria sinensis was still in flower, and Primulas obconica and sinensis also showed masses of bloom.

"My method of cultivation is to sow and grow in cold frames until the end of September, when the plants are brought into heat. Begonia Gloire de Lorraine is grown from leaf cuttings, which I take at the end of March. With these I sow the seed in heat."

"You have a nice show of the Bridal Wreaths."

"Just about two dozen, and I am so well pleased with the Francoas that another year I shall probably increase the number. The more prominent of the rest of the contents are the Azalea mollis, a batch of Arum Lilies, and a batch of Coleus thyrsioides. The creepers on the roof are Stephanotis, Hoya, and Bougainvillea."

"Do you cut from the Fernery?"

"Quite freely; Ferns are grown for that purpose rather than for the decoration of the house. Here we flower the bulbs grown in pots. The Daffodils are Sir Watkin, Golden Spur, Empress, Henry Irying, and bicolor Horsfieldii. The varieties of Narcissus are three, namely, Diadem, Alsace, and Irene. In addition to Kaiserskroon we grow Tulips Canary Bird, Yellow Prince, Vermilion Brilliant, and Potterbakker (white). The Hyacinths are Pelissier, White Voltaire, Baroness van Tuyll, King of the Blues, La Grandesse, and Macaulay. The Hyacinth season lasts from the beginning of January to the end of March; and before we flower these varieties we have the white Roman. The next house, which we are now about to enter, is devoted to Orchids."

"Were these here when you took over the place?"

"Some of them, but others have been bought. The former include the beautiful variety which you see now in flower. Those blooms have been in evidence for six weeks already, and look as if they would last some time longer. We have no idea what the variety is, but the shape is very fine, while the mauve and gold centre, with the three petals shaded with maroon, and the white edging, make up a very attractive whole. Cattleyas are the favourite Orchid, and other sections embrace Dendrobiums, Vandas, Odontoglossums, Cypripediums, Oncidiums, and Calanthes. With these sections we have flowers all the year round."

THE ROCKERY.

FRUIT UNDER GLASS.

"What are the Grapes in the two Vineries?"

"Black Hamburgh, Gros Colmar, Alicante, and Foster's Seedling. The Vine border is outside. In the two Peach cases, which are not heated, the varieties are Barrington, Dymond, Waterloo, Amsden June, Hale's Early, Early Alexander, Early Grosse Mignonne, Royal George Peaches, and Lord Napier, Darwin, and Cardinal Nectarines."

"Do you combine Melons and Cucumbers in the same house?"

"No; the varieties are Melons Superlative, and Cucumbers Telegraph and Satisfaction. Tomatoes are grown in one of the Peach cases, the varieties being Comet and Best of All. There is a good collection of Violets in the frames. These were here when we came, and so you may be quite sure was the Magnolia grandiflora, which adorns my cottage. It is an excellent specimen of considerable age."

"I should like a few details respecting the hardy fruit?"

"The Pears on the walls are Jargonelle, Pitmaston Duchess, Marie Louise, Doyenne du Comice, Brown Beurre, and Duchess de Bordeaux; the Apples are Cox's Orange Pippin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Ribston Pippin; the Cherries Morello, White Heart, Black Heart, Early Rivers, and Waterloo; the Plums Victoria and Coe's Golden Drop; Apricots Moor Park, Early Peach, and Hemskirk."

"And the standards in the kitchen garden?"

"The best of the Apples on standards are Lord Derby, Lord Suffield, Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Peasgood's Nonsuch. Of Red Currants we grow La Versailles, Red Dutch, and Fay's Prolific; Black Currants, Boskoop Giant and Black Naples; Gooseberries, Whitesmith, Lancashire Lad, Golden Drop, Cousin's Seedling, White Lion, and Whinham's Industry. The walls are well covered. We have root pruned them to see whether they will fruit. If they do not bear crops this year, I shall take them out and put in new ones. But they look like cropping. All the named varieties were planted since we came. In the orchards, Apples, Pears, and Damsons are the principal fruits. The Apples include Blenheim Orange, Beauty of Bath, Kentish Fillbasket, King of the Pippins, Wellington, and Ribston Pippin. The Pears are chiefly Pitmaston Duchess and Bon Chretien; we are very uncertain as to the identity of the others. The Cherry Apple tree is rather a feature in the meadow. The fruit is like Cherries, and last year we picked many baskets full off one tree, which made very nice jelly."

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A USEFUL SALAD.

"Have you anything special to say about vegetables?"

"We go in a little for Potatoes, the varieties being May Queen, Ringleader, Epicure, Ideal, Abundance, and General Roberts. For early work I am using Green Gem, Harbinger, and Ideal Peas, and in succession Prizewinner, Duke of Albany, Standwell, and Ne Plus Ultra. For a late crop I like Harbinger. My experience is that Peas do much better if the sticks are as wide apart at the top as at the bottom; and I always put in sticks slanting. When Lettuces are scarce, I use Dandelion and Chicory blanched for a salad. They are easily blanched in boxes eighteen inches deep, with the light excluded by a piece of slate on the top. We also grow Kohl Rabi. It stands drought better than Turnips, though the flavour is not so good. But it is appreciated for the table in winter, and is very hardy."

"Have you held any previous appointments as head gardener?"

"No, this is my first appearance in that capacity. I was previously with the Hon. A. Grosvenor, at The Cottage, Seal, and then at Henley-on-Thames for a short time. I came to Kemnal Manor as second, and have had entire charge of the gardens for the last six months. I do not intend to show. It is necessary to devote undivided attention to the ordinary and extraordinary work in the gardens. My employer and Mrs. Rosenthal give me every encouragement, and take the keenest interest in the supervision of everything that is done."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week: Incidents in the Lives of Well-known Horticulturists—Mr. Owen Thomas, V.M.H.

PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATIONS.

PROPAGATION FROM SEED.

FEW amateur Carnation growers are content until they have tried their hands at raising their favourite flower from seed, and the many disappointments and difficulties encountered only serve to make them keener. In raising seedlings, many of the plants will turn out singles, whilst misshapen flowers and split calyxes will be still more plentiful; a few, however, may prove to be well worth retaining.

WHEN TO SOW.

Growers differ as to the correct time for sowing the seed, but in order to raise strong, sturdy plants for flowering the same season, it should be sown early. Personally, I prefer January, as the plants can then be had in bloom during July and August, where space is plentiful.

The seed should be sown in shallow pans. The potting soil should consist of two parts fibrous loam, one part sand or clean road grit, and one part well-decayed leaf-soil, the whole, after mixing, being passed through a fine sieve. Scatter the seed very thinly on the surface, and only slightly cover with the very finest soil. Water with a fine rose can, cover the pan with a sheet of glass, and place in a warm spot in the greenhouse. When germination takes place —which is generally in about ten days—remove the glass, and place the seedlings in a light position, care being taken not to allow them to become dry.

GROW WITHOUT A CHECK.

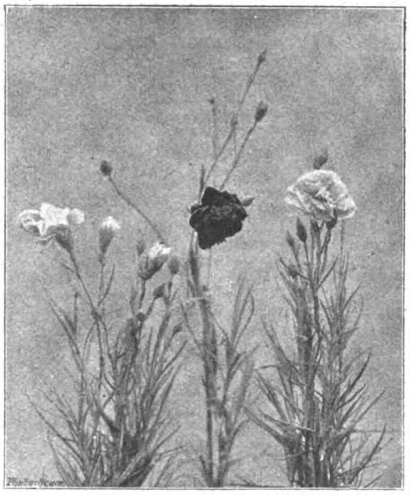
When the first pair of leaves appear, the young plants should be pricked out into small "thumb" pots or shallow boxes, and placed on a shelf in a light, airy position, where a temperature of about sixty degrees can be maintained. As soon as well rooted, they should be potted on into small "sixties," and more air and a lower temperature should be given. The seedlings, being very vigorous, must be kept growing on without a check, in which case it is extremely unlikely that they will be attacked by any disease.

Although doubtless about a third of the plants wll turn out singles, and of the remainder, probably more than half will be no good, the grower must not be disappointed, as it is possible that amongst the few good ones there may be one or two of exceptional merit, which will amply repay him for all his disappointment.

J. SMITH.

STREPTOCARPUS HYBRIDS.

THESE greenhouse plants have been so much improved during recent years by hybridising and selection, that they bear little resemblance, either in foliage or flower, to the original species, or even the first hybrids raised at Kew from S. Wendlandii, with its one massive leaf, and S. polyanthus, with its numerous but somewhat inconspicuous flowers. The present race of garden hybrids, among which the achimeniflorus varieties—so called owing to the widely-opened flowers somewhat resembling Achimenes—are conspicuous, are so free-flowering, and so easily grown, that they are most useful subjects, either for the amateur or the gardener with restricted greenhouse accommodation, as they are easily raised from seed, and flower continuously over a very long period, in many cases from the July or August in the year they are sown till late in the following summer.



PERPETUAL-FLOWERING CARNATIONS—SOME PROMISING SEEDLINGS.

COMPOST FOR SEED-SOWING.

Seed should be sown thinly (it is very small, and requires careful handling), in well-drained pots of fine, light soil, made up of about equal parts of sweet loam, leaf-mould, peat, and sharp sand passed through a ¼-in. sieve, the actual surface being made a little finer. Make the soil firm, sow thinly, and give one good watering, or, if preferred, the pots may be well watered an hour or so before the seed is sown. It is not necessary to cover the seed, the pressing or watering in will bury it quite deep enough. Cover the pot with a piece of glass to check evaporation, and with brown paper to protect from sunlight, and place in a temperature of about sixty degrees Fahr. No further watering should be necessary until after the seed has germinated, which should be in about fourteen days, but should it be advisable to give more water, it is best done by soaking the pots in a deep saucer of water, to allow the soil to be moistened without wetting the seed.

The greatest danger in the early stages is from "damping," and care should be taken to give air every day by removing the glass and wiping it clean of the water which collects on it by evaporation from the soil. The seed may be sown at any time from the middle of January till the middle of March, and many growers also sow in July or August to obtain small plants for decorative purposes.

As soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle, and making their second leaf, they should be pricked out, in pots or pans, about two inches apart, in similar soil to that used for seed sowing, but a shade coarser in texture. Should this operation be delayed too long, there is a great risk of loss through "damping."

SIZES OF POTS.

As soon as the plants in the pans become crowded, they should be potted off separately into 3-in. pots, using similar compost passed through a ½-in. instead of a ¼-in. sieve. When they have been potted up a short time, and become established, a temperature of fifty to fifty-five degrees will prove quite high enough —in fact, very little artificial heat is necessary when once the seedlings have made a good start.

Later on the best plants should be potted on into 4½-in. or 5-in. pots, and these should prove large enough for the majority to flower in for a lengthy period, though, where there is sufficient room, a few plants potted on again into 6-in. pots will give even better results.

At the final potting the compost should consist of equal quantities of good, rough, fibrous loam, sweet leaf-mould, and peat, with a sprinkling of sharp sand and a small quantity of a compound fertiliser and broken charcoal. Firm potting, clean pots, and good drainage are essential throughout, and when the flower spikes begin to lengthen, or when pots are filled with roots, weak liquid manure should be given two or three times a week. The rule should be, fairly frequent weak stimulants in preference to occasional concentrated ones.

To encourage flowering over as long a period as possible, faded flowers should be removed to prevent seed forming, which naturally gives a check to flowering.

INSECT ENEMIES.

Streptocarpus are, on the whole, generally free from serious pests, the worst being a small "mite," similar to that which attacks Begonias and Gloxinias. The best method of dealing with this is to grow the plants all through in a fairly moist atmosphere, frequently syringing between the pots, and occasionally overhead on the plants during bright weather, when slight shade is also advisable, as this pest, like red-spider, revels in a dry atmosphere. Fumigation with tobacco compound has little, if any, effect on it, but syringing occasionally with tobacco washes will readily destroy it.

An occasional fumigation will, however, keep in check the other two pests to which Streptocarpus are sometimes liable, viz., green-fly and thrips. Mealy-bug, which was formerly a serious pest when these plants were grown in the stove, is rarely seen on them under cool greenhouse treatment.

Among the best varieties are Achimeniflorus albus (pure white), A. giganteus (mauve with light throat), A. roseus (pink with white throat); and among the varieties with ordinary shaped flowers there are fine types of violet, purple, white with different markings, and several shades of reddish magenta-coloured flowers.

C. J. GLEED.

PENZANCE BRIERS are very strong growers, and do best when allowed to grow at will. If they become crowded, cut away some of the oldest stems or branches entirely.

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dener would like to have an answer. When the answer comes it may revolutionise our horticultural methods.

May 14th.—Faked flowers are an abomination. The artificially-coloured monstrosities sold in the streets, and even in some florists' shops, are not an atom better than a milliner's imitations. They have nothing to recommend them—at least, to the lover of flowers, for I admit that beauty is

MR. JAMES CORNFORD.

apt to alter with the standpoint of the observer. A town-bred servant, hearing the cuckoo for the first time, was delighted, because it imitated her grandmother's cuckoo-clock, and the highest praise that another could bestow on some Shirley Poppies was that they were as beautiful as those in her Sunday bonnet. And, really, if you didn't know——Ah, there's the rub. We do know, and we can't forget, and the ever-present fact compels us to detect what is not genuine. To be strictly logical, perhaps, we ought to extend our condemnation to forced and retarded flowers, and I don't think there can be much doubt that plants growing naturally in the open air are preferable. But these artificial processes have at least this advantage—that they give us beautiful flowers at seasons when they would otherwise be unobtainable. Nevertheless, I hope the barbarous method devised by M. Renault will not come into vogue. He has found that if the Lilac is stripped of its leaves in August, and watered abundantly afterwards, it will flower within a few weeks. From a botanical point of view the fact is interesting, but if any cultivator attempts to put it into practice, I trust he will kill his Lilacs. I think he will, for plants have a way of securing the prevention of cruelty to themselves—by dying.

May 15th.—Though mealy-bug is a terrible nuisance in some Vineries, I am thankful to say I have never been troubled with it. Still, as one never knows what may happen, it is always well to make a note of a remedy when one comes across it. I see that, at the Agricultural College at Wye, fumigation with cyanide of potassium has been tried with success, the proportions being twenty-seven ounces of cyanide, forty ounces of acid, and sixty ounces of water. Of course, extreme care is required, the cyanide being a deadly poison, and the house should be quitted as soon as the mixture is made, and not entered again until the following morning. It is stated that, while the foliage was uninjured, all the insects were killed.

May 16th.—At this season the Vines need perpetual attention, training and stopping taking up a good deal of time almost daily. Here, as elsewhere, there are gaps—spurs, or remains of spurs, not carrying a single shoot. This is not as it should be; yet the reason is not far to seek. In some previous year there were, no doubt, many shoots on the dead spurs, and they were in each case thinned out to a single shoot. Some accident afterwards befell it—in all probability, it was carelessly tied down to the wires, and snapped off—no others came to take its place, and the spur died. That has happened within my experience. To prevent such a misfortune, it is advisable to leave a second shoot on each spur until the selected one is quite safe. At the same time, greater care in tying down is necessary. The shoots themselves will stand a great deal of bending without injury, but if it is done in such a way as to throw the strain upon the junction with the old wood, they immediately give way at that point. It is very rare for them to give way at any other. If that fact is borne in mind, it is not difficult to avoid these annoying accidents.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 86.—MR. JAMES CORNFORD, AT THE GARDENS, QUEX PARK, BIRCHINGTON.

THERE are no gardens so beautiful and so extensive in the Isle of Thanet as those of Quex Park, which are under the capable and experienced control of Mr. James Cornford. Major Powell Cotton, the owner of the estate, which is some 3,000 acres in extent, gives Mr. Cornford a free hand, and a rapid inspection of the houses and grounds warrants an expression of the opinion that the confidence reposed in his judgment and discretion is abundantly justified. The number of houses is seventeen, and, in addition to these, there are several pits and frames. At Mr. Cornford's suggestion, we first went into the Vineries, which have lately been rebuilt, with all the recent improvements, in teak.

"In the early house," said Mr. Cornford, "you notice that we grow Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, and Buckland Sweetwater; in the Muscat house, Muscat of Alexandria, Madresfield Court, Black Hamburgh Muscat, and Cannon Hall; and, in the late Vinery, Cooper's Black, Mrs. Pince's Black Muscat, Diamond Jubilee, Appley Towers, Alicante, and Gros Colmar."

"Have you any opinion to offer respecting these varieties?"

"Black Hamburgh Muscat is, I think, the best Grape there is, but it is rather difficult to grow. I cannot say much in favour of Cooper's Black; Mrs. Pince is doing well, and Diamond Jubilee is satisfactory. My experience of Gros Colmar is that the flavour is much improved by being inarched on the Black Hamburgh. I do not care to grow it on its own roots."

"I see that your two Peach houses are on very modern lines?"

"Yes; they are in teak, and, like the Vineries, were put up by Messrs. Weekes and Co. They are also the same size, thirty feet by seventeen. In the early house we grow, of Peaches, Hale's Early, Rivers' Early York, Diamond, and Early Alexandria; and, of Nectarines, Rivers' Early, which I regard as a grand Nectarine, Cardinal, and Lord Napier. Condor, a very good Peach, is grown in the second house, also the Late Devonian, Princess of Wales, and the Nectarine Peach. The varieties of Nectarine are Stanwick Elruge, Spencer, and Pineapple, which is still one of the best in flavour. Strawberries are forced in these houses, on the shelves, and also, if required, in the Vineries."

"How many Strawberries do you grow in pots?"

"About a thousand. The varieties include Keene's Seedling (for first-early), Royal Sovereign (the best for forcing), President, Auguste Nicaise, the Laxton, and Sir Joseph Paxton. We have also a large Peach case, a hundred and sixty feet long, in two divisions, heated, where Figs are grown."

QUEX PARK, BIRCHINGTON.

"You have a considerable collection of Orchids, including a number of Dendrobiums?"

"Yes; Dendrobiums are rather a feature. There are about fifty plants of Dendrobium Phalænopsis Schrœderi. There is a very fine piece of D. Dalhousianum now in flower. We have had seven spikes, with six or seven flowers on each spike. I attribute my success in growing it to the fact of its being placed over a hot-water tank in the stove. The steam seems to suit it. The collection includes different varieties of

Cœlogyne, Calanthes, and Lælias, notably L. purpurata, L. anceps, and L. Dayana. The last is very nice for the buttonhole. Cattleyas are largely represented by fine specimens of the following:—Bowringiana, Gaskelliana, Guttata, Mendelii, and Labiata autumnalis."

"What about Odontoglossums?"

"The cool Orchids do well here. Of the Odontoglossum species, Alexandræ and Pescatorei are specially good. We grow a considerable number of Cypripedium Chamberlainianum, and I find C. insigne Manleyii an improvement on the old variety. C. concolor also does well."

"Do you use Belgian leaf-soil for potting?"

"Very considerably; and it has an exceedingly good effect upon some of the Odontoglossums, Cœlogynes, and Cypripediums."

From the Orchid houses we proceeded to the Fernery, which has been recently built, and is very charming. The roof is festooned with Ficus repens, which has an admirable effect, and there are a number of baskets of Asparagus Sprengerii and Maidenhair Ferns. The rocks are covered with Lycopodiums and Selaginellas, and Phlebodium areum was doing remarkably well. Altogether, the result of the various mixtures is most satisfactory.

The roof of the show house was covered with Asparagus plumosus, Rhyncospermum, and the dark variety of Bougainvillea.

"In this house," proceeded Mr. Cornford, "we have several nice pieces of Humea elegans, and a large quantity of Amaryllis. I grow about five hundred of A. aulica, and they flower all through the winter. I have grown some five hundred of the hybrid variety. Azaleas and Cinerarias are grown in this house."

"And the stove?"

"In the stove about a score of varieties of Crotons are represented. I think Lady Zetland is one of the best, and Mrs. Dorman, a narrow-leaved variety, thrives here, also the Princess of Wales. Caladiums, including many of the newer varieties, are grown in the stove. Silver Cloud and Comte de Germany are two that merit mention. I also grow a large quantity of Argyrites, and its companion, Minus erubescens, which is very useful for decorative purposes, with a number of Aralia Veitchi, Gleichenias, and Dracænas. There are some nice pieces of Acalypha Sanderiana, a plant that came out about three years ago, hanging down; and the roof of the stove is covered with Stephanotis, Allamandas, Dipladenias, and Cissus discolor."

"Your Palm house seems to suffer from a plethora of Palms?"

"That is so. But we are going to make a winter garden between the dining-room and the museum of curiosities, and the Palms will be removed there. The collection embraces some fine specimens of Kentia Belmoreana, Fosteriana, Cocos Weddeliana, Cocos plumosa, and Areca lutescens, etc. In the winter garden the Palms will have the ample space which they require."

"What are the principal varieties in the Rose house?"

"Maréchal Niel, Climbing Niphetos, and Sunset. I am very fond of Sunset, which is greatly in request for buttonholes. Mrs. W. F. Bennett is a fine scarlet Rose, with the habit of Niphetos."

"You have a fine show of Eucharis and Pancratiums?"

"We are hardly ever without Pancratiums. There are about two hundred plants, and I find that by giving a portion of them rest we can nearly always obtain flowers. The stock of Eucharis is generally considered fine. I have about a hundred in pots. They are absolutely free from the mite. Hence, their healthy and flourishing appearance."

"You might give me an idea of the contents of some of your pits?"

"The heated pits contain Cucumbers in full bearing, Melons coming on, and Tomatoes quite set; while other pits include a large stock of Begonias for bedding (about two thousand of which are planted out), winter-flowering Zonals, just being put into "fifty-four" pots, and most of the up-to-date Malmaison Carnations."

"Now we come to the Chrysanthemums, with which I know you have made a reputation."

"It is seventeen years since I started growing Chrysanthemums for exhibition. During that time I have been very successful, and have taken over three hundred prizes, including three silver cups and seven medals. Last year I won the Isle of Thanet Chrysanthemum Society's challenge cup, a very handsome one, valued at fifty guineas. It was presented to the society by my employer, Major Powell Cotton, for the best group of Chrysanthemums, thirteen feet over, to be won three successive years by the same competitor. I have always taken the keenest interest in Chrysanthemums and their culture. In fact, the man who wishes to win prizes must be prepared to give them great attention, and to study their various wants."

"How large is the collection at Quex?"

"There are upwards of 1,500 plants, which include many of the best of the old and new varieties."

"I should like to have a few names."

"Here is a list of some of the best for grouping, struck in March, April, and May, single stems, and grown in "thirty-two" pots:—Mrs. Greenfield, Madame Gabrielle Debrie, Lady Hanham, Viviand Morel, Miss Alice Byron, Mrs. Coombes, Lily Mountford, Simplicity, President Nonin, Madame Carnot, W. R. Church, Mrs. J. I. Thorneycroft, Charles Davis, Mrs. J. C. Neville, Matthew Hodgson, Madame Gustave Henry, Mons. Chenon de Leche, Mr. W. Seward, Miss E. Pilkington, Exmouth Crimson, Mrs. W. Mease, Godfrey's Masterpiece, and Lord Alverstone."

The Gardener's Cottage at Quex Park.

Then we rambled into the beautiful flower garden, and Mr. Cornford pointed out that the walls were covered with Roses and Clematis.

"Also," he said, "Bignonia cherere flowers well on the west wall. The border, which runs round the lawn and the pleasure grounds, contains Tea and other Roses, with herbaceous plants, such as Pæonies, Delphiniums, Ranunculus, and Pyrethrums (single and double). The scarlet Anemone fulgens does exceedingly well here. This is probably due to the fact that the bulbs get so well ripened upon the chalk soil. In most places they die back in two years. With us they last for a long time."

"You might indicate some of your favourite bedding-flowers?"

"Begonias I bed extensively. Also the scarlet and white Verbenas. Seedlings of Verbenas come true, and are much less trouble than cuttings. They are easy to grow, and flower luxuriantly in a dry soil. I also bed about five hundred Cannas, which flourish in the sunk garden, where, as you observed, there is plenty of water. Other beds contain Zonal Geraniums, Calceolarias, and Fuchsias, which do better on this soil than the Zonal Geraniums."

"There are some fine trees on the lawn."

"Notably, I think, the specimens of Evergreen Oak. The Cork tree also thrives here. A Wellingtonia gigantea has already reached sixty-five feet in height, but our finest specimen is Cupressus macrocarpa lutea, which has been at Quex at least a hundred years. Pinus Normanianum is our best Pine."

"I suppose that trees are not very easy to grow in the Isle of Thanet?"

"No; and they are seldom of any height, because of the prevalence of cold winds from the North Sea."

"How do you treat the front of the mansion?"

"We have always a big show of yellow and white Banksian Roses, and on the Solanum jasminoides, which reaches the top of the house, there are hundreds of beautiful white berries in the autumn. The Clematis, Duchess of Albany, which was planted two years ago, is now about twenty feet high. Other portions of the house are covered with Ampelopsis Veitchi, Wistarias, and various creepers, such as white Jasminum and Pyracantha coccinea."

Before we went into the kitchen garden, Mr. Cornford explained that four years ago the old kitchen garden was thrown into the lawn, part of it being laid out with Begonias, and the other part used as a croquet lawn and bowling green. The improvement is obvious, even to those who are not familiar with the former arrangement. The new kitchen garden is upwards of a quarter of a mile from the mansion, and is about four acres in extent. It has been most adroitly planned, and the 14-in. wall has all been wired.

"You prefer the wiring?" I enquired.

"I think that it is a great improvement on the system of nailing. As to the fruit grown on the walls, there are all the best varieties of Peaches, Nectarines, and Apricots on the south wall; on the east wall are Cherries and Plums; on the west late Peaches, late Plums, and early varieties of Pears; and on the north are Morello Cherries and cordon Gooseberries, which are exceedingly valuable late in the year for dessert. I started them with this garden, and, by netting, can keep them as late as I like."

"I see that you grow Apples and Pears on the fine arch down the centre?"

"Yes; and they will look lovely when they are all in flower. Among other points of the garden are the terra-cotta coping along the top of the walls, which acts as a screen to protect the flowers, and the large tank in the centre, which furnishes the water supply. There are several hydrants in different parts of the garden, and this dry soil makes them very necessary. We have Apples, Pears, and Plums, on both the pyramid and cordon system. I think highly of the cordon system, whether for growing out in the garden or on the walls. The Apples are on the Paradise, and the Pears on the Quince stock."

"Have you any drawbacks in the cultivation of fruit?"

"Except the drought in the Isle of Thanet, which is proverbial, only the birds. They come to our trees from all parts of the island, and I have to use a great quantity of netting in consequence. Moreover, I am a great exhibitor of fruit, and, in any case, should net things in order to show fine specimens."

"You take a special interest in fruit-growing?"

"I have made it a study, more particularly in recent years, with the result that I am not a believer in the old trees. I am clearing them away gradually and putting in young ones. The kitchen garden also contains a large assortment of useful vegetables, in season and coming on. With the view of saving time, all the paths are six feet wide, and tiled, so that a cart can be brought round."

"Did you come here as head gardener, Mr. Cornford?"

"Yes; and I shall have been at Quex twenty years in November. I was previously at Sevenoaks. Since I came here, the whole of the gardens have been remodelled, all the old houses have been cleared away, and several new drives have been made. As to exhibiting, I have taken quite a thousand prizes, chiefly firsts, for fruit and flowers, during the twenty years. The number of men employed in the gardens when I came was six; now it is seventeen. That will give you a fair idea of the growth of the place."

Finally, Mr. Cornford showed me his own pretty house, and the commodious bothy which has just been finished; the famous bell tower, which contains the only private peal of bells

THE GARDENS AT UPPER GATTON PARK, MERSTHAM.

Interview with Mr. H. Cornish.

IT is a steep ascent from Merstham station to the residence of Mr. A. Benson. But the position of Upper Gatton Park is delightful, and the views of the surrounding country from its well-kept lawns are amongst the finest to be obtained even in the loveliest part of Surrey. Mr. H. Cornish, the gardener, in showing me over the pleasure grounds on the occasion of my visit on a bright afternoon in March, happily free from wind, confessed that the elevation of six hundred feet above the sea level involves difficulties of cultivation, and imposes limitations. If, however, there are certain shrubs that will not thrive, and certain plants that will not flower under such conditions, it is obvious that plenty of both find them congenial. Close to the mansion, for example, is a border with Hollies, varieties of Cupressus, and Rhododendrons, which cold not be in better health.

"All these," said Mr. Cornish, as I commented on their satisfactory appearance, "were thinned out two years ago, and the result has been a great improvement. The Hollies have just been clipped; among the varieties are Golden Queen and angustifolia. I will tell you more about the Rhododendrons when we cross over the cricket ground to the Conifer beds."

"The cricket ground must surely be one of the best private grounds in Surrey."

"I have heard it said that it is equal to some of the county grounds. Mr. Benson is greatly interested in cricket. He also takes a personal interest in Conifers and shrubs. At the far end of the cricket ground, you will notice that there are large clumps of Privet, Laurels, and Portugal Laurels. These were planted in order to hide a shed. But the beds near the two pavilions, which later will have Hydrangeas in tubs in front of them, are specially devoted to choice shrubs."

"Rhododendrons being one of the features?"

"Yes, there are many choice varieties, including Pink Pearl in quantity."

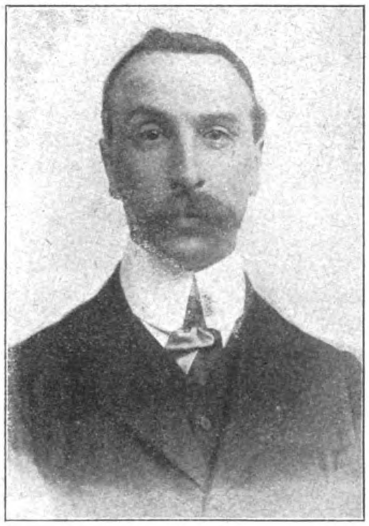
"I notice that the foliage of Pink Pearl is exceptionally good. Do you put peat in the soil?"

"None whatever; only heavy loam. Amongst the shrubs that do particularly well are Aucubas. They stand the winter out. Sycamores, Berberis in variety, Lilacs Charles I. and Madame Lemoine, Cupressus Nootkatensis, MacNabiana, and Crippsii, Retinospora aurea, squarrosa, and pisifera, Libocedrus decurrens and chilensis, all seem to find the climate and soil suitable to their needs. To keep up a constant supply, we have a large nursery bed of shrubs at one corner of the cricket ground, from which we choose the best to plant elsewhere as required.

A Collection of Majestic Cedars.

Pursuing our way on to the lawn south of the house, several magnificent Cedars at once attracted my attention, and I asked Mr. Cornish their circumference.

"One is twenty-seven feet nine inches; another twenty-one feet one inch, and the three others are respectively twenty-one, twenty, and eighteen feet four inches round. The circumference of some of the branches of the largest Cedars, which are propped up, is from nine to fourteen feet, with a spread of one hundred and five feet. These trees date back quite two hundred years. There is a fine Copper Beech near the house, but the Cedars overshadow all the other trees in majesty."



Mr. H. Cornish.

"The bedding seems to be confined to Roses," I said, as, noting the croquet and tennis lawns, we strolled to the terrace.

"Yes, we used to have bedding plants, but five years ago we converted them into Rose beds. There are a score, and the beds are mixed, the Roses being grown as standards, half-standards, and bushes. Most of the Roses were replanted last autumn, but the semi-standards are new. When we re-made the beds, we put a little extra clay at the bottom, but practically they are grown in natural soil. It is a rather bleak situation for Roses, but they make splendid growth. This applies also to Dorothy Perkins, grown as specimens in weepers. You will observe, there are Roses on the railings of one side of the mansion, and Clematis on the other side. The house itself is fairly covered with Ampelopsis Veitchii."

"Hydrangeas do not seem to be injured by exposure?"

"The long, winding border, to which you allude, enjoys a certain amount of protection from the Portugal Laurels planted behind. They were brought from the nursery bed on purpose. The varieties of Hydrangeas are mainly paniculata and Dr. Hogg. We began planting them out seven years ago, but the border was extended in 1908. Most of the plants were grown in pots. They remain in flower for quite a couple of months."

After we had spent some time in exploring the long shrubbery border on the way to the West Lodge, which is adorned in ordered disorder with Azaleas and Rhododendrons and decorative shrubs, with Snowdrops and Crocuses for spring groundwork, we went back to the south walk, one of the prettiest portions of the gardens.

"On one side of the walk," continued Mr. Cornish, "we grow annuals, with a few Delphiniums, Alstrœmerias, and tall-growing Campanulas at the back. The annuals are planted in clumps. Earlier in the year there are Tulips, Hyacinths, and Myosotis. On the wall behind these, Wistaria sinensis, Magnolia grandiflora, Cistus, and Clematis flourish. Later in the season, Fuchsias, Heliotropes, and Streptosolen Jamesonii as standards, grown in

Upper Gatton Park.

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pots, make an effective show. The Fuchsias are Manor Beauty, Grand Duchess, Ballet Girl, Brilliance, Virginalis, and The Clipper. On the other side, planted at intervals in the grass, are numerous specimen shrubs. The south wall looks its best in July."

The Herbaceous Border.

"It looks quite charming now," I rejoined, as we turned through a handsome gateway into the kitchen garden, which also has features of beauty, as well as of utility.

"We try to make the kitchen garden pleasing to the eye. The wide grass path, eighty yards long in the centre, has herbaceous plants and annuals on each side, with Roses on chains behind, from end to end. The varieties are Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, F. W. Flight, and Carmine Pillar. Roses and Delphiniums mixed also form the background of the borders. We start the latter with Snowdrops, and go on to Tulips, chiefly Darwin and Gesneria; and later the principal varieties include Pyrethrums, Irises, Tritomas, Campanulas, Liliums, Pæonies (a few Trees), Phlox in variety, Hemerocallis, and Asters."

"What about Sweet Peas?"

"They are in rows this year; last season we had them in clumps. I take out deep trenches, and fill in with a mixture including loam, soot, and bonemeal."

"You have some useful Pear walls in the kitchen garden."

"Yes, and we grow most of the Pears on cordons. They fruit more quickly than on the fan-trained system. Some of these cordons were only planted last winter."

The Renewal of Cordons.

"How often do you think cordons require renewal?"

"Most Pears on cordons need renewal at the end of ten years, or twelve at the most. Some of the Pears are not cordons, and several are old trees. There is one of Marie Louise one hundred years old, which still bears well."

"Do you find it equally advantageous to grow Apples on cordons?"

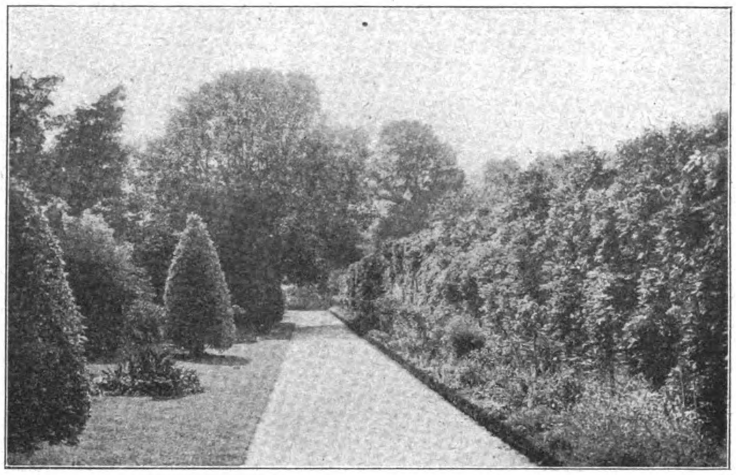
"They are not so profitable as the standards or pyramids. We planted these about four years ago. The varieties embrace The Queen, Lane's Prince Albert, Cox's Orange Pippin, and Newton Wonder. Two years ago we planted on cordons Cox's Orange Pippin and Charles Ross, which does well on the walls."

"Does your Plum wall face east?"

"Yes. The north wall is covered by Morello Cherries."

"Do you go in largely for bush fruit?"

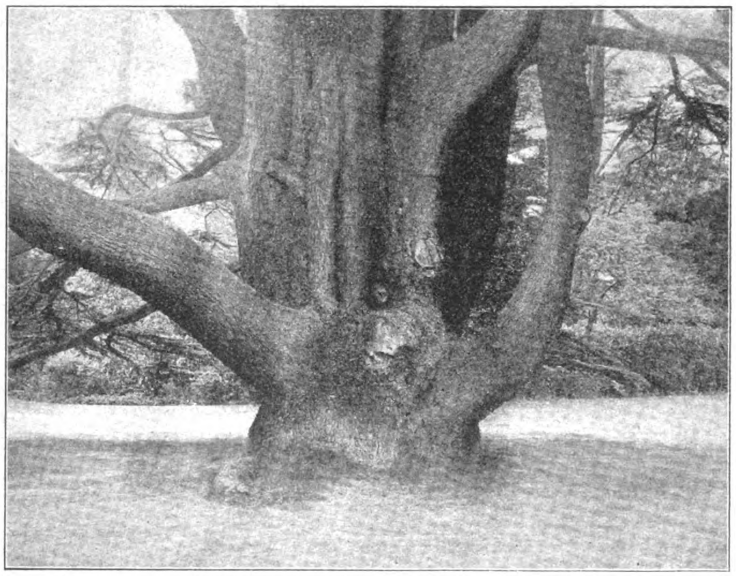
"It is pretty well represented. Facing the Plum wall is an old plantation of Gooseberries, with a few standard Apples, Cox's Orange Pippin and Allington Pippin. The Gooseberries are in variety, for cooking purposes. The dessert varieties, which were much more recently planted, are Rough Red, Wilmot's Seedling, Moonshine, Smuggler, Highwayman, and Warrington. Red Currants include a very old variety, Victoria Red; and lately we have planted Dutch Red and Houghton Castle. I am almost perpetually taking out old fruit trees, and putting new ones in their places."



A Walk in the Grounds, Upper Gatton Park.

"How do you treat your Raspberry plantation?"

"I mulch the canes every year, and the result is very satisfactory. The only variety is Superlative, which is used largely for jam. You may like to know where I get my material for mulching. I make up a hotbed for sowing Lettuce, early Carrots, Cauliflowers, Radishes, and Brussels Sprouts. After the vegetables are done with, it is wheeled away to a heap, left there for two years, and then brought to the Raspberries. It must be thoroughly rotten before it is used, and it wants turning occasionally."



A Giant Cedar at Upper Gatton Park.

"I see that you use a good deal of lime to your fruit trees."

"I put it on the walls during December in order to kill the moss. I also put lime and paraffin on the Currant trees, which effectually keeps the birds away. Great care must, however, be taken not to use too much paraffin."

"How frequently do you make new Strawberry beds?"

"Nearly every year, and generally with the plants I have forced in pots, I keep none of the plants more than three or four years. The varieties are Royal Sovereign and British Queen."

Spinach All the Year Round.

"Speaking of forcing, do you force many vegetables?"

"Not a great number, but I get a good many early crops. Last month I turned Cauliflowers out of the frames into the border, protecting them with pots over them. As a rule, I am able to cut in the middle of June. Spinach is grown under glass, and we cut it all through the year. I strongly recommend The Carter, but it must be sown at the right time—about the middle of August, as a rule. If it is sown too early, it will run to seed; it really depends on the season. Broccoli is also forced, and we cut for ten months in the year. Lettuce Tom Thumb is sown in January on a hotbed, and protected by glass."

"Do you care to say anything on the principles of vegetable cultivation?"

"I ridge the ground in the autumn, which I find is better than digging, leave it ridged till early spring, then fork it over, and level down. This applies generally, but I trench a small portion each year. Savoys and Asparagus Kale are grown in the borders, and sometimes early Coleworts. Last year I had a long row of Sutton's A1 Scarlet Runners, some of which were twelve inches long. This year I am trying Carters' Red Giant, Scarlet Emperor, and Jubilee."

"Have you anything special in Peas?"

"We grow Peas on turf, cut about a foot square, and make a small trench in the middle for the seed. The turf is put in the trenches about the middle of March, the trench being just deep enough to lay the turf on. By this process we usually begin to pick Peas the second week in June."

"What are your chief varieties?"

"The earliest is Gradus, and then follow Chelsea Gem and Langley Gem, grown as dwarfs. Dwarfs do as well as tall ones for small borders, and have the recommendation of not taking up so much room. We also grow Veitch's Main Crop, Carters' Daisy, Ne Plus

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Ultra, Century, Torpedo, Gladstone, Duchess of Albany, Carters' Exhibition, and Autocrat."

"What about Potatoes?"

"We do not go in largely for Potatoes, a great many being bought. May Queen is grown for early use, and the other varieties are Sharpe's Victor, Royal Kidney, and Sutton's Ashleaf."

Carnations Outside.

"There remain the houses, in which, I gather, Carnations are largely grown."

"About five hundred Malmaisons and two hundred and fifty Trees. The former are Lady Coventry, Princess of Wales, Duchess of Westminster, Maggie Hodson, and Lady Grimstone. The latter include Duchess Consuelo, Uriah Pike, Enchantress, Britannia, White Lawson, Rose Dorée, Winsor, Harvard, Rose Enchantress, Fair Maid, Helen Gould, and Melody. We cut blooms practically all the year round. Outside these houses Border Carnations, Old Clove, Raby Castle, and a few seedlings are grown."

"Do you go in for the large blooms of Chrysanthemums?"

"No, our varieties are chiefly singles. We grow about five hundred. As to other flowers, there are eight big lights of Violets, Marie Louise, Mrs. J. J. Astor, Neapolitan, and Princess of Wales."

A Collection of Zonal Pelargoniums.

Entering the Palm house, Mr. Cornish said, "Here we grow Gloxinias, and Abutilon Savitzii in pots. The latter we use for decorative purposes with Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, and they make a very pretty combination. Another combination is Begonia Gloire de Lorraine and Asparagus Sprengeri in baskets. In the greenhouse, Schizanthus will be followed by Zonal Pelargoniums, of which we have a large collection. The favourite variety is Sir Thomas Hanbury, which is so useful because of its long stalks. The other varieties include Mikado, Dryden, King of Denmark, Lotos, Mr. R. Cannell, Lady Rosebery, Goodwood, The Sirdar, Barbara Hope, Countess of Jersey, and Hatfield. Arum Lilies are grown for use in tall vases, and Lilies of the Valley, Lilacs, and Azalea mollis are forced in pots."

"Then there are the fruit houses?"

"In the Peach house, Nectarines rather than Peaches predominate, and you will note that the arches are not too high, so that the back wall gets plenty of sun. In the Vineries, one house is entirely devoted to Muscat of Alexandria, and another to Black Hamburgh. In the late house, some of the Vines have been only planted three years. Lady Hastings is a Grape of very good flavour, but not a good grower."

"Do you show much fruit, Mr. Cornish?"

"I have shown fruit and flowers occasionally, and have been pretty successful. In addition to local prizes, I have a few firsts for Grapes, from the Royal Horticultural Society, and a second for dessert Pears. At the county and local shows I have done well with Peaches and Nectarines, and also with Begonias."

Alfred Wilcox.

Next week's interview will be with Mrs. Atkinson, hon. secretary of the National Gladiolus Society.

Prince's Feather is a hardy annual kind of Amaranthus, closely related to Love-lies-bleeding. Its crimson plumes are very effective, and appear among brown-crimson leaves, the height of a full-grown specimen often attaining three feet. Bottom heat hastens the production of plants.

Perilla nankinensis in all varieties, will make the best crimson foliage show indoors, but must be given bottom heat if there is no warm greenhouse in which to sow it. Perilla n. laciniatus has leaves much divided, so is Fern-like, while the Crisped-leaved species has crimped foliage of deep browny-red.

The Hotbed and its Uses.

The hotbed is one of the best means of raising seedlings, and also for growing on these and other plants afterwards. It is a nearer approach to a natural condition than is generally recognised. The temperature of the surface soil on a hot summer day is between seventy and eighty degrees Fahr. In hotter climates the surface soil temperature would be considerably more.

The Advantage of a Hotbed.

In most cases, greenhouse temperatures are higher than the soil in which the plants are growing. I have known the temperature of the soil in a greenhouse to be fifteen degrees lower than that of the atmosphere at six feet above the soil when the house has been artificially heated by hot-water pipes. This is one reason why plants do not thrive so well in the spring until the sun has power enough to warm the soil in the borders and pots, and also to permit a fair amount of ventilation, so that the difference in the temperature of the soil and that of the atmosphere is not so great.

Hotbeds have the opposite effect, the soil often being much warmer than the atmosphere above it. There are also other advantages, such as the humidity and the gases, which may be more or less beneficial.

The hotbed and frame are perhaps of rather more use to the man who has not a greenhouse to raise and grow plants in; but I always used the hotbed when I had a considerable number of greenhouses, and found I could succeed much better by its help in raising seedlings.

How to Make the Hotbed.

Some people do not succeed with hotbeds because they do not make them properly. Fresh stable manure is the best, and this should be thrown up into a heap to ferment. As soon as the steam is seen coming out at the top the manure should be turned over, putting the outside into the middle, and shaking out all the lumps. If the manure is quite dry in any one part, water should be thrown on it as it is being turned over. It should never be allowed to heat itself dry and white after being put into a heap, as this is a loss of heating power.

The idea of throwing the manure together, and turning it a few times, is to drive off the offensive gases which would be injurious to the young plants in the frame, and have been known even to kill them. It is sometimes necessary to turn the manure as many as four times before it has become sufficiently sweetened to be made into a bed, but two or three turnings are generally sufficient for the purpose. One can judge of its sweetness while the last turning is being done. When all the rank smell is gone out, and the manure has a smell something like Mushrooms, it can safely be made into a bed.

The Quantity of Manure.

The quantity of manure and the height of the bed required depend upon the time of the year and the purpose for which it is used. If raising seeds, a small quantity only is required; but when it is wanted for growing Cucumbers or Melons, it is best to have a bed from two to three feet high even for this time of the year, because such a bed may retain its heat for several weeks to keep the plants growing. The bed should be made two feet wider than the frame, and two feet longer, and should be trodden during the process of making, but the treading should be in acordance with the height—the higher it is made the firmer it should be trodden. A small amount of manure should be beaten down lightly with the back of the fork instead of treading it. Early in the season the beds are often five feet high.

If Oak or Beech leaves can be procured, these should be mixed with the manure while it is being sweetened, using the same quantity of leaves as manure. A hotbed of leaves and manure is often valuable the following season for mixing with the soil in potting plants, and similar purposes; so that while it is doing service in rearing and growing plants, it is also in preparation for further services in an entirely different way.

Roseum.

Renovating Lawns.

Now that "the sweet o' the year" is upon us, the work necessary to put our lawns in order must proceed apace. Much of this is often done earlier; and where is has been held over, a lot must be crowded into the next few weeks.

A frequent cause of failure is the unevenness of the surface. It may be taken for granted that no lawn can be kept in good condition where unsightly depressions and swellings prevail. To remedy the sinkage, the turf should be raised, and the hollow filled to the required level with fine soil. Swellings may be sometimes reduced by ramming firmly, without taking up the turf; but if that is of no avail, then it will be necessary to have recourse to this operation. The tools used are a turf cutter and a turf raiser; but an ordinary spade, used with care, will answer very well. Cut to a depth of two or three inches, and about a foot wide, and roll it up until the work is finished. When filling up hollows or lowering hillocks, be sure to consolidate the soil thoroughly before replacing the turf. Should there be a slope from one side or end of the grass plot to the other, if very slight it may be remedied by sprinkling a layer of fine soil on the lower part.

Moss and Weeds.

Moss is a concomitant of poor soil and insufficient drainage. To correct the former, a top-dressing of a good compost, to which is added some well-rotted manure, should be given as early in the year as possible. If not done before, it had better be done now. Rake off the moss before doing it. A little later on an application of guano, or one of the advertised lawn fertilisers, should be used.

Basic slag is invaluable where the grass suffers from excess of moisture. It may be sprinkled over the surface, at the rate of about four ounces to the square yard, and is best applied during the winter. Another good fertiliser is nitrate of soda, which can be given as a liquid at intervals during the spring and summer. One ounce to the gallon of water is the right strength for the solution. Kainit, also, may be recommended. It is quick acting, and need not be used till spring.

Weeds and coarse grass must be grubbed up, and the holes filled with finely-sifted soil. Some of the strong-growing weeds, such as dandelion and dock, are very tenacious, and it is advisable, after cutting off the crowns, to drop lawn sand or weed-killer on the stumps. Lawn sand is best used in dry weather.

Renovating the Turf.

When these measures have been carried out, it will probably be found that there are bare patches to be seen here and there, and to cover these, grass seed may be sown thinly Half a pint will be sufficient for, say, ten square yards. Rake the ground over carefullly, and after scattering the seed, sprinkle a little fine soil over it, roll it two or three times, and, should the weather be dry, give a good watering once or twice. Birds have a partiality for the seed, and to circumvent them, stretch black thread over the surface in different directions, tying it round short, stout pegs.

When the new grass is about four inches high it may be cut; but, if possible, avoid using a lawn mower for the purpose, as the young roots are liable to be torn or dragged up. A scythe or shears is to be preferred for the first two or three cuttings, or until the grass is thoroughly established. Roll frequently, and give water during hot, dry weather.

Rhus.

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Percy Corps

A Lovely Garden in the Suburbs of Leicester: Brookfield, Stoneygate.

LEICESTER is not known as a garden city, but one of its suburbs has a lovely flower garden, which, thanks to the courtesy of its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Fielding Johnson, I had the opportunity of seeing when it was looking its best. The suburb of Stoneygate is high above the town, and Brookfield, which is situated in a commanding position

SOME OF THE BEDS AT BROOKFIELD, STONEY GATE, LEICESTER.

at the top of the hill, may be shortly described as *Rus in urbe*. This is true, not only in respect to its general appearance, but in detail; and the Alderney cows grazing in one of the fields adjoining the pleasure grounds, are quite in their element. The agricultural aspect of the places also accentuates the effect of the display of bedding, of which, indeed, glimpses are obtainable from outside. But not more than enough to whet curiosity, and suggest that the visible charms are merely indications of the invisible. The gardens, laid out with good taste and skill, have been maintained in such a manner that the progress of time has developed and enhanced their beauty. Though quite on modern lines, and entirely in keeping with the comfortable and attractive residence, there are plenty of fine old trees in evidence, and the natural slopes have been made the most of I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Fielding Johnson, who derives the keenest enjoyment from her garden, and subsequently Mr. Percy Corps, the gardener, gave me the fullest information.

A VENERABLE WISTARIA.

To start with, we inspected a splendid Wistaria sinensis, which covers the south side of the house.

"It is upwards of seventy years old," said Mr. Corps, "and does just as well in dry as in wet seasons, foliage and flowers alike being always ornamental. I only prune it, and protect it from the birds with cotton. So far it has no signs of decay. There is Clematis in variety on the east wall, but nothing else comparable to the Wistaria."

"I observe that the borders on either side of the front windows are different."

"You will find the same principle prevails throughout the pleasure grounds. One of the borders has Abutilons, pink Geraniums, and golden Calceolarias; the other Kochias, Fuchsias, and Begonias. The border on the south side has in front Heliotropes Lord Roberts, Begonias Fairy Queen, Petunias Rosy Queen, and Alyssum Winconsin, behind these being tall Alstrœmerias. We depend very largely upon regular and abundant watering. Fortunately, the supply is practically inexhaustible.

"Under the windows on the east side of the house are Scarlet Verbenas, while the entrance is a combination of Cannas, Fuchsias Cloth of Gold, pale blue Nemesias, and Lobelias."

"A very successful combination. Do you have a spring display?"

"In the immediate vicinity of the house, the spring bedding is composed chiefly of Tulips and Violas; and in the beds double Arabis, Myosotis, Aubrietias, and Polyanthus. Four years ago the Lily pond was added to the east side, with fountains in the centre. It is worked by an electric motor in the house. There are three white and three rose Lilies. The two grand Copper Beeches on the lawn fit in very nicely with the new addition.

SLUG-PROOF SUBJECTS.

"We are rather troubled by slugs," continued Mr. Corps, "and the contents of the border outside the conservatory are chosen with a view to reduce the trouble to a minimum. At the back are scarlet and white single Dahlias, and in front light yellow Antirrhinums, grown from cuttings, with Salpiglossis in many shades of colour, also mixed Nemesias, and a variety of Brachycome, with flowers similar of those of Cineraria stellata. The yellow Rose climbing on the conservatory, and blooming freely on each side of the door, is Gustave Regis, and it is an excellent foil to the blaze of scarlet supplied by means of Paul Crampel Geranium, and the masses of blue contributed by Dobbie's Sapphire Lobelias.

"Taking the beds as they come, the first is a Rose bed filled with fifteen plants of Gruss an Teplitz, with a fine specimen of Dorothy Perkins on either side. The Old Clove Carnations in the adjacent border are so hardy that they often withstand the frost, and keep in flower through October. Behind the Carnations is a border of mixed Ferns, and close by a bed of the Lyons Rose, with them standards in the centre of the bushes, and a border of Violas Lemon Queen. This is the second crop of flowers, but it is not so good as the first."

"Rhododendrons seem to thrive in the soil of Brookfield."

"They make such a show in June that on three Sundays the gardens are thrown open to the public in the afternoon and evening. The privilege is taken advantage of by big crowds of people. The natural soil is heavy clay, and there is little surface; we plant in peat. The varieties are not named, but there are many different shades of colour. You will see

THE FOUNTAIN AND LILY POND AT BROOKFIELD, STONEYGATE, LEICESTER.

numerous clumps of Rhododendrons, and several beds of Azaleas. Here is one of the latter, notable for rich colours and fragrance."

A RAISED BED OF HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

"One of the clumps of Rhododendrons forms a background on a mound, with herbaceous plants in front, the varieties being chiefly Phlox, Michaelmas Daisies, Delphiniums, Heleniums, and Campanulas, and a

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number of small-flowering Lilies. We grow Rambler Roses largely on iron trellis, and Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Tea Rambler, Allister Stella Gray, Philadelphus, Hiawatha, and Blush Rambler all do well on it.

"The two beds, resembling in shape a Strawberry leaf, were replanted a year ago, and both contain Delphiniums, Michaelmas Daisies, and Helianthemums. The feature of the next bed is the white Chrysanthemum William Robinson, with its fringed foliage and wealth of flowers. It is associated with Phlox in variety, Anchusas Dropmore variety, Salvia patens, tall-growing Pentstemons Miss F. Hope, salmon-coloured Clarkias, Campanula persicifolia, and an edging of mauve Violas.

"Between these beds is a plantation of shrubs of different kinds, and in the centre are blue and white Campanulas and Helianthemums. They last about a month in flower, and would last longer, but the bees fertilise them and limit the duration of the season. The shrubs include Austrian Pines, Berberis, three standard Chestnuts, and Hollies. All over the grounds there are Hollies; they are not named; but many are very fine specimens. Both the situation and soil suit them. Here is a little border which gets scarcely any sun, and the flowers are accordingly selected on account of their ability to do without it. There are Columbines, white and purple Stocks, pink Geraniums, Tagetes, Calliopsis, and Antirrhinums Orange King, grown from cuttings. The last will grow either in the shade or in the sun.

"Facing the sunless border, on the other side of the path, is a Rose bed eighteen yards long, with mixed varieties of Hybrid Teas, and a groundwork of Violas Mrs. Felton. This bed is raised a little, and the effect is improved by a number of shrubs in close proximity."

"Then there are the beds with the sundial in the centre?"

"They are identical—Hollyhocks being a leading feature, and the colours embracing two dark crimson, apricot, two pinks, and a lighter shade of crimson. Hollyhocks are very fine here. The other varieties in these beds, which are exclusively herbaceous, include Golden Rods, Delphiniums, Bartonias, Œnotheras, Phlox in variety, white Galegas, salmon Clarkias, Godetias, Pentstemons, and Scabious caucasica, the whole edged by mauve Violas Mrs. Paxton. The Scabious is raised from seed, sown in March, pricked out in boxes and planted out at the end of May or beginning of June."

ROSES AND VIOLAS.

"Next we come to three Rose beds, each containing one variety. In the first there is Lady Faire, a very good light pink variety; in the second, Ecarlate, two shades of scarlet; in the third, Mrs. David McKie, one of the most fragrant varieties, and a very fine Rose. The first bed is edged with Violas Mrs. Felton, the second with Black Prince, and the third with Cloth of Gold.

"And the beds under the shadow of that magnificent Cedar."

"This is a case of 'We are seven,' but all different. The combination consists of standard Fuchsias Mrs. Rundle, a groundwork of Begonias Crimson Gem, and edging of Alyssum minimum; Lobelia cardinalis, white Verbenas, and dark blue Lobelias; standard Heliotropes, and Fuchsias Cloth of Gold, with edging of Alyssum maritimum; Cannas Alphonse Bouviere and groundwork of Sibthorpia, with edging of Begonias Fairy Queen; standard Fuchsias Mrs. Marshall, groundwork of Ageratums, with Alyssum maritimum; standard and groundwork Geranium Madame Crousse, edged with blue Lobelias; variegated Eulalias as dot plants, with groundwork of Salvias Pride of Zurich, edged with Alyssum minimum.

"Between the beds of shrubs, with a few Alpines at the base, is a fine old Ash, and amongst the best of the shrubs are Golden Privet, Berberis Langleyensi, Wegelias, Philadelphus, Tritomas, Arbutus, and Magnolias. The Alpines are chiefly Aubrietias, Saxifraga, Thymus, Cistus, Dianthus, and Daphnes. Facing the Alpines is a mixed border of herbaceous varieties and annuals, containing a few Asters, Chrysanthemums J. J. Hart, Lilium candidum, blue and white Lupins, and Larkspurs. The Roses are Hiawatha, Dorothy Perkins, and Alberic Barbier. Last autumn we extended the Rose border, which now runs the whole length of the grounds. The border is planted in clumps as much as possible. It faces east, but catches the sun up to midday, and though sheltered is not bleak. In addition to the varieties already named there are in this border Pentstemons Newbery Gem, Shirley Poppies, Nigellas, Verbenas Miss Willmott, Sweet Williams, scarlet, pink, and white, single Marguerites, which give two crops of flowers, Geraniums Harriover, and Fuchsias gracilis."

Proceeding to the kitchen garden, we passed on our way several beds of mixed Roses edged with Violas, and close to the garden itself is a great show of Hiawatha and Crimson Rambler on iron trellis. Roses and Sweet Peas are grown in the kitchen garden for cutting, but, as Mr. Corps explained, the object is to supply the house with fruit and vegetables.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

"I see you have a useful plantation of Apples."

"Yes, and we get excellent crops of Keswick Codling, Wellington, Lane's Prince Albert, Bramley's Seedling, Golden Noble, and Cox's Orange Pippin. The Plums are Victoria and Monarch, with very fair crops. Currants and Gooseberries also do tolerably well. We had an extraordinary crop of Strawberries, and picked Royal Sovereigns every day for five weeks in succession. The other varieties are Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury and Givon's Late Prolific.

"With regard to vegetables, we grow a little of all kinds, and by the aid of plenty of manure we produce a considerable quantity. If the weather is open we pick Peas up to November. Asparagus is at home in the soil, and Potatoes, Celery, and Onions are exceptionally satisfactory. There are still the houses and the conservatory. In fact, the range begins with the conservatory."

"I must congratulate you upon its arrangement, which I should like you to give me in detail."

ZONAL PELARGONIUMS.

"The centre is occupied by a fine Kentia Palm, which has been lowered in consequence of growing too high for the building. There is a rockery running round the centre, with a show of Campanulas and Coleus in pots, with Ferns planted out. Then there are Verbenas and Petunias, also in pots. Hanging from the roof are baskets of Achimenes in four varieties, tuberous Begonias, scarlet double Begonias Gladys, mixed with trailing Sibthorpias. The only plants growing here are two Heliotropes and a couple of Taxodiums. But on the shelves there is a collection of Zonal Pelargoniums. Fine trusses of flower are given by Hermione, Enid, Gertrude Pearson, Rev. Dr. Harris, Raspail, Eric, E. Dicks, King of Denmark, Ian McLaren, Katherine Morton, and A. Laing. We, as far as possible, bank up the flowers in an artistic style, the Coleus in particular being very effective.

"As to the other houses, of which there are five, the Vinery contains four varieties of Grapes, Madresfield Court, Foster's Seedling, Black Hamburgh, and Muscats. We have had nine bunches of Muscats weighing over 2½ lb. In the Peach house the varieties are Diamond and Royal George Peaches; Lord Napier and Elruge Nectarines. Here are some of the large-flowering Chrysanthemums."

"How many do you grow?"

"Two hundred of the decorative and quite sixty varieties. I only get two or three of a sort, but I have any new variety which seems worth a trial. In the stove are a number of seedlings of Streptocarpus, which I saved in pots, they represent many shades of colour. Tomatoes are also grown in this house, the varieties being Earliest of All and Up-to-Date. Sutton's Abundance does well outside. In the grotto, which forms the background to the conservatory, is a collection of choice Ferns, including The Royal, Osmunda, regalis, Adiantums, Tree Ferns in variety, and Begonia Rex."

"Can you give me any idea of the number of plants you put out in all the beds in the pleasure grounds?"

"Between two and three thousand plants are used for bedding."

"How long have you been in charge at Brookfield?"

"I came here on April 8th, 1912. I started gardening with my father at gardens near Liss, in Hampshire, and subsequently I have been at South Leigh, Havant; Hylands, Chelmsford; and foreman for eight years at Beau Manor, near Loughborough." ALFRED WILCOX.

"A Garden in a West London Suburb" will be described in next week's interview.

At the annual meeting of the National Sweet Pea Society last week Mr. Hugh Dickson was chosen for president for the ensuing year. Owing to pressure of business, Mr. C. H. Curtis was obliged to resign the honorary secretaryship, and Mr. H. D. Tigwell was finally elected to the post, which now carries with it a salary of £50 per annum. Mr. Edward Sherwood still remains treasurer, and Mr. R. Gluyas auditor; while Mr. F. W. Harvey was elected chairman of committee.

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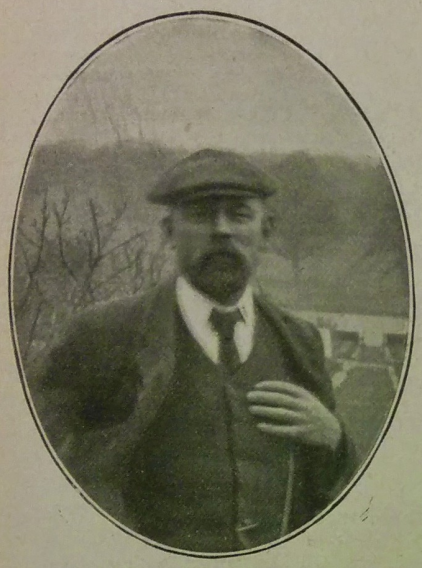
May 22nd.—I see that growers of Clematises are having some trouble in consequence of the stems splitting, and the cause is attributed to excessive quantities of water. But is that sufficient? It is not easy to think that the stems of the Clematis are liable to split under natural conditions. That they should persistently absorb water until they split is about as likely as that wireworms would continue to eat oilcake until they burst. It is, however, quite a different matter if they are compelled to absorb



MR. HERBERT COSTER.

water in excessive quantities, and, as the majority of Clematises are grafted, this might easily be one of the results when the stock was more vigorous than the scion. At any rate, splitting is not uncommon among grafted fruit trees. I have never noticed it among those on their own roots. There is in my garden a grafted Apple tree, which splits every year, but the amount of splitting has been considerably reduced by root-pruning, thus proving that the cause is the excessive root-action of the stock.

A Handsome Shrubbery Plant.

May 23rd.—The Euonymus, when the capsules split and display the coral-red fruit in autumn, is one of the handsomest plants in the shrubbery. Now that it is in flower, it is not very attractive, for the flowers are small in size and greenish-white in colour, and they have an unpleasant smell, a sure sign that flies, and not bees or butterflies or moths, assist in their fertilisation. The name is supposed to have originated with some old humorist who called it Euonymus—that is, of good repute—because every part of the plant, when bruised, gives off a fetid odour. The Euonymus is common in most European countries, and, though it does not appear to be a native of Great Britain, it must have been brought here at an early date—possibly by the Romans, who used it for various purposes, especially for spindles. Hence its popular name, Spindle-tree. Until comparatively modern times the wood was also largely employed in making skewers, but whether it is still utilised in this way I do not know. Probably, the various species are now grown solely for ornament. Dumont, in the courtly language of long ago, says of them, "They spread, by their numerous pendent capsules of a bright red colour or pure white, and their white and orange-coloured seeds, some rays of brilliance over the departing season, and recall the remembrance of the fine days of summer." What more could any plant do than this?

May 24th.—Towards the end of summer a fine Magnolia grandiflora is a magnificent sight on the south wall of a house, when the large deep green leaves are starred with white, lemon-scented blossoms. There are, however, several other Magnolias, scarcely less beautiful, which flower in spring before the leaves. M. conspicua is the best known among them, but M. Campbelli (though not quite hardy) and M. stellata are also worth growing. Another is M. acuminata, a native of North America, and probably the hardiest of all. Magnolias, after they have once been planted, should not be disturbed. If the conditions suit them, and they are left alone, they grow fairly rapidly.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of the Marquis of Bristol.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. HERBERT COSTER, AT ICKWORTH PARK, BURY ST. EDMUND'S.

"YOU could not have come to Ickworth on a better day than this to see it in its natural beauty," said Mr. Coster, the head gardener to Lord Bristol, on my arrival from Bury St. Edmund's early on the morning of April 20th, and I speedily understood the meaning of his greeting. Ickworth is, of course, a famous and historic seat, with many interesting features and associations. But in the lovely sunshine nothing more beautiful greeted my eyes than the magnificent displays of spring flowers naturalised in all parts of the demesne.

Millions of Flowers.

"They are now at their very best," said Mr. Coster, as we strolled along the sequestered walks and glades which render the old pleasure grounds so attractive. Wherever we went there were Daffodils, Primroses, Scillas, and Forget-me-nots, the first, in their golden glory, greatly predominating, but not obscuring the delicate charm of the others.

"There must be millions of Daffodils," I said, as we paused to look down one of the winding grassy paths which enhance the beauty of the place.

"I suppose there are," rejoined Mr. Coster. "Of course, the work of naturalisation has been done gradually, but now the number of flowers is practically countless. Our earliest guest, by the way, is the Aconite, which is followed by the double Daffodil of one variety, Van Zion, and then there come the naturalised singles."

"Which are the best varieties for naturalising?"

"I think that perhaps the three best are Barrii conspicuus, Autocrat, and Empress, but, with a little care, all of them will do. I mean that the bulbs must not be thrown in anywhere. It is necessary to stir the soil, and give them a chance to root."

The Oak Walk.

Oaks are in great force at Ickworth, and the Oak Walk, which brought us close to the imposing mansion, was enriched by an amazing wealth of bloom. Here, on the north side of the mansion, are some splendid Cedars, and under their imposing shadow is a pretty little flower garden, chiefly consisting of herbaceous plants. In one corner are Roses as standards, with dwarfs at the foot; and on the wall are Fig trees, Forsythia, Ceanothus, and Jasminum. Then, there is the Oak garden, with a Quercus of vast size and age in the centre, and a number of surrounding beds, with Hyacinths, Dog's-tooth Violets, and Hepaticas. The fine conservatory is a continuation of the corridor, and the arrangements are remarkable for absence of stiffness. The sides were banked with Amaryllis, Azalea, Cinerarias, Coronillas, and other decorative flowers.

"How do you fill the beds on the lawn in summer?" I inquired, when I had noticed the double Peaches in bloom.

"Chiefly with Geraniums, Heliotropes, Phlox, and Zinnias. But the bedding is not strictly formal. In fact, there are only two small pieces of formal bedding."

"What is the length of the terrace, and therefore of the Box hedge which runs all the way?"

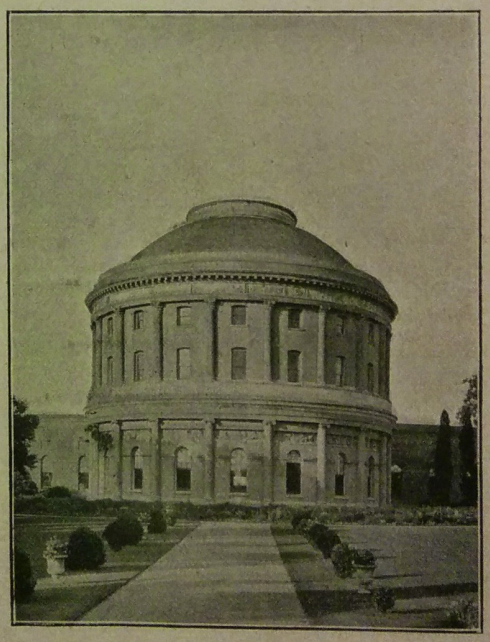
"A quarter of a mile. The Box is four feet through at the bottom, and three feet high. The few Bays, and the vases (which later on will be filled with Geraniums and Lobelias), accord, I think, with the dignity of the building."

"If you lack formality, you seem to abound in surprises?" I said, as we suddenly came to a Magnolia garden.

"Yes, we rather go in for variety, as you will see better presently. We are growing the Fellenberg Rose in another corner; but, when you have had a glance at the Cypress Walk, with its Roman Cypresses, we must make our way along the Albana Walk to the kitchen garden."

A Beautiful Kitchen Garden.

The Albana Walk, I found, is distinguished by lovely views of country more like Devonshire than Suffolk, and here, in addition to the never-ending colonies of naturalised Daffodils, were many choice flowering shrubs, with a number of noble specimens of trees, Oaks always being to the fore. while Box grows up quite twenty feet high. Passing the church, we soon arrived at



THE DOME AT ICKWORTH.

the kitchen garden, which, however, is at least as remarkable for its beauty and its size as for its utility and order.

"Shall we take the fruit under glass?" asked Mr. Coster.

"Are you very keen on fruit?" I asked, as we entered a house devoted to Peaches and Figs.

"Yes, I am very fond of growing fruit, both under glass and out of doors. The Fig trees are Brown Turkey, and are about thirty-five years of age. We always get two crops, and the flavour is very fine. The Peaches were replanted about 1899; the varieties are Violette Hative, Hale's Early, and Grosse Mignonne. The only Nectarines are Lord Napier and Early Rivers."

"I see you have a good spring batch of winter-flowering Carnations."

"We grow more for the winter than for the spring, but I am very fond of all the new American varieties; some of the best are Prosperity, Enchantress, Mrs. Lawson, and Floriana. With regard to treatment, I am not a great believer in excessive heat. I believe, rather, in plenty of fresh air."

"The Vines in your late house are looking remarkably well."

"They were planted in 1898, and the varieties are Alicante, Appley Towers, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Lady Hutt. The variety of French Beans in this Vinery is Ne Plus Ultra, which I have grown for some time. In fact, when I know I have a good thing, I stick to it, and before I do away with a tried variety in favour of some novelty, I test the latter well. I pursue the same policy with regard to Strawberries, and force four hundred of one variety only—Royal Sovereign. We began to pick fruit on April 1st.

"You must have a large number of Violets?"

"About thirty-two lights. The varieties are Lady Hume Campbell, Marie Louise, Princess of Wales, J. J. Astor, and Miss Rothschild. I like the last best of the singles. Here is a batch of Zonal Pelargoniums, which we appreciate in winter. The varieties are chosen for the colour, which we like to be bright, but not glaring. The next house is a newly-planted Vinery."

An Ideal Place for Ripening Freesias.

"When was it planted?"

"Last year, and only with Muscats. The Alicantes and Lady Downe's in the next Vinery were planted in 1902, and another Vinery is being replanted bit by bit. I cannot afford to lose the supply. This house contains Black Hamburgh. You will see, as we proceed, that all available space in the houses is turned to account, for the simple reason that winter flowers, winter fruits, and winter vegetables are required in large quantities. As to winter flowers, I may mention that the Freesias are grown from bulbs that I found here sixteen years ago. There were a few pots behind a wall, and I have kept increasing them, and now we grow two hundred and fifty in 6-in pots. I started cutting on New Year's Day, and was never without blooms until the second week in April, cutting constantly all the time. I consider the top shelf of a Vinery an ideal place for ripening them. The variety is refracta alba. My impression is that the original bulbs date back twenty-five years."

A Constant Supply of Carnations.

"You devote a house to Border Carnations?"

"Yes, we grow them in two batches, one to flower in May, and the second to keep up the succession until the outside plants flower. The varieties are chiefly Martin Smith's, Hildegarde (white), Mrs. Tremayne (yellow), Eugene Sorrel (crimson), Daughter of Heth (fancy), Lady Hermione (pink self), Lady Bristol (yellow-ground), Cecilia (yellow), and Goldilocks (golden). A few Malmaisons are also grown in this house, including Mrs. Trelawney, Baldwin, Sir C. Freemantle, and Lady Grimston. After we have finished with the Border Carnations outside, the Trees keep us going until the Borders come on again. We have never been without Carnations all the year round for ten years."

THE GRASS WALK IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT ICKWORTH.

Experiments With Schizanthus.

"What do you do with your herbaceous Calceolarias?"

"We use them for the conservatory. There is a rage for cut flowers, so they are now somewhat out of date. I am growing a number of Schizanthus Wisetoniensis for a single plant for a vase. There are nearly one hundred; they begin to flower in April, and keep on for eight weeks. I am going to have various trials to see if they can be made to flower in February and March. These plants were grown from seed which originally came in an ordinary sealed packet. Pelargoniums are a little old-fashioned, but very useful, and I fill quite half a house with them. Some of the vest varieties are Decorator, Duchess of Fife, Rosy Morn, Princess May, Duchess of Edinburgh, H. M. Stanley, Princess Alexandra, and Edward Perkins, the last a very good Pelargonium, crimson with pink."

"Is there anything special in the stove?"

"Yes, a batch of Cyclamen. We go in very largely for these, which make an attractive show in the winter. They are Sutton's strain, the varieties being chiefly Vulcan, Giant White, White Butterfly, Giant Pink, and Salmon Queen. Then, to finish with the houses, we grow two beds of Mushrooms, and are very rarely without them."

A Brilliant Border.

"How large is your kitchen garden?"

"Between five and six acres. You will notice that, though called a kitchen garden, it is gay with flowers, as I think a kitchen garden ought to be."

"I see you have a brilliant show of Aubrietias in one corner."

"They are not grown so much as they ought to be, considering their merits. They come into flower early in April, and brighten a good many corners. The varieties are Dr. Mules, Fire King, Pritchard's A1, Lemon Queen, and Moerheimi. Under the south wall I am growing Gentians. In some places they grow like a weed, but here I had a little difficulty, because the soil is a heavy loam. However, I mixed some light soil with it, and the plants put in eight years ago are now doing well."

"You have a brilliant border of yellow and red under the east wall."

"You mean the Daffodils and Anemone fulgens. By the way, Anemones dearly love a piece of fresh ground, and I move them every two or three years. The May-flowering Tulips facing the border are rather a point with us."

"They are very beautiful. Are they chiefly Cottage varieties?"

"Yes; among Darwins we have Loveliness, Clara Butt, Europe, Galatea, Phœcia, and Bartigon."

The Rose Walk.

"You seem to have a number of delightful walks in your kitchen garden, with grass in the centre, and flowers and fruits at the sides."

"It took me ten years to get enough Anemones of various colours for the walk we are now looking at. It is called the Rose Walk, but the aim in this, as in other cases, is a mass of colour in spring and summer. Hybrid Tea and Moss Roses are planted the whole length of the walk, with fruit trees behind them, the borders consisting of Daffodils and Anemones in three colours, crimson, mauve, and pink. The Rose Walk is one hundred and thirty yards long."

A Delightful Picture.

The next surprise that awaited me was an enclosed garden with a tea house, in front of which is a border containing Hyacinths in variety, while, later, Roses such as Gloire de Dijon and La France will beautify it. In the morning sunlight the scarlet Anemones and the blue Aubrietias, with the lake below, and the deer in the park beyond, formed a delightful picture.

"We are always trying," continued Mr. Coster, "to make the kitchen garden beautiful. Thus, the Sweet Peas, forming a border thirty-three yards long, autumn sown, in clumps of different varieties, were chosen for the colours to harmonise. Below the Sweet Peas is a border of mixed Tulips and Spanish Iris."

The Tulip Walk.

"Then you have a Tulip Walk?"

"Yes, we call it that, but the Apples, espalier-trained, are also a feature. The Tulips and Apples flower together, and the effect produced is very good. I may say that all the walks have been relaid, and made to run at a natural gradient. We have also made recent additions, such as the Water Garden we are now approaching."

"With Daffodils naturalised on the banks of the brook feeding the lake."

The Island.

"We are also going to have Water Lilies. The little island beyond, planted with trees in the centre, and Aubrietias, Arabis, and Primroses round, is a recent addition. Two years ago I

converted a Nettle bed close to the private entrance in the kitchen garden into an ornamental bed with coloured Thorns, Laburnums, Lilacs, and Spiræa, Daffodils being also freely used. The fence of some length opposite I have planted with Lady Gay Roses, and on the banks by the rustic bridge Primroses are planted."

The Daffodil Walk.

"Now," I said, as we returned to the kitchen garden proper, "what are the varieties chiefly used in the Daffodil Walk?"

"We call it the Daffodil Walk so long as the Daffodils are in flower, but afterwards it will have another name. Some of the best of the Daffodils are Glory of Leyden, Lulworth, Gloria Mundi, Blackwell, Minnie Hume, Palmerston, Stella superba, Duchess of Westminster, Sir Watkin (big batches), Magdaline de Graaff, Victoria (a specially good trumpet), Emperor, Horsfieldii, Mrs. Langtry, Gwyther, King of Netherlands, Madame de Graaff, Empress, Barrii conspicuus, and Autocrat. They are all planted in batches of one variety, and I think the grass walk between the borders with the wind from the lake blowing among the flowers render them additionally attractive."

"You are making even the Gooseberry quarters look beautiful."

Hyacinths Amongst Raspberries.

"They certainly, I think, look all the better for the Parrot Tulips and Wood Anemones planted between them. Three years ago I planted Hyacinths (in various colours), and Narcissus poeticus ornatus between the Raspberries. I have already commenced Tulips among the Currants. The Tulips are the variety with the swan neck, Syvestris, having double flowers on a stem. I put in a dozen bulbs, and propose to try them for naturalisation."

"You have more Tulips in other beds?"

"Yes, they are species, and they are very attractive, and begin to bloom in March, the varieties being Kauffmanniana, Eichleri, Præstans, Wilsoniana, and Daisy Stemon. Close to these Tulips is a variety of Anemone named Blanda, which flowers remarkably early."

The System With Apples.

"When did you begin to grow your fruit on the present system?"

"In 1898. I started with Apples, planting the trees six feet away from the walk, forming a border all round the garden, and across walks. As to the varieties, I got the best collection I could buy, including, of kitchen varieties, Peasgood's Nonsuch, and Newton Wonder. The dessert varieties include Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, Margil, Beauty of Bath, Lady Sudeley, and a very old Ribston. Every Apple tree is labelled and dated, and, in fact, so is all the fruit."

A Pear Wall.

"What about Pears?"

"I have just planted on the west wall a number of varieties, training them at an angle of sixty degrees, as single cordons. The varieties are Winter Nelis, Bergamotte Esperen, Le Lectier, Thompson's, Combat Lessier, Alexander III., Fondant d'Automne, Marie Louise, Beurré Diel, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Rance, Beurré Bosc, Emile d'Heyst, Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Easter, Winter Orange, Princess, Louis Pasteur, and Krull. Before planting, I mixed all the soil, it being necessarily made lighter than it naturally is. I consider that the Pear wall will now be good for a long time."

"There is one other feature of beauty which ought to be mentioned. I mean your Roses on poles."

"When they are in flower they show up well. They are chiefly Wichuriana varieties, Gloire de Dijon, Hiawatha, Crimson Rambler, and Dorothy Perkins."

As we proceeded towards the handsome stables for the trap, Mr. Coster said, "You see, we decorate our stables with flowers, growing Roses Gloire de Dijon on the walls, and Hyacinths in the centre of the yard. In the summer there will be Ivy-leaf Geraniums in boxes growing up the walls, Mr. Hithcath, the coachman, being a keen gardener and lover of flowers."

"You have told me a great deal about the manner in which you beautify your gardens, but nothing about yourself."

"There is nothing to say on that point, except that I have been here sixteen years, and am a native of Hampshire. But that is a short period compared with the time put in by a veteran on my staff, who has been at Ickworth Gardens sixty-three years, and has served under three Marquises and four gardeners only."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 251.—RARE BULBS AND THEIR CULTURE.

DEAR KATE,—I think there is a special fascination about bulbs. You buy a little dry, brown thing, and put it into the earth, hiding it for a time; but sooner or later a green sheathe appears, soon rapidly opening to show you the lovely flower which all the time was there in embryo, only waiting until Nature should perfect its beauty, and the sunshine should call to it.

Unfortunately, few of us recollect that Nature is never idle, and that, as soon as the blossom is over (unless seed has to be ripened), she sets to work to form flower-buds for the next season, and therefore the plant must have care and consideration at that time, uninteresting as it may look on the outside; for, without care (i.e., enough water to prevent the leaves from drooping, with plenty of sunshine to ripen them away gradually, and fresh air), they cannot do any more for us, and fail to bloom again.

SEEDLING HIPPEASTRUMS.

Bulbs After Flowering.

The foliage of a plant stands in much the same relation to it as our lungs do to us; without its leaves the plant cannot possibly inhale the life-giving oxygen and nitrogen, etc., which it must have to live and be healthy, so that it is the height of folly in us to deprive a bulb of its leaves either by withholding water suddenly, or by cutting them off. But it needs but little water after flowering, as it is not making any fresh greenery, and we must not, therefore, soak it when already damp, or it may rot, for it specially needs warmth just then. Many an ignorant gardener will neglect a bulb which has flowered in a pot, or cut off the foliage of those which grow in the border or the grass—thinking that the leaves are no good when the flower is past; but this is a sad mistake, which accounts for many a disappointment during the following season, when leaves indeed, weakly and poor, may appear, but there will be no flowers. Another thing to be avoided (if you want flowers) is to allow seed-vessels to remain on a bulb. Every green herb is under its Creator's orders to "replenish the earth," and when a plant has obeyed the mandate, and feels that its duty is done, it will not struggle to live, besides which seed-bearing exhausts it far more than producing flowers; moreover, no embryo flowers can be formed in the centre of the bulb whilst seed is ripening.

So the right thing to do is to cut down the flowering stem (as far as it has no foliage) directly the flowers fade; but to continue to supply the roots with sufficient water to allow the leaves to ripen away gradually, with abundance of sunshine and fresh air. Treated in this way, even bulbs which have been forced into early bloom will recover their tone in a year or two; Hyacinths will form flowers yearly, which may be small indeed the first year after forcing, but will increase in size each season until the third year the bulbs will have recovered, and the trusses of bloom in the sunny open border will be as fine as ever. But to-day I am going to tell you of a few uncommon bulbs, for I like to add some new varieties to my collection every year, as they give so much interest to the garden, and you may wish to do the same.

Some Beautiful Species.

Just now, the tall, elegant-flowering stem (crowned with an umbel of pink Lilies) of Amaryllis (syn. Crinum) longifolia is in full beauty, and the pure white flowers of Crinum capense album are also open. They are in large pots and tubs in the cool porch, but they have been started in warmth since February, for they do not blossom so early as May, unless they are repotted (in good loam) early and placed in a temperature from fifty-five to eighty degrees, when they suddenly spring into life, and need a lot of tepid water. They spent the winter under an open shed (for they are nearly hardy, and we are glad to have their room and not their company when dormant), protected with mats raised over them on stout sticks; and, after flowering, they stand in the full sunshine out of doors, until their foliage has gradually disappeared. But large bulbs of these plants will throw up several flowering stems during the season, if started in February; and without any fire warmth at all they will blossom in the autumn in a verandah or a greenhouse; so that most of us might grow Crinums if we wanted to.

The grand flowers of Amaryllis Hippeastrum, too, can be grown in the same way, and wintered in any dry, frost-proof place; their magnificent blossoms, from eight to nine inches across, are unique in size and colour (deepest ruby-red to carmine and white), and it really is astonishing that they are so seldom seen. I admire all the Amaryllis, they are so elegant and so richly coloured, besides which most of them are easy to grow. I have a quantity of Amaryllis Belladonna bulbs flourishing on the warm south border under the conservatory wall; they are planted close to it, and enjoy the baking they get from the sunshine in summer.

Near them the Nerines grow, and both are left undisturbed for years, when they become very fine and strong. Each year, at this time, they

It is added that if the soil is deeply dug and well manured, Hollies, far from being slow growers, make surprisingly rapid progress. Evelyn states that with young seedlings, four inches high, collected in the woods, he made hedges "full four feet high in four years." There is certainly no finer hedge than one formed of Holly when well grown. It is evergreen, very ornamental, quite impenetrable, and can be kept in order at a minimum of trouble.

Early Bulb Planting.

September 20th.—I accidentally turned up some Daffodils about the middle of August, and found that they already had a considerable number of roots. Yet many people who intend to buy bulbs for planting are still waiting. Such delay cannot but be prejudicial. If there is one point more important than another in the cultivation of bulbs, it is that the roots should be allowed to get a good start. The longer the interval between the commencement of root growth and the commencement of top growth, the better. If planting is delayed until late in the season, roots and leaves will begin to grow simultaneously, or nearly so, and as the latter draw their nutriment from the bulbs, which are not fed in their turn by the roots, the bulbs must dwindle away. It will probably be found that this has something to do with the not uncommon failure of certain bulbs in sandy soils. In such soils, unless they are planted deeper than usual, they are much more under the influence of light and air than they would be in heavy soil, and this influence stimulates top growth. In such cases it might be advisable to try deeper planting.

A Remedy for Gumming.

September 27th.—It was stated some time ago, in an article in "Le Jardin," that Sorrel leaves are used for curing gumming in Plums and other stone-fruit trees. The practice may be common in France, but I have never heard of it in this country. If it is beneficial there, it should be beneficial here. The gum is first scraped away, and then the leaves are applied to the wound. The efficacy of the treatment depends on the fact that oxalic acid which they contain destroys the bacteria which are the cause of the disease. A French botanist proposes to carry this method still further. He says that if a weak solution of creosote is injected under the bark of a tree, it is rendered immune against the attacks of insects. He dosed a Pear with pyrophosphate of iron and soda, and found that, while the branches on the opposite side were attacked by an injurious fungus, those on the same side as the hole through which the dose was administered were perfectly healthy. He thinks that food might be given in the same way. H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 270.—Mr. STEPHEN COULING, at THE GARDENS, CÆSAR'S CAMP, SANDY.

As its name denotes, Cæsar's Camp is situated on the site of an old Roman camp. From Sandy station to the residence of Mr. C. Guy Pym there is a steep ascent, the house being on the summit, more than seven hundred feet above sea level. The slopes are very picturesque, and the Pines surrounding the pleasure grounds—which run in three terraces, the top being devoted to flower beds, the second to a croquet lawn, and the third to tennis courts—greatly add to the charms of a novel and attractive position. As I strolled up the pretty slopes with Mr. Couling, the head gardener, on the occasion of my visit early in August, I was very much impressed with the effective manner in which the outskirts leading to the woods are embellished.

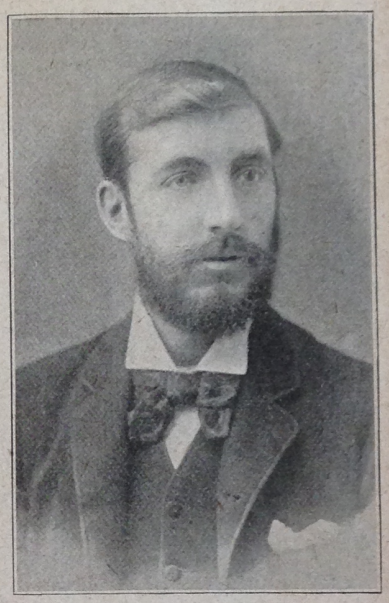
Charming Features.

Thus, raised on two tiers of stone, at one point was a group of Fuchsias, Abutilons, Petunias, Gnaphaliums, and Tagetes, with tall scarlet Geraniums, and at intervals all along the winding walk, intermixed with flowering shrubs, were various plants in flower. Another feature was a number of beautifully-arranged baskets at the end of the croquet lawn, with a fine display of salmon and pink Geraniums, about five to six feet high, and three to six feet through.

"Everything," said Mr. Couling, as we proceeded, "takes a great deal of feeding, owing to the poverty of the soil. We have to use a quantity of artificial as well as of ordinary manure."

"Are there any shrubs that do particularly well with you?"

"The foliage of the Sycamores (variegated, white and purple), and of pseudo Platanus, Maple Schrœderæ, and Prunus Pissardi, all tall standards, is much admired. In the next row are half-standards of Maple, negundo variegatum, argenteum, aureum, marginatum, and californicum aureum. On the lawns and their surroundings are fine specimens of Wellingtonia, Cedrus deodara and C. atlantica, and Limes. The principal bedding is in front of the house, the only other beds on the lawns being at the corner. Montbretias are largely used for these."



Mr. Stephen Couling.

Cæsar's Camp, Sandy.

The Flower Beds.

"You have a fine show of colour in front of the house. What is the scheme?"

"The design is a combination of circles and incurved squares, all the beds being cut on the grass. As to colour, I have aimed at a combination of scarlet, yellow, purple, and white, for summer bedding. Would you like to know how the different beds are made up?"

"Very much, indeed. Shall we take the centre bed first?"

"The substance consists of Geraniums Flower of Spring (white foliage), double Geraniums, Raspail (scarlet), and double white, with golden Harry Hieover (bronze, with scarlet flower), and Iresine (purple foliage), and the rest is made up of Lobelia speciosa, Geraniums Harry Fish (yellow and scarlet), small white Geraniums with white foliage, Lobelia compacta, Geraniums Swanley Gem, and Ageratums. The four incurved squares are composed of Geraniums golden Harry Hieover, Swanley Gem, Ageratums, and Henry Jacoby Geraniums. The four

large circular beds outside contain yellow dwarf Zinnias, double white Geraniums, and Eulalia japonica variegata, with small white Geraniums, Iresine, a row of Kochias round the centre, Geraniums Raspail (double scarlet), dotted with Ivy-leaf Geraniums Charles Turner."

"And the four small circular beds?"

"They comprise white Lobelias, yellow dwarf Zinnias, double white Geraniums, and Castor-oil Bronze King. Celosias, yellow and scarlet, are also employed in the scheme. There are nineteen beds, the centre bed being twenty feet across, and sixty feet round."

The Spring Bedding.

"I should like to know how you plant these beds in spring."

"In the centre I use Wallflowers (Cloth of Gold and Blood-red), blue Myosotis and double white Arabis, filling in with dark Polyanthus. For the large circular beds, Polyanthus of dark colour, and double white Arabis, filled in with dark Wallflowers, are used. The four incurved squares are entirely composed of Primroses mixed in colour, and the four small circular beds of blue Myosotis, filled in with new ivory-white Wallflowers. In order to make the colours more distinct, red, white, and yellow Tulips, and white Narcissus are introduced. I find that the Pottebakker Tulips are the best."

A Handsome Rosery.

"How long has your Rosery, with its fine pergola, been established?"

"The Roses were planted early in December, 1905, the design being one registered by Messrs. Boulton and Paul, of Norwich. This year I have growths already reaching over twelve feet. As you may notice, there is a Wistaria growing up the centre pole, and when it reaches the top I intend to trail it down any chain which the Roses have not covered."

"Which varieties do you find answer best?"

"Aglaia, Aimée Vibert, Allister Stella Gray, Ards Rover, Blush Rambler, Bouquet d'Or, Carmine Pillar, Céline Forestier, Cheshunt Hybrid, Claire Jacquier (this does particularly well), Captain Christy, Devoniensis, Niphetos, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Papa Gontier, Perle des Jardins, La France, White Pet, Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Euphrosyne, Felicité Perpetué, Fortune's Yellow, Gloire de Dijon, Lady Waterlow, Leuchstern, Longworth Rambler, Abel Carriére, Psyche, Madame Bérard, Marie Lavally, Reine Olga de Wurtemburg, Reine Marie Henriette, Reve d'Or, Tea Rambler (exceptionally good), The Garland, and William Allen Richardson."

"I suppose you grow different varieties in the perennial borders round the outside of the ground?"

"Yes, all Hybrid Perpetuals, of which the principal are Ulrich Brunner, Suzanne M. Rodocanachi, Madame Victor Verdier, Prince Arthur, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Mrs. John Laing, Merveille de Lyon, Marie Baumann, Alfred Colomb, A. K. Williams, Baroness Rothschild, Ben Cant, Captain Hayward, Charles Lefebvre, Crown Prince, Duke of Wellington, Duke of Edinburgh, Dupuy Jamain, Fisher Holmes, Frau Karl Druschki, General Jacqueminot, and Margaret Dickson. I grow about two hundred plants, and try to arrange the varieties in different positions in order to prolong the period of flowering. The Teas and Hybrid Teas are grown in pots, about fifty, as time will not allow me to look after them on this hot soil."

Annuals and Herbaceous Plants.

"You have an admirable arrangement of annuals round the Rosery, growing, I observe, in rows of different varieties."

The Pergola Leading to the Kitchen Garden at Cæsar's Camp.

"The front row consists of Gnaphaliums and Lanata tomentosa; the second of striped Petunias; the third of tall Ageratums, and the tall yellow Tagetes; the fourth of tall Zinnias, Stocks and Asters alternating; the fifth of Salpiglossis, African Marigolds and Coreopsis; the sixth of Nicotiana, including the new variety, and Cosmeas mixed; the back row consisting of various shades of Helianthus."

"We might mention here, I think, some of the herbaceous plants grown in the borders."

"One of the best of these is the Anchusa, the tall variety, a lovely blue, which was brought out by Messrs. Sutton. Alyssums are used as a border on a small bed. We have about twelve varieties of Carnations, and choice seedlings; Chrysanthemum maximum, and all the early-flowering varieties; Dianthus, which last about four years from one sowing; Doronicums in three varieties; Gaillardias, the perennial hybrids grown from seed; the white and blue Galegas; white and pink Mallows; the Evening Primrose (Œnothera); a choice selection of Pæonies; Salvia Patens, which lasts for several years in a warm spot; and about twenty-five varieties of Asters. We also grow," continued Mr. Couling, "Anemones, Aquilegias, Arnebias, Bocconias, Campanulas in variety, Chelones, Christmas Roses, Coreopsis grandiflora, Dielytra spectabilis, Echinops, Erigeron, Eryngium (Sea Holly), Farfugium, scarlet Geums, Gypsophilas, Hedysarums, Heleniums in variety, Helianthemums in variety, Hemerocallis, Hypericum, Candytuft, Inulas, Irises in quantity, Kniphofias, Mertensias, Phloxes in variety, Physalis, Potentillas, Rudbeckias, Pyrethrums, Saxifrages in variety, Scabiosa (white and blue), Silenes, Solidago, Spiræas, Statice, and Tradescantias. A number of Foxgloves and Hollyhocks are used at the back of the borders, and Pampas Grasses form a finish to some of the borders. I plant Delphiniums on the shady side of the garden, but they dry up rather quickly on this soil, and Pentstemons soon die out. Bulbs are largely used for the borders, and in bare places various annuals are planted, so that I can cut flowers nearly all the year round."

Fruit in Different Forms.

The kitchen garden is most conveniently situated, and is approached from the lawns through an arch of Roses and a pergola of Apples and Pears. The pergola, in fact, goes round the garden, and includes two Apricot trees, which do well, whereas Apricots will not grow at all on the walls."

"You grow Apples and Pears both as pyramids and cordons," I said.

"Yes, the cordons were only put in a few years ago, and, though not more than fifteen inches from the ground, fruited the first season, and fruit well every season, as many as forty to sixty dessert Pears on a tree. The varieties include Louise Bonne of Jersey, Beurré d'Amanlis, Catillac, Marie Louise, Glou Morceau, Souvenir du Congres (which ought to be grown in every garden), Doyenné d'Ete, Beurré Hardy, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Rance, Winter Nelis, and Knight's Monarch. I may say that our plan is to grow fruit in various forms, as I find that, if I fail in one, I can succeed in another."

"How long ago was the garden made?"

"Only ten years since; at least, all the planting has been done in that period. One of our difficulties is that the trees on the east and south side prevent the sun from entering the garden early in the morning, and we have to use a quantity of bees for fertilising the flowers."

"What Apples do you grow as pyramids?"

"Peasgood's Nonsuch, King of Pippins, Worcester Pearmain, Wellington, and Lady Sudeley. As cordons we grow Scarlet Nonpareil, Court Pendu Plat, and Lady Sudeley, which is a special favourite. I keep the dwarf cordons well nipped back, and prune them in June and August. In addition to the other fruit, Plums are grown on the arches, the varieties being Coe's Golden Drop, Reine Claude Violet, Golden Gage, and Victoria. Both Victoria and Smith's Early Prolific are grown as pyramids."

Wall Fruit and Vineries.

"What about wall fruit?"

"Peaches, Rivers' Early, Barrington, Alexandra, Grosse Mignonne, Royal George, and Noblesse, and Nectarines of one or two varieties. The two Fig trees were planted five years ago, and we get very good crops of Brown Turkey."

"Do you make a point of growing all the bush fruit in the most shady part of the garden?"

"Yes, and to save them from the depredations of the Nightingale, Raspberries, Currants and Gooseberries are all netted under a large cage."

"Your Vineries are surely more than ten years old."

"Considerably; in fact, quite fifty years old. I run rods up every other year, with the result that I get the fruit to stay. The old rods are gradually being cut out, but this, of course,

takes time. The varieties grown are Black Hamburgh, Buckland's Sweetwater, Muscat of Alexandria, and Alicante. This being the only glasshouse, all the bedding plants have to be brought on here, including five thousand Geraniums."

"You use a portion of the kitchen garden for growing flowers?"

"As much as I can spare. For instance, I grow a quantity of Polyanthus of different colours, double Arabis, and Myosotis, for spring bedding, in a shady corner where nothing else will grow. We manage to have Violets throughout the year, except June, July, and August, the varieties being Princess of Wales, Princess Louise, and Czar."

"I suppose the soil does not suit all kinds of vegetables?"

"No, for example, we grow a few Ashleaf Kidneys, but the soil does not suit them. On the other hand, we get May Queen, at the end of May, in good form; and other Potatoes that answer fairly well are Epicure, Scott's Triumph, and Duchess of Cornwall."

"Which of the early varieties of Peas do you prefer?"

"Sutton's Early Giant; we can crop it earlier than even American Wonder. Sutton's Continuity is also a very good Pea, and we grow, in addition, Alderman, Duke of Albany, and Latest of All. Directly the early Peas are over, I plant out Wallflowers for spring bedding."

The Cultivation of Salsify.

"Have you commenced cutting Cauliflowers?"

"Yes, this week, and also Scarlet Runners and Marrow. The varieties of the former are Early London and Giant, and of the latter Canadian Wonder, Runner Bean, and Mammoth White. Of Carrots, we grow Early Gem and Model; of Beetroots, Favourite and Blood-red, and we have a large bed of Musselburg Leeks. Salsify is a very good vegetable when it is cooked properly."

"Perhaps you can tell me how it should be cooked?"

"It should be boiled like Beetroot. Care should be taken not to bleed it, and not to take the skin off until cooked. It should then be rolled in the white of an egg and bread-crumbs; fried in butter it makes a delicious dish. Salsify comes in from October to March, and serves excellently as a second vegetable. It is very easy to cultivate, and should be sown about the same time as Carrots."

"Do you grow many varieties of Asparagus?"

"Only Connover's Colossal. I put in some new beds of another variety, but it was too tender, and died off in the early spring. We do not get Celery before the end of September, but it does well from then until June; the only variety we grow is Sutton's Pink."

How to Get Early Vegetables.

"How many sowings of Onions do you go in for?"

"Three, starting the first in February. I put them in heat until they germinate, and then sow in the ordinary way. This I consider a point of great importance where early Onions are wanted, because, if you get the seed to germinate, it seldom dies. The varieties are Bedford Champion, Ailsa Craig, and Brown Globe. Whether Peas, Beans, or Onions, we try to get them as early as possible. Carrots I treat in the same way as Onions; also Peas, Broad, Runner and Dwarf Beans, in fact, all vegetables required early. In proof of the success of this treatment, I may tell you that the night after I had sown Carrots this year there was a severe frost, but they came on all right, and I pulled them three weeks earlier than if they had been grown in the natural way."

Shallots and Scarecrows.

"You have a nice crop of Shallots?"

"I am rather proud of that crop, because it is the first time I have grown Shallots here. They were grown from seed which was sown in February. My experience is that Shallots will succeed where Onions fail."

"There is one feature of your kitchen garden which ought not to be omitted. I mean the two old men fixed up as scarecrows."

"Formerly we found it impossible to keep the pigeons and jays in the woods away from the Peas, and at last tried the effect of these 'old men.' The result has been all that we could desire; since we put them there, the birds have not ventured near the Peas."

"What was your previous experience before you came to Cæsar's Camp, Mr. Couling?"

"I started at Albany House, Surbiton, my next situation being at Croome Court, Worcestershire. Then I went to Preen Manor, Shropshire, and at the age of twenty-four became head gardener at Shillingstone Hall, Stamford. At the end of five years I came here. I am on the committee of the Sandy Horticultural Society, whose annual show is held at the end of August; but practically all my time is devoted to the care of this garden."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 269.—LILIUM SULPHUREUM, AND OTHER LILIES FOR THE GARDEN.

Dear Kate,—If you want to enlarge your stock of Lilies, you should get a bulb of Lilium sulphureum, as well as the more ordinary Japanese Lilies, L. auratum (and its varieties platyphyllum and rubro-vittatum), and the lovely speciosum Lilies in pink, white and crimson.

Lilium speciosum rubrum.

The Sulphur Lily.

The Sulphur Lily (L. sulphureum) is a grand flower eight inches across, and ten inches in length. It is in creamy-white, with a yellow throat, and the stem is about five feet in height. It is not at all delicate, and will grow in the open border; but it blossoms so late (in that case not until the end of September, or early in October) that it is really better in a pot, as the storms of autumn may otherwise harm it. It is one of those Lilies (like the Tiger Lily), which produces little bulbils on its flowering stem, and these we are treating like seeds, *i.e.*, sowing them in a well-drained pot of loam, peat, sand, with a little charcoal dust. We place the bulbils two inches apart, and right side up, covering them with half an inch of fine soil, and pressing them down firmly.

The best place to put the pan or box containing them is a cold frame, which, however, should be covered over with a mat in severe weather. The little plants will not start until the spring, and must not be kept too warm in the winter, yet they should not get frozen. If you have not room in a frame, you can keep them in a spare room; but they must not be over-watered, yet should never get dust-dry.

A soaking with tepid water, given in mild weather, when there is sunshine, and you can give them plenty of air, will last them a long time; but they must not be forgotten altogether. This Lily (sulphureum) starts late in the spring, so don't give up hope of seeing the little plants if they don't appear before May. Tiger Lily bulbils, and those of the splendid apricot Lilium Henryi, can be treated in the same way, and by this plan robust and hardy plants may be raised for our gardens, which will do much better than any imported bulbs.

These are so spoiled by the horrid habit which the importers have of cutting off the lower roots before packing the bulbs, that they are usually quite crippled the first year after they arrive; and, for this reason, we find it best to grow them in pots for eighteen months, planting them in the borders early in their second spring in England, when they do well, and grow finely from year to year, having made fresh roots below the bulbs. These fleshy roots (which are perennial, and should never be injured in any way) must not be confused with the whorls of fibrous roots which grow one above another on the flowering stems of many Lilies; these are annual, and they shrivel away with the stem after flowering is over; but neither must be hurried in the process of ripening off, which is very gradual, and, in the case of Lilium sulphureum, will last for many weeks.

Cultural Requirements.

Lilies should stand in the full sunshine during their ripening time, and receive enough water to prevent their leaves from drooping, though they will not require such frequent supplies as when in full growth. As the buds for next season are formed in embryo during that time, you will easily see the need for care then, and will recognise the foolishness of starving the plants, which cannot possibly do their work without their foliage. When all the grass has ripened away gradually, and become brown, the bulbs may be repotted, if necessary, and, after that, wintered in a cold frame, with a covering of fine ashes two or three inches deep over them.

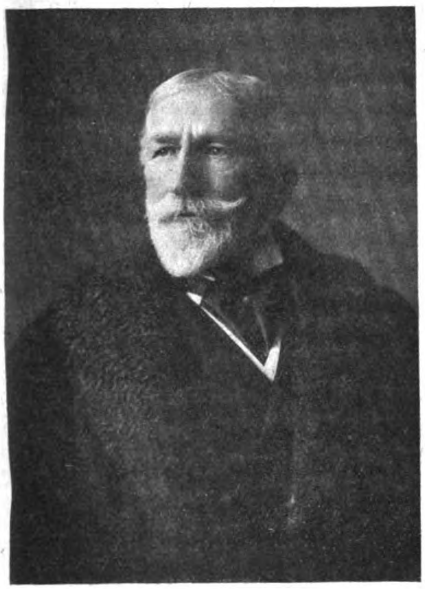
Do not bury the pots too deeply, or the spring growths will be weakly, and, as soon as the points of the shoots appear, take the pots out of the frame, remove the ashes, and give the plants a little top-dressing of rich soil instead, around the stems, taking care to leave plenty of room for an ample supply of water and liquid manure, which can be given as soon as growth is active.

We do not pot our Lilies every year, however, because we find they do better undisturbed for

block the stomata, and so interfere with transpiration, with the result that in bad cases the leaves turn yellow and wither. This happens most frequently with the delicate leaves of greenhouse plants, unless the spray is afterwards washed off with clean water. It is less common with plants in the open air, partly because they are hardier, and are seldom sprayed so thoroughly, and partly because the washing off is done by rain and dew.

A GRAFT-HYBRID.

March 21st.—One of the most singular plants in existence is Laburnum Adami. It is called



THE LATE MR. C. GUY PYM.

a graft-hybrid, and was originally obtained by a French gardener, Jean L. Adam, by grafting Cytisus purpureus on Laburnum vulgare. Some branches bear the flowers and foliage of C. purpureus, others the flowers and foliage of L. vulgare, and others, again, are intermediate in character. It was as much a surprise to M. Adam as to everybody else, and not understanding what he had done, he seems to have made no further experiments in the same direction. Of late years, however, several investigators have turned their attention to the subject, and it has been found that if, after a graft has been effected, the scion is cut back close to the junction, it and the stock make in some cases a sort of compound growth, with a similar result to that seen in L. Adami. In other words, the young shoot which is to develop into the future stem contains within its envelope of bark fibro-vascular bundles of both the scion and the stock, and some of these bundles presently separate to form branches like either the scion or the stock, while others remain associated, and thus produce intermediate characters. Some day we may have many more of these graft-hybrids.

THE COMMON LABURNUM.

March 22nd.—The common Laburnum, when in flower, is one of the most effective trees in the garden, and thoroughly deserves its popular name of Golden Chain; but for a long time afterwards, with its great clusters of brown seed-pods, it looks very untidy. Seedlings generally spring up around it, but as compared with the number of pods they are surprisingly few. The seedlings, if not interfered with, begin to flower at a much earlier stage than most trees, often in four or five years.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

CÆSAR'S CAMP, SANDY, BEDS.

Interview with Mr. Stephen Couling.

ON the hill—the highest in Bedfordshire—which overlooks the straggling little town of Sandy, Cæsar is said to have had an encampment, and evidence for this, in the shape of Roman coins, still occasionally turns up in the course of digging the soil. It is from this that Cæsar's Camp, which was erected between fifty and sixty years ago, takes its name. Standing on the summit of the hill, upwards of seven hundred feet high, it is approached by a winding path which makes the ascent less difficult, and as this path leads through woods of Pine and other coniferous trees, it is at once a picturesque and a pleasant walk. On one side the woods come up almost to the house, and in no case are they so far away that the value of their shelter is lost. They open out somewhat to the west, giving charming views over a wide stretch of country; though views are also obtainable from other aspects.

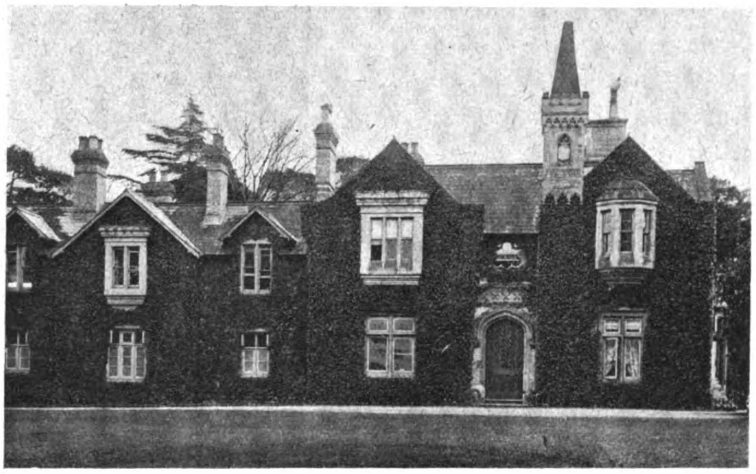
It was after the property came into the possession of Mr. C. Guy Pym, who has recently died, that the gardens were laid out; and to that gentleman and his able gardener, Mr. Stephen Couling, is to be credited the conversion of a very ordinary and commonplace area into one of the beauty spots of the county. Between them they planned and made the terraces and the lawns, the Rosery and the Fernery, the rock garden and the shrubberies, the pergolas and arches, the "wishing well" and waterfall, Mr. Pym, up to the last, finding in the gardens a principal source of interest and pleasure.

The estate, including the woods, is about twenty-five acres in extent, and there are between seven and eight acres of lawns, chiefly on the west front of the house. These lawns are in three terraces, and twenty-three years ago, when Mr. Couling went to Cæsar's Camp, they did not exist. The ground was rough and uneven, and covered with coarse shrub and grass. One of the first tasks was to level and slope the terraces—a large undertaking, involving the removal of many tons of soil and stone, which went to the making of other parts of the garden. On the first lawn are the flower beds; the second and third are used for croquet, tennis, and other games, including golf. The ground falls away gently from the house, but rises again as the end of the farthest lawn is reached. This lawn, as I saw when Mr. Couling showed me round a few days ago, has been ploughed up, and has carried crops of Potatoes and Cabbages, but now that the necessity has passed, he is going to restore it to its former condition. We were standing on the verandah overlooking the lawns, and I was fain to admit that the appearance of the ground under vegetables altogether spoiled the effect.

"It will be a big job to get it back again," he said; "and it will not be quite right this season, but I shall 'chit' the seed before sowing, and the grass will come up quickly."

"You have no spring bedding this year?" I asked, looking at the beds just in front of us.

"No; we have been unable to do any spring bedding, owing to scarcity of labour. I shall have some next year, however, and have already planted out a lot of stuff in a nursery bed."



CÆSAR'S CAMP, SANDY.

"What will the summer bedding be like?"

THE SUMMER BEDDING.

"The colour scheme will be in salmon, pink, and blue, which make a good combination. You notice that the beds have been altered in shape from what they are in the photograph. They used to be in circles and curves, now they are squares and oblongs. There are four divisions, each containing nine large beds. The corner beds will be filled with Ageratums and Geranium Flower of Spring, a silver-edged variety. Other beds will have Marguerites, pink and blue Asters and Stocks, Ageratums, Lobelias, salmon and pink Geraniums, Heliotropes, the blue Salvia patens, and standard Fuchsia Rose of Castile, which is the only one that lasts on this hungry, sandy soil."

Before crossing the lawn we turned to admire the old Wistaria, with its twisting and twirling stems completely covering the verandah; and then entered the conservatory (unheated), where a bright show of flowers was given by Cinerarias, Primula malacoides, Genistas, and

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Azaleas. Arum Lilies were getting past their best. The back wall is clothed with yellow Jasmine, and climbing Roses are trained over the roof.

Then, coming out, and descending the gently sloping banks of the sunk lawn, we walked round some of the beds, which are of large size.

"How many plants do you use to fill these beds?" I asked.

"They take at least ten thousand," was the answer.

"And these large tubs at the end—are they also to be filled with flowers?"

"Yes; there are eighteen of them, here and round about, and they will have salmon and pink flowers to harmonise with the bedding. They are old paraffin tubs cut in half, and covered with virgin cork. Each takes about fifty plants. In the middle I shall put tall Fuchsias, and surround them with Ivy-leaf Geraniums, which will hang down, completely draping the cork, and also be trained up almost to the height of the Fuchsias."

VARIED FOLIAGE.

The second lawn is less regular in outline, opening out wider, and curving at the sides, where good play is made with different coloured foliage. Acers of various types—green, bronze, purple, and variegated—occupy the foreground; behind them come standards of the related Sycamores, with white leaves, Prunus Pissardi, silver Poplars, and silver Birches, while in the background are tall Firs, whose dark green makes an effective foil to the dwarfer plants in front of them. Across to the left a graceful Cedar (Cedrus atlantica) is seen, and farther round the bluish tinge of C. atlantica glauca, and the yellowish green of Cupressus macrocarpa lutea, give diversity of colour. Two Cedars of Lebanon are on the opposite side of the lawn, and at the bottom is a Wellingtonia. Near by, Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, and Lady Gay Roses climb round the trunk of an old Plane tree.

A HANDSOME ROSERY.

Up a few steps to the right, a graceful Larch on each side marks the entrance to the Juniper Walk, a short, broad path leading to one of the most striking features of these gardens, the circular Rosery. The inner portion is made up of twelve light arches of iron, connected by chains to a central pillar, which rises to a height of twenty feet. It is fashioned after the style of Queen Alexandra's Rosery at Sandringham, but is on an even larger scale. Trained on the arches and along the chains are Roses of the best varieties, which meet overhead and form a canopy of foliage and flowers which in the summer must be an entrancing sight. The posts, which mark the outer limits of the Rosery, are connected along the top by thick ropes, which also join to dwarf posts in front of the border, and are carried along on loops. Here, again, climbers are trained, and in the spaces between the ropes are dwarf Hybrid Teas, with weeping standards under the loops at the back.

"The idea Mr. Pym and I had in mind when designing this," said Mr. Couling, "was the old nursery rhyme of 'A ring o' Roses,' with the drooping shoots of the climbers in the middle to suggest the refrain 'all fall down.' Surrounding this garden, as you see, are tall shrubs and Conifers, which rather shade it in parts, but the Roses do fairly well, considering the light soil."

"The soil is not really suitable for Roses?"

"It is too light and poor. All the soil in these gardens is of the same hungry nature, and will take any amount of feeding with organic and artificial manures. Anything planted here has to be, as it were, naturalised. The first year is the critical time: if it comes through that the plant will generally thrive afterwards; if not, then it is no good. The Roses generally make splendid growth—you can see that some of these climbers have made fifteen feet this last season, but they do not last long, and have to be often renewed."

Just behind the Rosery one gets a glimpse of another very fine specimen of Cupressus macrocarpus lutea, its bright foliage lighting up amidst the dark green of the surrounding Conifers.

A RUSTIC PERGOLA.

Leaving the Rosery by way of a handsome rustic pergola, the upright posts of which are extremely stout—being, in fact, trunks of fairly large Pines felled on the estate—and calculated to last for a couple of generations, we passed through an extensive shubbery skirting the third of the lawns. Among the shrubs that do especially well I noted Choisya ternata, the Mexican Orange, and Deutzia crenata, with growths more than ten feet high; many Thorns, and the Maidenhair-tree, Salisburia adiantifolia. It is this lawn which was ploughed up, and Mr. Couling informed me that he purposes making a new perennial border, six feet wide, right across it, to give a good breadth of colour that will be visible from the house.

"But this year, of course," he said, "the perennials will not be sufficiently established to be effective, as the border is not yet made, so I shall fall back on annuals. Sweet Peas, of which I have sown a lot in pots, will come in useful here, and I shall also have Asters, Stocks, Antirrhinums, and other showy subjects."

Having walked round the lower end of this lawn, we came to a junction of two paths, the lower having another rustic pergola, with two short arms, giving it the shape of a cross. This is covered with different forms of Ivy and Honeysuckle. Following this path brought us to a cosy summerhouse, damp and draught proof, and looking down into a well-wooded valley, with good views across to Hitchin and other places, Biggleswade being in the middle distance.

Then beyond this, approaching nearer to the house, we came to the extensive rockery.

THE ROCKERY.

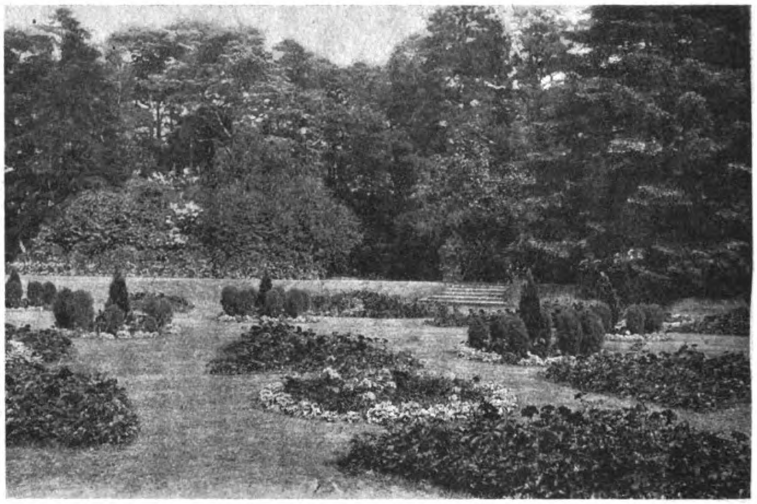
"This, unfortunately, has had to go," said Mr. Couling; "but I hope to get to work on it soon, and even if it cannot be brought back this season to what it was, it will at least be presentable, and next year should be quite restored to its old state. Weeds have flourished, and some of the stronger plants have grown too rampantly. Among the plants are some of the best Alpines. We have all the good varieties of Aubrietias, many Saxifrages and Cyclamen, perennial Candytufts—in fact, a representative collection of rock plants. On the higher parts, and at the top, are shrubby Spiræas, Brooms, flowering Cherries, and Hawthorns. Hardy Azaleas do well, and so do hardy Hydrangeas. Dwarf Junipers make a home in some of the deep pockets, and shrubby Veronicas come through the winter unharmed—perhaps because they are on a warm slope, so that the soil is well-drained, and they get protection from cold winds behind them."

"What is the nature of the stone used in making the rockery?"

"It is the natural stone which we took out when levelling the lawns, and is of volcanic origin, somewhat resembling lava. There are also many round and pebble-shaped ironstones, which when broken are found to contain sand inside. The stone is often perforated and hollowed out, and so the roots of the plants find many cool places, and therefore thrive here."

THE WISHING WELL.

Presently, in following the path, we came upon the Wishing Well, a large, circular recess, with Ferns growing in the stones of the walls.



THE FLOWER BEDS AS THEY USED TO BE AT CÆSAR'S CAMP.

"This," said Mr. Couling, "we made about eight years ago. The inscription on the stone at the head of the well was written by Mr. Pym, and reads: 'The King—God save him. The People—God protect them. The Empire—God preserve it.' Those who drink at the well are supposed to express this wish. The gardens used to be thrown open to the public regularly once a week, and visitors were numerous. Of course, they all made a point of seeing the Wishing Well, and the children, especially, had to drink here."

The Fernery adjoins the rock garden, and, like that, is made of the stones and soil taken from the lawns. There are upwards of a hundred and twenty varieties of hardy Ferns planted in pockets and between the stones, and the walls are a delightful picture of cool, rich greenery, which is not lacking even in winter. Ornamental grasses and other pretty foliage is also seen here, and on the higher parts are Bamboos of many sorts. Following the path we come to a small dovecote, and in another place is a waterfall, also designed and constructed by Mr. Pym and Mr. Couling.

Then, pursuing our walk, we made our way towards the kitchen garden. The approach to this is under another pergola, clothed with Clematis, Roses, and Honeysuckles, while, rising above these on one side, is a fine specimen of the evergreen shrub, Azara microphylla. This pergola might almost be said to extend

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into the kitchen garden itself, for here a series of light iron arches cover the principal paths. The area of this space is a little less than an acre.

"The soil here," said Mr. Couling, "is like the rest of the garden, very light and hungry. But it has one advantage—things mature quickly, so I can get three crops at least in a year."

"You have a good breadth of bush fruit in the cage."

A PLACE FOR NIGHTINGALES.

"Yes, we have all the usual bush fruits and Loganberries in this cage. We are obliged to net everything, as birds rob us of all fruit, and also destroy the buds. This is a wonderful place for nightingales, which seem to feed on Currants. Although we have wire netting all round, the nightingales get in and out between the meshes, and exact full toll for all their singing. They are not the shy birds some people believe—at least, not here. The netting overhead will have to be renewed, for the great fall of snow we had a little while ago broke a lot of it down."

"How does the soil suit the wall fruit trees?"

"I find it too hot and thin, so that they do not thrive as I wish. On the south wall there are Peaches Early Rivers, but they are not very good. Peaches, in fact, do better as standards in the open. Here is one, Alexander, which grows as vigorously and fruits as freely as an Apple. In a good season we get a barrowload of fruit from it. It is less trouble than a wall fruit tree, as it practically requires no pruning beyond cutting to keep it within bounds."

"Does the fruit ripen properly?"

"Yes; it becomes quite ripe, but owing to the nature of the soil, which has so much iron in it, there is a slight acidity about the flavour. Still, it is excellent when bottled."

"Have you any Apricots?"

"The Apricot is a tree that will not grow here, but there is a lovely little Peach-Apricot, called Early Purple, which does well as a standard. The fruit is the colour and flavour of the Apricot, with a Peach skin, and it bears very regularly."

"You have a very promising Fig on the wall in this corner?"

THE PRUNING OF FIGS.

"This tree is very reliable, and as you say, it is carrying plenty of fruit buds for this coming season. The Fig is a tree that many amateurs mismanage; then, when they do not get fruit, they blame the tree. It fruits on the young wood, and the pruning consists in thinning out and cutting away the old and useless growths; instead of this, too often the young wood is cut away as well, and with this goes the fruit buds."

"What are the varieties of Strawberries?"

"There are three—King George, Royal Sovereign, and Utility. King George is a beautiful Strawberry on this soil, and comes in before Royal Sovereign; while Utility is a good late sort. We had fruit for seven weeks last year from these three varieties."

"How do the espalier Pears bear?"

"These three double espaliers, with the very thick trunks, are old trees, and do little good, but we keep them because they are ornamental. The low cordons on the French system, however, are very satisfactory. They are only fifteen to eighteen inches high. The varieties are some of the best, such as Doyenne du Comice, Beurré Hardy, Marie Louise, Thompson's, and Beurré d'Amanlis."

"CHITTING" SEEDS.

We here stepped aside and entered the Vinery, which has Gros Maroc, Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Muscat of Alexandria, and Black Muscat.

"You do not waste space," I remarked, noticing the staging was filled with seed boxes, cuttings, and growing plants.

"No," was the answer. "We have not much glass, so I use this as a nursery, and raise my seedlings here. I should like you to make note of this system of 'chitting' seeds, which I have adopted for many years, and which some of the market growers in this neighbourhood now follow. By this method you save a lot of time, and avoid the risks of mice and birds taking the seeds."

"How is it done?"

"I sow the seed in shallow boxes of leaf-mould—sand or coconut fibre will also serve—covering it over with a piece of glass. Then, as soon as it has germinated, or 'chitted,' it can be sown out of doors in the usual manner. In this box I have in separate compartments Peas, Carrots, Lettuce, Spinach, Broad Beans, Sweet Peas, and one or two others. They were put in five days ago, and have already germinated."

ITS ADVANTAGE.

"The Peas and Beans can be dropped in the soil easily, but how would you treat Carrots and small things generally?"

"Simply sow them on the top of the ground, as you would ungerminated seeds, and draw the rake over them. If the weather is such that you cannot sow, they can be put in a cooler place to retard them, and they will take no harm from the delay, so long as they do not get too dry."

"Are they not more susceptible to frost?"

"No; once they have started frost will not harm them. This is one of the advantages of this method. The seeds germinate quickly in the warmth, whereas, if sown out of doors, they may lie for a long time before moving, if the weather is unfavourable; while should there be a lot of wet, the seed may rot, and in either case much time is lost. Mice, too, will not take the seed as they do before it has started, and birds will also leave it alone, as it is beyond the state in which they like it. Of course, when it is shooting up it must be protected in the usual way."

"How much time does this method save?"

"As much as three weeks or more. The seedlings will not make much progress if the weather is too cold, but as soon as the conditions are favourable they commence to grow away, and have not first to germinate. Another advantage is that you can sow so much more thinly, as you are sure of germination. Amateurs who have no greenhouse could 'chit' the seed in an ordinary kitchen."

An inspection of the next house, occupied by Peaches, was made, and then we came once more into the kitchen garden, where Mr. Couling showed me a border of early Peas, the seed of which had been "chitted."

After this we made our way towards the north-west front of the house, where some noble trees are growing on the lawn. One of these, a Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga Douglasii), is about seventy-five feet high, and is beautifully feathered, the bottom branches resting on the ground. Near by is a magnificent Cedar (C. deodara), even taller, and as well-grown, with no gaps or breaks anywhere; while in another corner a Portugal Laurel arches over a rustic seat, and forms a natural arbour. The creeper on this front of the house is Ivy. The new drive by which the house is approached is planted on each side with Larches, Beeches, and other trees, and in front of these are choice varieties of Rhododendrons and other shrubs, some of which, such as Laurustinus and Flowering Currants, were bright with bloom. The handicap of the soil is overcome by taking especial care to water them for the first few seasons, until they are well established.

Mr. Couling, who has been at Cæsar's Camp for twenty-three years, does not exhibit, although he is a member of the committee of the show which used to be held annually at Sandy in pre-war days, and was one of the most important in the country. During the war he has acted on the panel of the R.H.S. experts.

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Worth Knowing!

THE CONSTITUENTS OF WOOD ASHES.

A bushel of wood ashes, weighing about fifty pounds, will contain 4.6 pounds of potash; 1.47 pounds of phosphoric acid; 21.77 pounds of lime; and 0.21 pound of oxide of iron, all valuable plant manures, generally necessary to apply artificially. Other constituents, not so valuable, are magnesia and manganese, usually plentiful in all good soils.

BEE FLOWERS.

Those who keep bees should grow such flowers as Mignonette, Canterbury Bells, Campanula persicifolia and its varieties, French Honeysuckle, Sweet Scabious, blue Cornflowers, Sweet Sultan, Wallflowers, Erysimum Perofskianum, Anchusa italica and its varieties, Thyme, Lavender, Aubrietias, Candytuft, Centaurea montana, annual and perennial Sunflowers, and Evening Primroses.

SPARROWS AND GOOSEBERRIES.

In some gardens sparrows destroy the buds on Gooseberries and Red Currants. They do not like the oily glands on Black Currants. To check the birds, spray the bushes with strong soapy water, and then dust them with lime. Half an ounce of cayenne pepper to the gallon improves the soap suds.

POTATOES FIFTY-ONE YEARS ON THE SAME BORDER.

There is a garden in Cumberland where the same variety of Potato has been grown in the same border for over fifty years. This should encourage those who have to grow Potatoes on the same ground for some years in succession. The site should be deeply dug or trenched and manured in the autumn. Trenching renews the soil.

HORSE MANURE AND AMMONIA.

When horse manure is obtained fresh, and cannot be dug into the soil for a week or two, it is liable to get very warm, and its ammonia passes into the air, thus depreciating it fertilising properties. This can be prevented by spreading it out in a flat heap eighteen inches by twenty-four inches deep, and covering it with a few inches of soil.

PEA WEEVILS.

During April, when Peas are shooting up from the ground, the leaves get gnawed round the edges in a mysterious way, and to such an extent that their growth is badly crippled. Careful examination will show that Pea weevils (Sistones crinita and S. lineata) are the culprits. When disturbed they drop to the ground and feign to be dead. If the foliage is sprayed with arsenate of lead at the rate of one ounce to one and a half gallons of water, it will poison them.

IRIS UNGUICULARIS.

As early in April as possible, old plants of Iris unguicularis should be lifted and pulled into pieces of moderate size. Select a light soil, giving it a good dressing of old mortar, broken finely. Plant the pieces quite shallowly, and tread the soil very firmly about them. The foot of a wall facing south, or round to west, is the best position for this Iris.

WORMS UNDER PATHS.

When soil occurs at a short distance beneath gravel, or where the latter is old and largely mixed with soil, worms are very troublesome by throwing up their casts. They can be brought to the surface quickly by watering it with a solution of half an ounce of corrosive sublimate in eight gallons of water. Do this while the paths are moist, so that the liquid may sink in rapidly.

BREVITER

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J.A. Cox

THE GARDENS OF MRS. McINTOSH, AT HAVERING PARK, ROMFORD.

IT was on a breezy day in the summer that I visited the gardens of Mrs. McIntosh, at Havering Park, which, less than a century ago, formed part of Hainault Forest. The process of development was not accomplished all at once. The original residence, built about seventy years ago, was a comfortable farmhouse, which has been extended and converted into a mansion of importance. The estate altogether, since the late Mr. McIntosh purchased it, has been greatly improved, while as to the pleasure grounds, new features of interest, and fresh elements of beauty, have been constantly introduced. These were pointed out by Mr. J. A. Cox, the head gardener, under whose guidance I explored the domains of which he is in charge. But, first of all, my attention was centred on the immediate surroundings of the house, and I asked the contents of a very pretty terrace border, quite fifty yards long. "It consists of six rows," rejoined Mr. Cox, "made up of Nicotiana affinis, Geum coccineum, Lobelia Sutton's Carpet Blue, Alyssum maritima, Perilla, and Echeverias. In spring we have two rows of Wallflowers Purple Queen, two of Fairy Queen, and a thick band of Crocus Cloth of Gold."

"You must be several hundred feet above sea level," I said, as we strolled on the terrace, and surveyed the magnificent prospect.

"Yes, we are on high ground, and can see the Thames, with Shooter's Hill on the other side. The terrace faces south, so that we get the maximum of sun, but the soil, which is gravel and sand, constitutes a difficulty."

Notable Combinations of Colour.

"Whatever your difficulties, you have some very effective combinations of bedding on the terrace."

"There is no special design, but we do the best we can to obtain masses of bloom, both in summer and in winter. Thus, the beds which are dominated by Geranium Paul Crampel, with borders of Alyssum, have on each side hybrid seedling Pentstemons. The latter came from Aldenham. Then, there are beds of Ivy-leaved Geranium Galilee, with Antirrhinums as dot plants."

"What is the name of the variety of Antirrhinum?"

"Sutton's Intermediate. As you see, we also use it as a dot plant in two beds, with a groundwork of fibrous-rooted Begonias, Carters' Luminosa."

"The combination in the four Maltese cross-shaped beds is striking."

"Iresine Lindenii is the dot plant, and the groundwork is composed of Mesembryanthemum cordifolium. The four little circular beds are made up entirely of Heliotrope Gloire de Versailles. The large bed of Paul Crampel Geranium in the centre of all is surrounded by two beds of Geranium Mrs. Pollock and Flower of Spring; four semi-circular beds of Coleus Verschaffeldtii, two of Begonia Crimson Gem, and two of Begonia Fairy Queen."

The Scheme of Spring Bedding.

"There must be upwards of thirty beds of varying shapes and sizes?"

"There are thirty-five. As we attach more importance to the spring than the summer bedding, you may like to know the features. Sutton's Blood-red Wallflower fills the large bed of Paul Crampel. The four circular beds are red, white, and blue, Tulip La Candeur and Myosotis Royal Blue. Four beds consist of white Polyanthus; four of Pansies of the giant strain, intermixed with Tulips; four of Wallflower Cloth of Gold; four of Aubrietia purpurea or white Tulips; four with double Arabis and Tulip Yellow Prince (one of the prettiest combinations); and four beds of mixed Polyanthus."

SUMMER BEDDING AT HAVERING PARK.

"Can you give me any idea of the number of plants?"

"Only that there are many thousands."

Proceeding down the sloping lawn, the size of the groups of Rhododendrons attracted my notice."

"These do very well here, and Azaleas and Kalmia latifolia also thrive. One of the Azalea beds was planted forty years ago."

The Sundial Garden.

"You use Liliums for flowering later on amongst the Kalmias?"

"Yes; the variety, L. Pardalinum, is not a delicate one, and only requires to be mulched every year to keep it going. Here we enter the sundial garden, of which Roses are the feature. The beds are filled with Teas, Hybrid Teas, and Hybrid Perpetuals mixed, the Roses festooned being chiefly Dorothy Perkins, Wallflower, Lady Gay, Queen Alexandra, and Blush Rambler. German Iris, with many new varieties, are used for the border. Beyond this little garden is an addition, which was only made five years ago."

"Of which I judge Ericas to be a leading feature."

"There are quite three thousand planted here; the hungry soil suits them. I suppose there are quite thirty varieties. The Heaths give us a quantity of blooms in the summer, and a succession throughout the year."

"How do you treat them?"

"Most of the varieties bear cutting back soon after flowering. But that is all we do to them. Another feature in this addition is the long herbaceous border, with clumps of Michaelmas Daisies, Tree Lupins, Campanulas, English and Spanish Iris, Spiræas in variety, Brooms in variety, Foxgloves, and Agrostemmas. As the old plants of these die, the seedlings come up; while behind are Berberis Darwinii, several varieties of Laburnum, and other shrubs."

The Rockwork in the Ravine.

"Down in the ravine I see there are masses of Roses?"

"Roses on the slopes, and rockwork in the ravine. Some of the Roses were only planted a year ago. The object is—as elsewhere in the gardens—masses of colour. We have nothing stiff or formal, but wherever we can get a bright display we have it. The varieties of Roses which suit the situation and soil for massing are especially Caroline Testout, Fellenberg, Madame Abel Chatenay, Laurette Messimy, Baby Rambler, Liberty, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La Tosca, and Soleil d'Or. I should add Tausendschon, which was only planted on a tree stump twelve months ago, and is doing splendidly.

"As to the rockwork," continued Mr. Cox, "it is a very simple business. We did away with old gravel paths and filled with soil and rock, and planted largely Aubrietias—Bridesmaid, Dr. Mules, Fire King, H. Marshall, Moerheimi, Lavender, Prichard's A1, purpurea aurea variegata, with Campanulas amabilis, G. F. Wilson, garganica, persicifolia alba, flore pleno, pulla, pusilla, Rainerii, turbinata, and T. alba. Delphiniums have also been introduced in groups, and so have Poppies, which include all the new shades of colour. Down in the ravine are also Daisies, Polyanthus, Scillas, Grape Hyacinths, Snowdrops, Arabis, Alyssums, Saxifrages, Iris, Sedums, Arenaria, Asperulas—these are by the side of the pool—Calthas, Myosotis, Japanese Iris, and I. siberica, Lysimachia, Gunnera scabra and manicata, with several varieties of Primulas."

"You have done so well in a short time that hereafter you will have a very fine rockery in an absolutely ideal position."

A Celebrated Avenue.

Emerging from the ravine, which includes a walk with Lavender scenting the air, we ascended to the Wellingtonia avenue, under whose shadow a play was acted on June 1st. Chinese Vitis, grown on pillars, Syringas, a noble Beech tree facing a summer-house, and a glorious specimen of Crimson Rambler Rose, contribute to the charms of this portion of the grounds. The Wellingtonias were planted forty-six years ago, and the avenue is more than half a mile in length. The trees are in fine condition, and peeps of clumps of flowering plants and shrubs, specially the old Damask Rose, add to the attractiveness of the stately avenue.

Another surprise is the border, a hundred

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yards long, under the walls of the kitchen garden, which is turned to admirable account.

"In spring," said Mr. Cox, "we fill it with red and white Tulips in irregular clumps, and Crocuses and Scillas in front. In summer there are clumps of Antirrhinums Orange King and Crimson-pink, with a band of blue Lobelias. The narrower border opposite contains in spring early-flowering Tulips, and in summer Antirrhinums corresponding to the varieties on the wide border."

"And the beds under the wall near the house in spring?"

"We fill them with May-flowering Tulips, and later scented Geraniums, with a band of Iresires and Mesembryanthemums, follow. Scented Geraniums are grown largely in pots. You may care to mention that the vases standing on the stonework in front of the conservatory are occupied by Ivy-leaved Geraniums in variety, Heliotropes, and the trailing Lobelia."

"Have you any programme of succession for the conservatory?"

"We only have two or three groups of flowers, all of one colour. Malmaison Carnations, Maggie Hodson and Princess of Wales, are just over. Palms are planted out, and hanging baskets of Sprengeri and Nephrolepis are used for decorating. Now, I think, we might look over the houses and the kitchen gardens, taking the old kitchen garden first."

The Value of Crassulas.

"You have a very bright show of Crassulas in one of your houses."

"The variety is coccinea, and we use them largely for grouping in the drawing-room. They are quite easy to grow, and last for weeks in flower, June or July being the best period. They require plenty of sun. The next house is new, and is devoted to Peaches, with Tomatoes in front. The varieties of the latter are Carters' Sunrise and Sutton's Perfection, spring-sown in boxes, and autumn-sown in pots. If they are sown in September, it is essential to keep them in a very dry atmosphere, so that their growths may not be too long by the spring. The feature of a miscellaneous house is Figs in pots. They are a favourite fruit, and we have four varieties —White Marseilles, Negro Largo, Brown Turkey, and Osborne's Prolific."

"When was the Vinery we are entering planted?"

"Four years ago, the only variety being Black Alicante. In the next Vinery are Muscats and Gros Maroc. We get bunches of moderate size, and these we rather prefer. For early forcing, inside borders are greatly to be preferred, but for late varieties outside borders do admirably. But a combination of outside and inside borders is not desirable. Another point in the cultivation of Vines is the question of the depth of the border. It used to be said that the border required to be made six feet down, but I find that three feet is much better. We had another Vinery, but it has just been converted into a Rose house. It is planted with Niphetos, Fortune's Yellow, Climbing Liberty, and Perle des Jardins, the varieties in pots being either Teas, Hybrid Teas, or Hybrid Perpetuals. Here the Chrysanthemums are accommodated in their flowering season."

"You have some of your scented Geraniums in the greenhouse?"

"Yes, as I mentioned, in pots. We generally have them almost alone in the house in flower, because their colour is so pronounced that it virtually kills all others."

Ferns Ancient and Modern.

"The Fernery is so representative that I should like to have the names of a few of the best."

"We have had some of them for thirty or forty years, and we never cut the fronds. Of the Adiantum family, we grow cuneatum, formosum, gracillimum, macrophyllum, Pacottii, and Williamsii. The Nephrolepis section is represented by Amerpohlii, exaltata, Piersonii, Todæaoides, and Whitmannii. Others are Asplenium bulbiferum, Blechnum braziliense, Davallia elegans, Gymnograverna chrysophylla gigantea, and Peruviana argyrophylla, Lycopodium japonicum, Microlepia hirta cristata, Platycerium grande, and alcicorne. We use the Maidenhair Fern for table work, with Gloxinias and Allamandas, and the effect is very pretty."

"What about Tree and Border Carnations?"

"Hermione and Cecilia are favourite Border Carnations; and we grow Malmaisons in preference to Trees. As you see, we have a good show of flowers just now, and in the border outside we get a quantity of bloom later. Also there are long borders, now full of London Pride, which in spring are devoted to May-flowering Tulips."

"It would be interesting, as you use so many May Tulips, to know which varieties you recommend for growing in the vicinity of London."

"Blushing Bride, Bouton d'Or, Fairy Queen, Gesneriana lutea, G. major, Golden Crown, La Merveille, Maiden's Blush, retroflexa, Striped Beauty, Caledonia, elegans and e. alba, fulgens, Inglescombe Pink, Kaufmanniana aurea, La Candeur, macrospila, Parisian Yellow, vitellina, Edison, Sensation, Snow-white, Dream, Bonfire, Bartigon, Beethoven, and Rosalind."

"And Sweet Peas?"

"We have about a dozen varieties, and grow them, as you observe, close to the Peas. The pick are Etta Dyke, King Edward Spencer, Helen Lewis, Clara Curtis, La Marquise, Dorothy Tennant Spencer, Evelyn Hemus, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Captain of the Blues Spencer, and Sutton's Queen."

Fruit and Vegetables.

"How are you off for fruit this year?"

"Rather badly for Apples and hardy fruit. The varieties of Apples we find most useful usually are Allington Pippin, Bismarck, Blenheim Orange, Bramley's Seedling, Braddick's Nonpareil, Charles Ross, Cox's Orange Pippin, Devonshire Quarrenden, James Grieve, King of the Pippins, Lane's Prince Albert, Lord Derby, Lord Burghley, Lord Grosvenor, Newton Wonder, Rival, and Ribston Pippin."

"Are your varieties of Pears numerous?"

"Twelve of the best are Beurre Diel, Beurre Hardy, Brockworth Park, Clapp's Favourite, Doyenne du Comice, Glou Morceau, Marie Louise, Josephine de Malines, Pitmaston Duchess, Williams's Bon Chretien, Vicar of Winkfield, and Catillac. With respect to other fruit, it will suffice to say that we grow a considerable number of Strawberries, of which the varieties are Royal Sovereign, Sir J. Paxton, Dr. Hogg, Bedford Champion, Givon's Late Prolific, and The Latest."

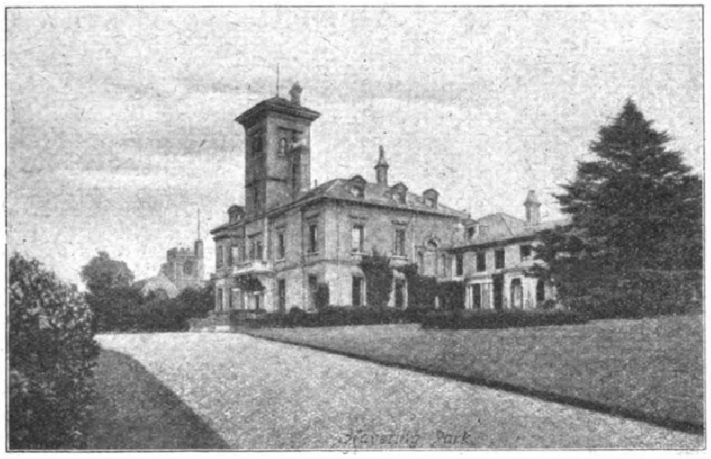
"Finally, as to vegetables?"

"Most of the vegetables are grown in the new garden half a mile away, and I do not think we have anything special, either here or there. Peas and Broad Beans do well, and we grow a quantity, larger or smaller, of most kinds of vegetables, with the exception of Salsify and Scorzonera."

"Have you done much showing, Mr. Cox?"

"No; but when I have shown collections of vegetables, Grapes, or Japanese Chrysanthemums, I have done well. With regard to my gardening career, I started at Osmanton Manor, Derby, proceeding afterwards to Trentham. Then I went for a year or so to a large market nursery, returning for a time to Trentham. My next appointment was at Aldenham, with Mr. Beckett, and I was foreman in those famous gardens for several years. Leaving Aldenham, I went as head gardener to the Hon. A. Holland Hibbert, of Munden House, Watford, and six years ago I came to Havering Park."

ALFRED WILCOX.



THE APPROACH, HAVERING PARK.

NEXT week the gardens at South Down Hall, Polegate, will be described.

LATEST COMERS.

Some New Chrysanthemums.

A FINE sport from the well-known Goacher's Crimson, to which the name Bronze Goacher has been given, was exhibited last week by Messrs. Wm. Wells and Co., Ltd. In colour it is a mixture of orange and bronze. It was awarded a First-class Certificate by the N.C.S.

At the same show Mr. Frank Brazier also gained a First-class Certificate for a new Single Chrysanthemum. The colour is terra-cotta and gold, and it has been named Miss E. Finch.

Emperor is a reflex Decorative Chrysanthemum which will prove very useful. The colour is bronze, with lighter shade on the undersides. Messrs. Lowe and Shawyer, who exhibited it, received the First-class Certificate of the N.C.S., and were commended for Eskimo, a creamy-white Decorative variety.

Phœbe, an exhibition variety of more than usual merit, was recently shown. The blooms are of large size, with broad florets of silvery-pink colour. It was shown by Mr. H. W. Thorp, who also staged a Decorative variety, Roundabout, with florets of a bronzy-gold shade, which looked extremely effective.

A New Nerine.

The number of these charming bulbous plants has been increased by the addition to the list of N. Veitchii, an introduction from South Africa. As shown recently by Messrs. R. Veitch and Son, of Exeter, the plant carried five flowers and two buds on the stem. The flowers are pale pink, with wavy segments. An Award of Merit has been granted to this new species by the Royal Horticultural Society.

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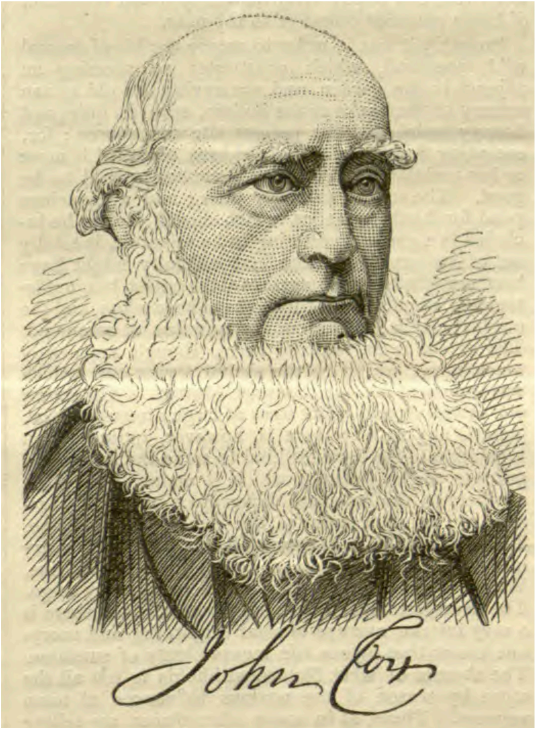


John Cox, Head Gardener at Redleaf

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 4

The Head Gardener's cottage at Redleaf

Amongst the practical gardeners of the South of England, Mr. John Cox, whose portrait we now publish, holds a very honourable place, being well known amongst his brethren in the profession as a skilful and successful practical cultivator, especially of vegetables and fruits, as a censor whose services are frequently sought at the metropolitan exhibitions, and as a writer whose teachings are always sound and trustworthy, and such as can be understood by every one who is willing to be taught. We give his autobiography in his own words:—

"I have no record to make of servitude in the great places of the day, my early experiences being confined principally to one place, where I made acquaintance with long days of hard work in plenty. I was born in the village of Buckland, in Berkshire, in November, 1814, my father being principal foreman in the then celebrated gardens of Sir John Throckmorton, one of the great patrons of horticulture of that day. From thence my father went to Lee & Kennedy's nursery, at Hammersmith, and was by them sent to the Ladies Ashburnham, at Wimbledon, where the late Lord Churchill became acquainted with him, and eventually engaged him to go as head gardener to Cornbury Park, in Oxfordshire, at which place he spent the remainder of his life. It is from thence that I date my earliest recollections of gardening, planting, ground. work, the formation of green drives through a roost extensive park, besides miles of carriage roads, all of which work, and much more, was in full and active operation there for many years. I mention this, merely to show that my early life was spent amongst these most active gardening operations, and long before I left school I was indoctrinated by a clever, but stern father, in most of the practical details of the various works in progress, including the measurement of land, and geometrical plan drawing, so that by the time I left school and entered regularly on the practical study of my chosen profession, which was in my sixteenth year, I was proficient in all the practical details of gardening, as then practised. For all that, my father insisted on my going to the bottom of the ladder, and I was therefore put to serve the kitchen — no mean thing either, for the establishment was large and the requirements great. At the same time I was made responsible for the sowing and planting of all the kitchen-garden crops being especially enjoined to keep up a good supply of salading. As there were about five acres of land within the walls, and a fair amount of help, I cannot remember, barring unavoidable atmospherical hindrances, to have ever had any difficulty in keeping the family well supplied. I did this for two years, and have ever since found the benefit of having gone through this training. It is a step which I should strongly advise all young gardeners to take in the beginning of their career, for they will find so many things crowd upon their attention as they advance, that unless previously well grounded in this most important part of a gardener's education, they will find it much more difficult to attain practical proficiency in it in after years.

Towards the end of the two years I found there was gradually falling to my share the management of the wall fruit trees; and when I left serving the kitchen the whole was put into my hands, with occasional help. This to me was a labour of love, for I had always taken delight in assisting, and was early led to the study of the principles by which practice should be guided; and it has continued with me a favourite study through life up to the present time.

During this time my attention was not entirely confined to these departments, as I had very frequently to take a share in whatever was going on, more particularly during the planting season, for planting was carried out on a large scale in this fine park, and the constant removal and replanting of large crowded shrubs was fine practice, which has proved very useful to me in after life.

In these days, when there are so many periodicals and books bearing on gardening, it is comparatively easy for young men to attain, if they will, to a theoretical knowledge of the subject, but in those days we had few helps, and the necessary knowledge came to us

only by dint of hard practical work. About this time Loudon was in full career, publishing his admirable works, and one of my first purchases was his Hortus Britannicus from which I soon found that I needed to know a little of the construction of Latin, and, therefore, I employed my evenings in getting up long lessons, and attended the master of the grammar school at Charlbury twice a week. This was afterwards supplemented by lessons in French. This discipline was with a few interruptions maintained for four years. I have never considered the time so spent as wasted, but would advise all young men who have not attained proficiency in these during the time of their school probation, to follow it up in their leisure time afterwards.

I remained at Cornbury Park five years, during the last two of which, in addition to multifarious other duties, such as the continual overlooking of the houses and pits, I had to devote the half of every day to the pleasure ground, in which position I had to take the lead of nine men in the mowing department. Mowing machines were just then "budding," and were looked upon with much distrust, indeed with a feeling somewhat similar to that which incited the ignorant mobs about that time to break up and burn the threshing machines. Anyway, we were obliged to stick to the scythe then, and on grand occasions, when much company was expected, my men would not scruple to meet me at four in the morning, in order to get a large breadth cut over whilst the dew was on. At this time the keeping of the pleasure ground was such as to be frequently compared to that of White Knights and Blenheim, both celebrated masterpieces of decorative gardening belonging to the Duke of Marlborough. Young men of the present day seem to think that to get into a large range of houses is the most legitimate object of their ambition, but I maintain that unless they have previously, or in combination therewith, passed through a similar probation to the above, they will find they have much to learn when the general man- cement of a large place falls upon their hands or heads.

In 1836 the late Bishop Spencer, who came to Cornbury Parle on a visit, asked Lord Churchill if I would go down to his cottage *ornée* on the edge of the moors in Derbyshire, to help him in his gardening and planting; and his lordship giving me a strong recommendation, my father felt compelled to let me go. I started at once (nearly 150 miles) for the first time from home, and it was four years before I saw it again. One can hardly realise that at that time the journey took two days, and made a very large hole in a £5 note, and that letters were charged 1s. each. The journey may now be done in one day for £1. On arriving everything looked so desolate that I thought I had made a great mistake ; but after a time I became reconciled to the adverse climate, where Green Gages might possibly ripen once in five years; where Keens' Seedling Strawberries were magnificent in August; where Oak trees became tolerably green by the end of June; where common Laurels were either killed outright, or were cut down to the ground every year by frosts which the Rhododendron ponticum and Portugal Laurel bore with impunity— all so very different from the sunny South. The discipline was, however, invaluable. Nothing came forward without the greatest care and watchfulness, and the Bishop gave me every possible encouragement. He gave me the run of his extensive library, procured Paxton's Magazine of Botany, subscribed to the Gardeners' Gazette and also the Gardeners' Chronicle as soon as they came out, and sent me over to Chatsworth with an introduction to Mr. Paxton, from whom, on several occasions, I received marked kindnesses; also to the veteran gardener at Willersby Castle, so noted for the culture of Vines in pots, and with whom I became intimate, and have often gone with him the round of his fires in the early morning before his men came. He supplied me with about fifty fine young Vines in pots, with part of which I planted a large vinery I had put up, and with the other went into pot culture, in which I was fairly successful, as the times were, such culture being then in its infancy, and looked upon as a novelty. I was presented with two guineas for the first bunch of Grapes which had been ripened within 9 or 10 miles of the place. There were plenty within two years after at Buxton, where Mr. Paxton put up one of his ridge-and-furrow houses, which succeeded admirably. In

1841, after the Bishop and Mrs. Spencer had gone to India, I thought it best to leave, and accordingly came South again, bringing with me many a hard-earned lesson of struggles with long-protracted winters of frost and snow, and other adverse influences, always, however, happy and cheerful under it all, so kind and considerate were my employers.

Having a month or two to spare before going to Knight & Perry's, which was my next destination, I shouldered a knapsack and started off on a walking tour through the counties of Warwick, Worcester, Hereford, Monmouth and Gloucester, calling at all the principal noblemen's and gentlemen's seats on the route, and meeting with invariable kindness from the gardeners I thus met; laying up a good store of names of plants, and much useful information, which I have found of great assistance in after-life.

At Knight & Perry's I went through much the same routine as that detailed by Mr. Fish; had the same experience of "Old Joe" with his stealthy tread and sarcastic language; and passed with much advantage through all the principal departments in the houses, until, in October 1842, I was recommended by Lord Churchill as head gardener to the Baroness Wenman, at Thame Park, Oxford, a place with grand capabilities if they had been fully taken advantage of. The noble park added greatly to the attractiveness of extensive and well laid out lawns and pleasure grounds, which latter, by the way, were principally designed by the Duke of Marlborough before alluded to, the groundwork of whose arrangements of flower-beds consisted of large circular beds filled with plants all of one colour, I remember there was one large circular bed which required about 300 large plants, not cuttings, of scarlet Pelargoniums; others were all Heliotropes, made grand beds. During my stay here we made great alterations in the pleasure grounds, reducing the size of some of the beds, and introducing more variety into the furnishing of them, cutting down overgrown trees and shrubs, and planting others of more eligible varieties as they came out; letting in plenty of light, and giving a brighter and more cheerful character to the whole place. In the kitchen garden, which was of fair size for the requirements, and very productive both in fruit and vegetables, there was a good range of houses. The Vines and Peaches were rather worn out, principally through overcropping, I therefore gradually renovated the Peach house with young trees. Of the largest vinery I completely re-made the border, planting young Vines; in the other, I lifted the trees which were younger, but the fruit was small and shanked much and therefore I made a new border, raising it as high as the nature of the situation allowed, replanting the Vines much shallower than before, and trusting by surface dressing to be able to keep the roots nearer the top. The improvement was very marked indeed; even the first year after lifting there was an average crop of good-sized bunches, thoroughly well-coloured, all over the house. The canes in the large house nearly reached the top the first year and at the end of three years the house was well furnished again with good fruitful rods. In the Peach-house hid great success in a novel experiment I made by potting young fruitful Cherry trees from the walls as soon the leaves fell, and introducing them at once to the Peach-house, where I forced them very gradually with plenty of air on; they were very successful, and my account of the same was copied into several papers.

In 1847 the situation at Redleaf became vacant, and my late kind employer wrote to say that I had been recommended to him to fill the place, which I was proud to accept, and in due course left Thame Park, greatly, as I was afterwards told, to her ladyship's regret.

Redleaf has been too often described in various periodicals to need any panegyric from me, I may say, however, that since it came into the hands of its present proprietor, F. C. Hills, Esq., in 1870, many great and substantial additions have been made by the planting of trees, shrubs, and conifers, of which many thousands have been distributed over a long length of shrubbery walks, which pass through rocky dells filled with thousands of hardy Ferns, and miniature lakes with aquatic plants, all of which has greatly added to the charms of Redleaf. Other great and important additions have been

made in every other department, too numerous to be mentioned here, but which have greatly increased the attractions of the place."

Mr. Cox has for some years occupied a seat on the Fruit and Vegetable Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, where his extensive practical knowledge is often turned to good account.

"COX, OF REDLEAF."—A fine old gardener passed away from us in this parish on August 30, and was buried in the country churchyard of Brading on September 2. A few words in memory of one who was so devoted to horticulture will be welcome to his many friends.

John Cox was born in the village of Buckland, in Berkshire, in November, 1814. His father was principal foreman in the gardens of Sir John Throckmorton. From thence he went to Cornbury Park, in Oxfordshire, at which place he spent the remainder of his life. The son here entered fully into all the details of his business, and besides learning the mysteries of land measurement, geometrical drawing, and such-like things, he became familiar with the management of kitchen gardens, the rotation of crops, &c., and he studied with interest the cultivation of wall fruit trees, in which he afterwards excelled. In 1836 the late Bishop Spencer, who came to Cornbury Park on a visit, took John Cox to his cottage *ornée* on the edge of the Derbyshire moors, and he had to battle there with a very inclement climate for several years. His own words about this matter are:—"On arriving at my destination everything looked so desolate that I thought I had made a great mistake, but after a time I became reconciled to the adverse climate, where Green Gages might possibly ripen once in five years, where Keen's Seedling Strawberries were magnificent in August, where Oak trees became tolerably green by the end of June, where common Laurels were either killed outright or were cut down every year by frosts—all so different from the sunny south." But the discipline was invaluable, and Mr. Cox here made the acquaintance of the late Sir Joseph Paxton, from whom he received many kindnesses. From thence he came southwards, and was engaged by Messrs. Knight and Perry, but the great achievements of his life were at Redleaf, in Kent, where he stayed till the year 1884, and where there are still many memorials of his skill in all that appertains to a garden. Trees and shrubs here by thousands speak of him—so to say—still, and splendid Conifers and fine rock-work have made these grounds the admiration of everybody who has been able to visit them. Perhaps in point of rare and beautiful shrubs, alpine and herbacious plants the gardens at Redleaf, near Penshurst, have few to surpass them. Mr. Cox wrote frequently in different peridicals on the cultivation of fruit. He was a frequent contributor to the pages of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the *Journal of Horticulture*, and other gardening papers. As a landscape gardener he had abilities of a very high order. His services were also in request as a judge at the large International and other flower and fruit shows held at South Kensington, the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, and the Crystal Palace. He was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, and for many years he served on the Fruit Committee, and in connection therewith he was one of the Associate Commissioners for the Horticultural Department in the Paris Exhibition in the year 1867.

Mr. Cox's health for several years had not been very robust, but in the summer of 1881 he had a sunstroke, and after this it visibly failed. He came to reside at The Firs, in St. John's parish, near Ryde, and latterly he has been quite incapacitated for all occupation. He leaves behind him a widow, a son, and two daughters. His son is the much respected teacher of drawing at the School of Art in Ryde, which is in connection with South Kensington. Horticulture may perhaps lose votaries who are more widely known than the subject of these few remarks, but there scarcely can be any who has given to it more untiringly the devotion of a life, and who followed out its leadings with more devotion to the end. *H. E., St. John's, Ryde.*

[We are in such thorough sympathy with the spirit and expression of this tribute that we have little to add and nothing to alter in it. Gratitude to one of our oldest contributors on whose knowledge and judgment we could always rely, and respect for a man of high, though unobtrusive character, and great professional ability induce us, however, to point to John Cox as a model worthy of closest imitation by the young race of gardeners. The respectful sympathy of all who knew him will be with the survivors; while those who only knew him by repute will experience a feeling of pride at the record of one who in his allotted career knew his work and did it. A portrait of the late Mr. Cox appeared in our number for September 11, 1875, where may be read a full and very interesting account of his career. ED.]

The Weather.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1886.

Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 50 years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
Sept.	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
9	29.76	—0.14	69.5	59.5	10.0	63.5	+ 5.4	59.7	87	S.W.	0.04
10	29.62	—0.28	65.5	50.0	15.5	57.0	— 1.0	55.6	93	S.W.	0.44
11	29.86	—0.04	67.3	49.5	17.8	57.5	— 0.3	49.9	75	Var.	0.00
12	29.87	—0.02	67.3	52.3	15.0	59.5	+ 1.9	57.1	92	SS.W.	0.00
13	29.91	+0.03	74.5	60.0	14.5	66.3	+ 8.9	56.0	70	S.W.	0.00
14	29.95	+0.07	75.0	55.0	20.0	65.1	+ 7.9	56.5	74	Var.	0.00
15	30.19	+0.32	65.0	48.5	16.5	56.4	— 0.6	46.8	70	N.E.	0.00
Mean	29.88	—0.01	69.2	53.5	15.7	60.8	+0.32	54.5	81	S.W.	0.48

Sept. 9.—Cloudy; rain till 10 A.M.; fine afterwards.
— 10.—Morning fine but dull, then heavy rain till the evening; lowest temperature at night.
— 11.—A fine day.
— 12.—A fine day, frequently dull, occasionally bright.
— 13.—A very fine warm day.
— 14.—A very fine warm day.
— 15.—Fine morning, afterwards dull and cold; minimum temperature at night.

LONDON: *Atmospheric Pressure.*—During the week ending September 11, the reading of the barometer at the level of the sea decreased from 30.03 inches at the beginning of the week, to 29.95 inches by the afternoon of the 5th, increased to 30.07 inches by 5 P.M. on the 6th, decreased to 29.76 inches by 9 A.M. on the 10th, increased to 30.06 inches by the morning of the 11th, and was 30.01 inches at the end of the week.

The mean reading of the barometer for the week at the level of the sea was 29.98 inches, being 0.09 inch lower than last week, and 0.11 inch below the average of the week.

Temperature.—The highest temperature in the shade in the week was 73°.5 on the 5th; the highest on the 11th was 67°.3. The mean of the seven high day temperatures was 69°.

The lowest temperature in the week was 49°.5 on the 11th; the lowest on the 9th was 59°.5. The mean of the seven low night temperatures 55°.6.

The greatest range of temperature in one day was 17°.8 on the 11th; the smallest was 10° on the 9th. The mean of the seven daily ranges was 13°.3.

The mean daily temperatures were, 64°.1 on the 5th; 63°.3 on the 6th; 61°.2 on the 7th; 60°.6 on the 8th; 63°.5 on the 9th; 59° on the 10th; and 57°.7 on the 11th. These were all above their averages with the exception of the 11th, which was 0°.3 below; by 5°.5, 4°.9, 2°.8, 2°.3, 5°.4, and 1° respectively.

The mean temperature of the week was 61°.3, being 5°.8 lower than last week, and 3°.1 above the average of the week.

The highest reading of a thermometer with blackened bulb in vacuo placed in the full rays of the sun was 124° on the 6th. The mean of the seven high readings was 114°.1.

ENGLAND: *Temperature.*—During the week ending September 11, the highest temperatures were 76° at Cambridge, 75° at Leeds, and 74°.2 at Nottingham; the highest at Plymouth and Sunderland was 67°, and at Bradford was 67°.8. The general mean was 70°.4.

The lowest temperatures were at Wolverhampton 39°.1, and at Truro and Sheffield 42°; the lowest at Liverpool was 49°.6, at Blackheath, 49°.5, and at Bradford, Sunderland, Preston and Newcastle 48°, The general mean was 45°.7.

The greatest ranges were at Cambridge 33°.3, at Nottingham 30°, and at Wolverhampton 29°.2; the least ranges were at Sunderland 19°, at Bradford 19°.8, and at Newcastle 20°. The general mean was 24°.8.

The mean of the seven high day temperatures was highest at Cambridge 72°.6, at Leeds 70°.4, and at Blackheath 69°; and lowest at Sunderland 62°.7, at Plymouth, 64°.9, and at Wolverhampton, 65°.2. The general mean was 66°.9.

The mean of the seven low night temperatures was highest at Blackheath 55°.6, at Plymouth 52°.8; and at Bradford 52°.5; and was lowest at Wolverhampton 46°.7, at Truro 49°.7, and at Sunderland, 50°.4. The general mean was 51°.5.

The mean daily range was greatest at Cambridge 20°.6, at Leeds 18°.7, and at Wolverhampton 18°.5 and was least at Plymouth 12.°1, at Sunderland 12°.3, and at Blackheath and Bradford 13°.3. The general mean was 15°.4.

The mean temperature was highest at Blackheath 61°.5, at Cambridge 60°.9, and at Leeds 59°.7; and was lowest at Wolverhampton 54°.5, at Sunderland 55°.1, and at Newcastle 57°.1. The general mean was 57°.8.

Rain fell on every day at Nottingham, on five or six days at most places, but on two only at Cambridge. The largest falls were 2.74 inches at Preston, 1.95 inch at Liverpool, and 1.16 inch at Bristol. The smallest falls were 0.42 inch at Nottingham, and 0.45 inch at Cambridge and Leeds. The general mean fall was 0.98 inch.

SCOTLAND: *Temperature.*—During the week ending September 11th, the highest temperature was 70°2. at Greenock; the highest at Aberdeen and Paisley was 63°.3. The general mean was 66°.0.

The lowest temperature in the week was 43°.1 at Aberdeen; the lowest at Leith was 47°. The general mean was 45°4.

The mean temperature was highest at Edinburgh 56°.9; and lowest at Aberdeen 54°.8. The general mean was 55°.8.

Rain.—The largest falls were 3.73 inches at Greenock, and 2.84 inches at Glasgow; and the smallest fall was 0.52 inch at Aberdeen. The general mean was 1.64 inch.

JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S.

Enquiries.

"*He that questioneth much shall learn much.*"—BACON.

EDIBLE FUNGUS OF NEW ZEALAND.—*T. V.* wishes to know of any book wherein he may find a chemical analysis of the New Zealand edible fungus, and where he could procure a specimen. *T. V.* is not very definite as to the particular fungus he means. Does he mean the Australian Cyttaria, or the so-called Tasmanian "Native Bread" or what?

SUNFLOWER CULTURE IN EGYPT.—A correspondent is desirous of information as to the best method of cultivating this plant in Egypt, in a locality where there is abundant rainfall from November to March, and an average temperature of 60°. For the rest of the year the temperature averages 78° Fahr. and irrigation is easy. Any correspondent with practical experience would oblige with suggestions.

Answers to Correspondents.

AZALIAS: *F. W. B.* It is well known that these plants yield a gum, but we are not aware whether it has been turned to any useful purpose.

BOOKS: *Ignoramus. A Year's Work in Garden ana Greenhouse* (Chatto & Windus).—*R. P. How to Lay-out a Garden*, by E. Kemp, published by Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew, & Co., Bouverie Street, London, E.C., is the work best suited to your requirements. As to the estimating, we do not know of any work dealing with the subject.

FERNS IN OLD MUSHROOM-BED SOIL: *Ignoramus.* The plants will not live long in such material. Get a little loam, peat, and sand; or, failing those, plant in garden-soil manured with leaf-mould and lightened with sand, if that be needed.

GRAPES DECAYING: *F. Orchard.* Your Grapes were almost completely decayed when received. We can only attribute the mischief to the close humid weather. Give more air, and apply fire-heat to make the atmosphere more bracing.

HOW TO LEVEL A LAWN: *X.* The rods are the simplest system of levelling; two rods can be placed on the old ground, and with the third the level can be easily determined at the extreme corner of the new ground. When this has been fixed, a stout pole can be driven into the ground outside the level-peg, and a line, stretched tightly from the old field round this pole, will enable the intermediate pegs to be fixed with sufficient accuracy. It will be better to work it in sections of say 20 feet, commencing at the side next the old ground and working outwards. Remove the turf from No. 1 section, and carry it outside the ground to be levelled. If the material to be used in raising the level be old clinkers, odd rubbish, or subsoil, 9 inches or a foot of the top should be reserved

COX John.

Personal Estate £1,000 9s.

10 February. The Will of John Cox late of Yew Tree Farm North Stoneham in the County of **Southampton** Yeoman who died 2 October 1885 at Yew Tree Farm was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Frederick Cox of Corhampton near Bishop's Waltham in the said County Gardener the Son and John Bull of Broughton near Stockbridge in the said County Farm Bailiff the Executors.

COX John.

Personal Estate £536 3s. 10d.

7 May. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Cox late of Southleigh in the County of **Devon** Farmer who died 29 March 1886 at Southleigh was granted at **Exeter** to Mary Cox of Southleigh Widow the Relict.

COX John.

Personal Estate £210 12s.

14 May. The Will of John Cox late of Potton in the County of **Bedford** Market Gardener who died 9 February 1886 at Potton was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Cox of Potton Insurance Agent the Son and Thomas Hall of 3 Holme-street Bedford in the said County Foreman Boiler Maker the Executors.

COX John.

Personal Estate £234 12s. 8d.

14 August. The Will of John Cox late of Park-street-West Luton in the County of **Bedford** who died 22 July 1886 at Park-street-West was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Malcolm Alexander Rankin of Wellington-street Luton M.D. and Charles Cox of Barking in the County of Essex Managing Ironmonger the Son the Executors.

COX John.

Personal Estate £149 10s.

20 August. The Will of John Cox late of Holbeach Fen in the Parish of Holbeach in the County of **Lincoln** Farmer who died 9 January 1886 at Holbeach Fen was proved at **Lincoln** by Eleanor Cox of Holbeach Fen Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

COX John.

Personal Estate £90 9s. 8d.

21 August. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Cox late of 6 Dean-street in the City of **Westminster** Cloth Warehouseman a Widower who died 8 March 1861 at 6 Dean-street was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Jane Hannah Cox of 11 Dorchester-place Blandford-square in the County of Middlesex Spinster the Daughter and one of the Next of Kin.

COX John.

Personal Estate £375.

24 September. The Will of John Cox formerly of Redleaf Penshurst in the County of Kent but late of the Firs Marlborough-road Ryde Isle of Wight in the County of **Southampton** who died 30 August 1886 at the Firs was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Sarah Cox of the Firs Widow the Relict sole Executrix.

COX John.

Personal Estate £127 10s. 8d.

30 September. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Cox late of 220 New-John-street-West Birmingham in the County of **Warwick** House Agent a Widower who died 2 May 1886 at 220 New-John-street-West was

May 10th.—One of the American imports is of a surprising nature. It consists of ladybirds—a species common in China and Japan. In the year 1902, eight colonies of them were imported and distributed among fruit-growers for test purposes. One colony was settled in an orchard containing 17,000 Peach trees, with a very much larger orchard adjoining, all the trees being infested with the San José scale, an insect which does an enormous amount of damage to fruit trees in America. In the following year a census of the ladybirds was taken—in what manner is not stated—and their numbers were estimated at between thirty and forty thousand. They had been performing in a very praiseworthy way their task of clearing off the San José scale, and the result was considered so satisfactory that great numbers of them are now being imported. Our own ladybirds are very useful in destroying aphides, but I am afraid that their appetites are hardly equal to the amount of food ready for them. Could not we import some desirable aliens?

May 11th.—Metal labels are much more frequently seen in private gardens than they used to be, one reason being that they have been greatly reduced in price, and another that they are practically indestructible, whereas the ordinary wooden label is apt to disappear in the course of a single season. They would probably be still more common were it not for the need of a special ink. This difficulty, however, may be easily overcome, for, if half a teaspoonful of sulphate of copper is dissolved in a penny bottle of ordinary ink, the resulting fluid is indelible if a quill pen is used. For a steel pen, an excellent ink for metal labels may be made by mixing one part of lampblack, two parts of sal ammoniac, two parts diacetate of copper (verdigris), and twenty parts of water. Of course, metal labels are considerably more expensive than wood. Those who prefer the latter may preserve them almost indefinitely by immersing them, first, in a solution of sulphate of iron, and then, after drying them, in a saturated solution of quicklime. When so treated, they will, with ordinary care, last for a long time.

May 12th.—The photograph shows a very beautiful arrangement of trees which would thoroughly satisfy Parsons. "In the middle ground," he says, "the really choice plant offers itself to the eye with the most inviting effect. Its weak points are somewhat hidden, and its charms are enhanced twofold by the distance that here just suffices, not only to lend enchantment to the view, but to give an adequate impression of the plant considered as a whole."

H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 236.—Mr. W. H. Cox, at the Gardens, Calcot Park, Reading.

One of the most charming seats within easy access of Reading is Calcot Park, which I visited early in April, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. H. B. Blagrave, the owner. In brilliant weather, with the fine herd of deer grazing near the mansion, on the slopes of the park, Calcot is singularly attractive. The gardens are worthy of the park, but, as Mr. Cox, the head gardener, explained soon after my arrival, utility rather than ornament is the principle persistently kept in view.

"I suppose," said Mr. Cox, "it might be said that we go in for everything all the year round, fruit and vegetables being the principal features."

Accordingly, we started with the fruit, commencing in one of the Vineries, which form a handsome cluster, with a Palm house as centre, in the kitchen garden.

"Here," he continued, "we grow Black Hamburgh, and one Vine of Muscat of Alexandria, from which we get some very good Grapes. Along the shelves we have Strawberries (Royal Sovereign), of which we force about five hundred, and the stage is filled with bedding plants, including, amongst Geraniums, Forbury Nosegay, Flower of Spring, and Vesuvius, other plants being Asters, Clarkias, and Stocks."

"What do you grow in the other Vineries?"

"In the second we have Black Hamburgh and two Vines of Buckland Sweetwater. The borders are outside, and here we have our early Strawberries. The bedding Geranium plants in this house are Mrs. Pollock and Flower of Spring, which we generally get outside about the middle of April."

"I see you have some Abutilons. What is your treatment of them?"

A VIEW IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN AT CALCOT HOUSE, READING.

"They will bear either a cool treatment or a moderately-warm one in winter, but the more they are starved the better colour they get. We pot them up in the autumn, and put them out in the beds in the summer between other plants, the foliage, which should be a mottled green and yellow, being always effective."

"How many Primulas do you go in for?"

"About a hundred in pots for flowering. I do not go in for any special variety, but I have a partiality for the Duchess, whose crimson flower in the centre, with its white edge, is, I think, very pleasing. Close to this Vinery is our newer range of pits, where Melons, Tomatoes and Cucumbers are grown. We often get two crops of Melons in the season, or about a hundred fruits in the year."

Melons and Tomatoes.

"Which is your favourite variety," I asked, as we entered the Melon house.

"We have practically never been without Eastnor Castle (the old variety), which, on account of its flavour, is so popular. I am also trying, this season, Sutton's Ringleader. The Tomatoes have just been potted up for outside work in the summer. The varieties are Princess of Wales, Eclipse, and Sutton's Winter Beauty. I have tried a great many, but could never beat these. The Celery in boxes is ready for pricking off. We grow about twelve hundred heads of Sutton's Solid White and Sutton's Superb Pink. You may like to notice that there is a hot-water pipe underneath the beds, which we find quite sufficient for heating purposes. As you see, we utilise this pit for a number of plants, including Anthuriums, Bilbergias, a quantity of Begonia Rex at the back, and Sutton's Marguerite Carnation. We find the last very useful for cutting, and plant out quantities in mixed borders during the summer."

"How soon do you generally cut your Cucumbers?"

"We cut the first to-day (April 6th); the variety chiefly grown is Sutton's Improved Telegraph, but I am making an experiment with a plant or two of Sutton's Everyday. It has been very highly spoken of, and is understood to be a very free-cropping variety. We shall get some of these Cucumbers about the middle of May. Facing the Cucumbers are about fifty Gloxinias, and the same number of Dracænas, and here, too, we have a few Pandanus Veitchii, also a few Grevilleas."

Grevilleas and Cinerarias.

"Do Grevilleas require any special treatment?"

"Cool treatment is supposed to be the best, but we subject them to any that we find convenient without any ill results."

"You have a very useful flowering house."

"I am glad you think so. The carpenter and myself planned and made it between seven and eight years ago, the chief objects in view being strength and convenience. It is sixty-five feet long by twelve wide, and there is a hot-water pipe up both sides. On the stage are about a hundred Cineraria stellata, which have been in bloom for a couple of months. We find these more useful for house decoration than the big-blooming varieties. About four dozen Spiræa japonica are forced in this house."

The Collection of Zonals.

"Which do you consider the best of your Zonal Pelargoniums?"

"Our best single is Lord Beaconsfield, but Acme is also a very pretty one. Other very good varieties are King of Denmark, Improved Raspail, Wonderful, and Henry Jacoby (doubles). Our collection of Zonals is about five hundred plants. The Crotons embrace the usual shades of colour, and we have about fifty Deutzias, which have flowered very well. The important point with Deutzias is to water them carefully. We stand them out in summer, and take them in during winter as needed."

"Do you give the Begonia metallica any special treatment?"

"No, merely the ordinary greenhouse treatment. The batch of Amaryllis now coming into bloom is from four to five years old. The opposite batch of Malmaisons consists of young plants rooted last season, the varieties being Churchwarden, Princess of Wales, Prime Minister, Mrs. Everard Grimshaw, and Mrs. de Battye. I find that Malmaisons do very well in a mixed house."

The "Cross" Plan in Peach House.

"When was your range of fruit houses built?"

"About thirty-four years ago. The Peach trees have all been renewed since them. A feature in the Peach houses is that the 'cross' plan is in force. In summer I put Tomatoes between the Peach trees in the borders, the space between each being five feet. I find the 'cross' plan most useful, because the borders can thus be made to serve two purposes. The varieties of Peaches are Prince of Wales, Bellegarde, Sea Eagle, and Violet Hative, with one variety of Nectarine—Elruge.

"In the early Vinery," continued Mr. Cox, "where Black Hamburghs only are grown, we have about two hundred pots of Maidenhair Fern, a large batch of Dracæna indivisa, more Crotons, and Tomatoes on the back shelf just coming into flower. The variety is Sutton's Earliest of All, grown in pots. With regard to the last, we have to feed pretty well, using a little guano-water and a little bonemeal for potting."

"And the late Vinery?"

"The varieties are Madresfield Court, Lady Downe's, and Muscat of Alexandria. You will observe that, in addition to the borders inside, we have a border of four feet wide outside. In this Vinery is a batch of fifty Arum Lilies in 12-in. pots, from which we have been cutting since Christmas. I repot and top-dress every other year—a plan that answers. These flowers will last until after Easter, and supply sufficient decoration for the church. On the back wall are more Tomatoes, and below about a hundred and fifty Ivy-leaf Geraniums, the varieties being Souvenir de Charles Turner and Madame Crousse, which I bedded out in the summer."

"You have also a brilliant batch of single Henry Jacoby."

"Yes, we grow about eight hundred of that variety for bedding, and about seven hundred Pelargoniums, which are very useful for groups of plants in the mansion. In the other Peach house much the same varieties are grown, with the addition of Nectarine Victoria. Of the latter, there is an old tree planted at the time the house was built. We grow about two hundred and fifty Marguerites in big pots for bedding."

An Outside Piece of Ground.

As we strolled outside, I asked Mr. Cox whether he preferred outside or inside borders for the Vines.

"I like to have both," he replied; "but, of the two, I prefer the outside border, because it gets all the sun and air. We always top-dress outside borders with eighteen inches of leaves and cover them over with stable manure. In the outside piece of kitchen garden, close to the ranges, I last year made a new Raspberry bed, and the Raspberries (Superlative) are just beginning to break. The little pits here are used for early Cauliflowers and Potatoes, Sutton's Harbinger being the best for early work. I get Potatoes about the end of May. Later on, I fill these pits with Cucumbers, and in the winter with Lettuce. The rest of this ground is used for Rhubarb, Hyacinths to cut from, Currants (Red and Black), Carrots (Sutton's Inimitable), and Strawberries."

"What does the orchard, outside the gates, contain?"

"Apple trees, which were planted twenty-five years ago. They are showing good bloom, and if we do not get late frosts the crops should be excellent, the principal varieties being Blenheim Orange, Lord Suffield, Russet, Scarlet Pearmain, Winter Pearmain, Orange Pippin, King of Pippins, and Ribston. This is the third year of the Currant trees (Raby Castle), which have been cut down twice, and replanted once. We are troubled with birds, but we keep the guns going, and therefore do not require to use netting."

"I notice that you have just begun potting Chrysanthemums."

"We grow about three hundred in thirty to forty varieties, flowering them in 'sixteens.' The best varieties, I think, are Princess Victoria, Mrs. Thompson, Monsieur Remain, Chatsworth, W. H. Lincoln, Niveus, Mrs. Beale, Richard Dean, Jubilee, Eda Prass, President, W. B. Smith, Madame Carnot, and Lady Eve Saunders."

The Inside Kitchen Garden.

"How large is the kitchen garden inside the square?"

"Two acres, and outside the walls three acres. The inside walls are covered by Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Pears, and Plums. The Apples were originally planted as espaliers forty years ago, and got into a very poor state. I cut them back two years since, and a good many have made excellent bush trees. In addition, I planted, alternately, new trees of Ribston Pippins (pyramid shape), in the top border, and, in the "cross" walk in the centre, Cox's Orange Pippin. Down one side I planted Plums in bush form, alternating with Currant trees, the Plums being Kirke's, the Currants Raby Castle. On the lower walk there is a row of Victoria Plums on the pyramid system, right along, and these, like the others, were planted at the time I cut back the Apples."

Successful Apricot Culture.

"What about the Pears down both sides of the centre walk?"

"Those pyramids were planted six years ago. I may say that the Pear crop in this district is always very inferior to the Apple crop. There is one wall almost entirely devoted to Apricots, which are fairly successful. Moor Park is not easy to beat, but Shipley's, Hemskirk and Large Early fruit well. The old Pear trees were planted, I suppose, half a century ago, and next year I hope to do away with them, and plant Apples on pyramids. The Pears are chiefly Bergamotte, Glou Morceau, and Beurré Diel."

"You have quite a Gooseberry plantation."

"Yes, but next year I propose to make some alteration, substituting Keepsake and May Duke for Golden Drop, while retaining Whinham's Industry and Lancashire Lad. The bed of Raspberries, here, I think of doing away with in a year or two."

"Is Asparagus a great feature?"

"It runs into thousands of heads, and we cut every day after we begin in the middle of May. Sutton's Reading Giant is the best variety. The Peas, just coming up, are Sutton's Green Gem, and there are also two rows of Sutton's Early Giant and Duchess of York. These are three of the best early Peas, and I grow six more varieties for later use. The Broad Beans are Sutton's Mammoth and Long Pod; the Onions, James's Longkeeping and Sutton's Improved Reading. As to other vegetables, we generally plant out about a thousand Brussels Sprouts, a thousand Broccoli, and a thousand Spring Cabbages, also a number of Carrots, Parsnips, and Shallots."

"When were your large Strawberry beds planted?"

"One three years, another two years ago, both being Royal Sovereign. The border under the wall is President, and this year I hope to get some later varieties of Strawberries. The west and south borders are planted with Potatoes, Ashleaf Kidney—a variety which, for early work, cannot be beaten."

Beyond the walls of the kitchen garden, yet forming almost a part, is another piece of ground, with a summer-house at the end. Here there are both flowers and fruit, a Rose bed, planted a great many years ago, and containing many old varieties, being faced by a number of Apple and Plum trees.

"These Apples," said Mr. Cox, "include Court Pendu Plat (a very late dessert variety, one

of the most dependable, flat, but highly coloured), and some of the other varieties already named. Nut trees cover a patch, and we get good crops of Kentish Cobs and Redskin Filberts; the wall has a south aspect, and Greengages,

WHITE PASSION-FLOWER—CONSTANCE ELLIOTT.

Nectarines, and Peaches thrive on it. On the left-hand side of the centre main walk, connecting this with the centre walk of the kitchen garden inside the walls, are six rows of American Sweet Corn, grown in pyramid shape."

"How long has it been planted?"

"Just recently. I am going to put in eight more. The Corn ripens about August, and keeps on until it is cut down by the frost. Lately, we have filled the border here with herbaceous and other plants."

"What was it before?"

"It was a ribbon border, the whole length of a hundred yards from the summer-house to the Vineries; the varieties planted include Poppies, Irises, Stocks, Asters, and Dahlias. The walk on the right between the Nut trees is planted with Anemones, Primroses, Daffodils, and hardy Ferns, while just beyond is a fine old Mulberry tree, from which we get lots of fruit. The Gooseberry bush, which you see growing out of it, also fruits. The birds must have taken the Gooseberry seed to the Mulberry tree."

The Formal Bedding.

Then, passing up the kitchen garden, and noting the pond containing goldfish, with spring flowers round, we proceeded to the pleasure gardens, which are some distance away. In front of the handsome mansion are tennis and croquet lawns, and on its walls, which are three feet thick, Roses (Devoniensis) and Pyrus Japonica thrive exceedingly.

"As to bedding," resumed Mr. Cox, "there are at present yellow and red Wallflowers, with Limnanthes, in the long beds. These are succeeded in the summer by Geraniums, Fuchsias, Begonias, and Lobelias; the bedding is the same on both sides, both in size and contents. The features of the lawn are a fine evergreen Oak, some stately old Cedars, beds of Euonymus, Lilacs, and the common Snowberry. The water, of which there is about two acres, is just outside in the park."

"The mansion, I imagine, dates back for more than a century."

"It was built in 1755, and is of considerable size, with billiard room, in addition to several reception and some twenty-five bedrooms. There is stabling for about twenty horses. Calcot Park has belonged to Mr. Blagrave's family for several hundred years."

"And you have been in his employment for a considerable time, have you not?"

"Yes, I have been in the gardens over forty years, and I succeeded my father as head gardener ten years ago. Although I have a good foreman, who has been here with me fifteen years (ten as foreman), there is too much to do, with a staff of seven, to allow of time for showing. We are satisfied if we can grow good varieties, the gardening is well done, and we get good results." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 197.—CLIMBERS.

DEAR KATE,—I hope you have plenty of climbers in your garden? There are usually places in all gardens which would be the better for draping or screening with greenery and flowers, and even in a town it is quite refreshing to come upon a house which is not bare.

But don't plant Ivy on your house (except at the back, if there are no windows there), unless you don't mind an influx of earwigs, spiders, and other insects, for the cosy little spaces between the branches of Ivy, well thatched in by thick, shining foliage, make too tempting habitations for these small fry in winter, which become a great nuisance if they can get into the house.

Flowering Creepers.

Besides which, why not have flowering creepers whilst you are about it? Green leaves are all very well if you can't get anything better, but I never can understand the rage there is for Euonymus, Box, Yews, Ivy, and such-like—which are the same all the year round, and one never has a chance of any flowers from them—when there are so many more lovely things ready to produce a mass of blossoms at least once in every twelve months.

Just now my house is wreathed with the starry white blossoms of Clematis montana, from the Himalayas, where it climbs about the Rhododendrons which clothe the mountain slopes; and what a glorious sight they must be there in their season!

Clematises are charming climbers, and you can still plant them (from pots), if you have not plenty. They will drape the walls, climb the arches with the Roses, cover the pergola, or hide and make beautiful the trunk of a dead tree; in fact, you may plant them in many places, even in a garden on the leads, or a balcony, for few plants are more perfect for covering lattice-work. But they do not like too much hot sunshine, and they do best when their stems are protected from this by the foliage of a Rose, when they will throw out the prettiest sprays amongst the Roses, which add greatly to their beauty, so that we plant a Rose and a Clematis at each post of the arches in the garden.

Clematis Culture.

Plenty of good, rich soil they should have, and some of the larger kinds need a sheltered position, for they are hybrids between Japanese and other exotic varieties, whilst others, such as C. montana, C. Jackmanni (in purple or in white), and C. Kermesina (a very beautiful variety, with crimson-velvet blossoms in profusion), are all quite hardy, as well as many other of the smaller-flowered Clematises of the viticella class, which are hardly so well worth growing.

A very fine hybrid is Etoile de Lyon, with crimson flowers five inches across. This was introduced a year or two ago from France, and is already becoming a favourite. Blue Gem is very good in tint, with blooms about four inches across; Fairy Queen is in blush-pink, barred with a deeper shade; Miss Bateman is a very large flower in French white; and Duchess of Edinburgh is a fine white double Clematis.

There are innumerable varieties in lavender, such as Lady Caroline Neville, which is still one of the best in the shade. Grace Darling is the name of a new hybrid with star-shaped red flowers, of which one of the parents was C. coccinea, a Clematis with bell-shaped blooms, which hides its tint on the inner side of its petals, and Grace Darling is therefore a great improvement on it.

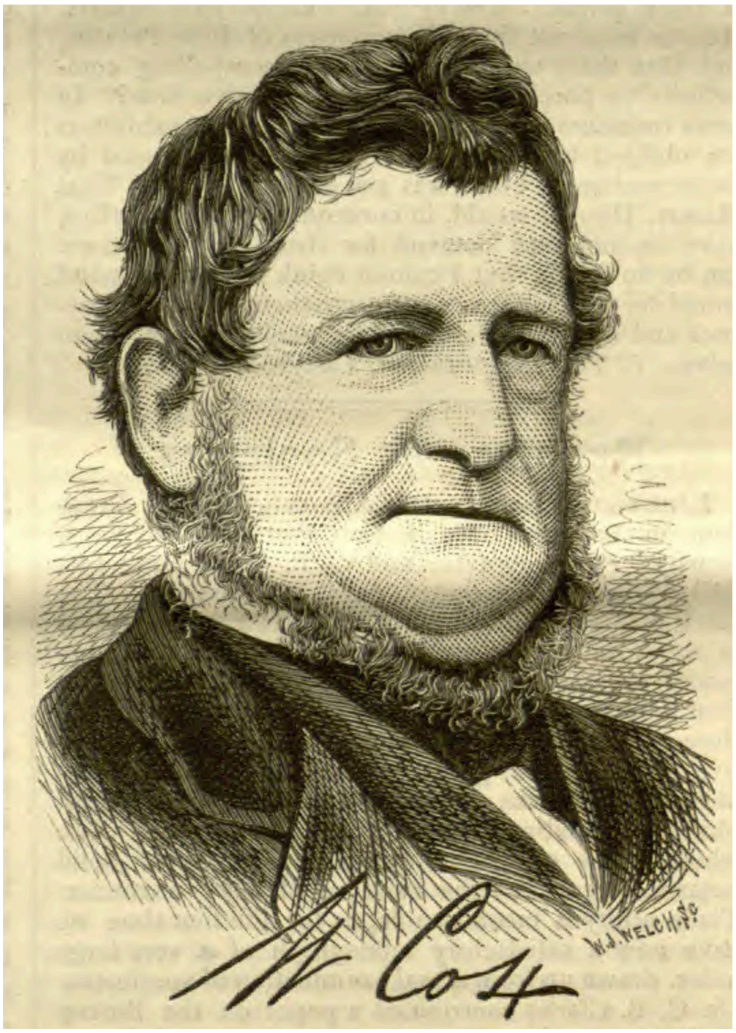
C. montana (as well as some of the rest) flowers only on last year's wood, so that it is a terrible mistake to clip off its young shoots every year for the sake of tidiness. I should advise you to ascertain for yourself whether your Clematises bloom on their new growths, or those of last season, before you attempt to prune them, and, whatever you do, don't let old John, with his favourite shears, undertake the job. The large-flowered kinds should be pruned in spring; the rest may be thinned out in the autumn, leaving as much as possible of the strong, young growths untouched.

Other permanent climbers (such as Roses, Honeysuckles, etc.) are best planted in October,

LOPHOSPERMUM SCANDENS.

A charming free-flowering climber, suitable either for the cool greenhouse or outdoor decoration.

but Clematises and Passion-flowers in spring, as they are not perfectly hardy. Passiflora cœrulea is a delightful climber for a sunny, sheltered wall, for it will produce hundreds of its delicately-tinted flowers, in white, with blue stamens in the summer; and in Devonshire these



William Cox

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 4

Mr. Cox, who is known in the horticultural world as the raiser of the well-abused Madresfield Court Grape — a Grape which only needs to be thoroughly known to be better appreciated — has the reputation of being one of our best practical gardeners, and an inspection of the gardens under his charge fully bear out this reputation, not in one, but at all points. He was born, so we learn, in the year 1822, at Ludlow, in Shropshire, his father being then, and for many subsequent years, in business there as a gardener and seedsman.

"At an early age," he writes, "I had to take an active part in the work, and learnt much of the routine of vegetable and hardy fruit culture, in which my father was then considered a proficient. Living within a few miles of the late Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq., with whom he was on terms of intimacy, I had occasionally the pleasure of going with him to see that gentleman's garden, and of hearing Mr. Knight describe the horticultural experiments in which he was then actively engaged, and which were given to the world in the Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London of that time. I may date my aspirations to become a gardener from this early period.

In my nineteenth year I left home, and, after spending a few months in the nurseries at Worcester, was engaged as journeyman by the then gardener at Madresfield, Mr. Norman McKinlay, a good practical gardener of his day. After remaining two years in this capacity I took the foreman's place, which I also held for two years. At the expiration of that time Mr. McKinlay's successor left, after a short stay of only a few weeks, and the situation being offered to me, I accepted it. Since that time I have had the honour of serving four noblemen of the same family, from whom I have invariably received every consideration compatible with my position.

On the accession of the present Earl Beauchamp it was decided to commence extensive alterations in the garden department. The kitchen garden, being very old, badly situated, and unequal to the probable requirements of a large establishment, a favourable site was selected, and the works for a new garden commenced in June, 1866. These were sufficiently advanced to admit of all the fruit houses, as also the walls, being planted early in the following spring. The soil, being a strong retentive loam on a dry sub-soil, fruit trees of all kinds do admirably, and at the present time are probably as near perfection as possible.

During the last eight years the grounds have been entirely remodelled and extended. New flower gardens and extensive plantations of ornamental shrubs, avenues, &c., have been formed, the whole of which it has devolved upon me to design and carry out. This, though a somewhat arduous and prolonged task, has been rendered so much the more pleasant by the confidence reposed in me by my noble employer, to whom I am deeply indebted, not only for the liberal encouragement I have always received, but also for many valuable suggestions in carrying out the works while in progress.

The gardens and grounds here, having received a very favourable notice from the Editors of the Gardeners' Chronicle and others during the last few years, I have only to add that in the construction of the kitchen garden my principal object was to simplify all the arrangements so as to economise labour. With this view the ground enclosed was but of moderate extent, but with high-class cultivation and a constant succession of crops the result has been an ample sup- ply to meet all requirements."

The descriptive notice of Madresfield Court Gardens to which Mr. Cox refers in the passage above quoted, will be found at p. 754 of our volume for 1872. We may quote one sentence as a concluding remark. The writer observes : — "I left Madresfield with the impression that gardening in those of its branches there practised, was carried on in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. There was a general excellence in all departments."

The recently published edition of Paxton's Cottagers Calendar was thoroughly revised and brought up to date by Mr. Cox, who was requested to undertake that work not only on account of his trustworthiness and skill as a gardener, but from the special interest he has taken in the formation and superintendence of Cottage Garden Societies and the like.

—— WE regret to record the death of Mr. WILLIAM COX, the late well-known and highly respected gardener at Madresfield Court, where he was successfully engaged for forty-two years, and was head gardener there for thirty-eight years. He has left behind him a monument in the form of the Madresfield Court Grape, which, notwithstanding its tendency to crack, is a splendid variety, and will be cultivated for years to come. The esteem in which Mr. Cox was held in the district in which he was best known was testified in a remarkable manner at the Birmingham Autumn Show last year, where he received quite an ovation. He died on the 8th inst. at the age of sixty-one years.

Portswood was proved at **Winchester** by Charles James Cox of Providence Villa Priory-road St. Denys Southampton Market Gardener the Son the sole Executor.

COX Susannah.

Personal Estate £549 14s. 7d.

3 April. The Will of Susannah Cox (Wife of Spencer Murch Cox) late of Honiton in the County of **Devon** who died 20 November 1882 at Honiton was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the said Spencer Murch Cox of Honiton Gentleman the sole Executor. Probate being granted under certain Limitations.

COX Thomas.

Personal Estate £375.

2 February. The Will of Thomas Cox late of Heathrow in the County of **Middlesex** Market Gardener who died 1 January 1883 at Heathrow was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Cox the Brother and John Clark both of Harlington Labourers the Executors.

COX William.

Personal Estate £94.

3 April. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Cox late of Stoke St. Michael in the County of **Somerset** Haulier a Widower who died 4 July 1881 at Stoke St. Michael was granted at the **Principal Registry** to William Cox of Oakhill in the said County Brewer's Workman the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

COX William.

Personal Estate £114 19s.

3 April. Administration (with the Will) of the Personal Estate of William Cox late of 48 Lorne-terrace Twerton in the County of **Somerset** Watchmaker who died 18 March 1883 at 48 Lorne-terrace was granted at **Bristol** to Emma Cox of 48 Lorne-terrace Widow the Relict the Residuary Legatee.

COX William.

Personal Estate £1,239 1s. 4d.

3 July. The Will with a Codicil of William Cox late of Madresfield in the County of **Worcester** Gardener who died 8 May 1883 at Madresfield was proved at **Worcester** by Joseph Smith Haywood Nurseryman and Abraham Pemberton Brush Manufacturer both of Broad-street in the City of Worcester the Executors.

COX William.

Personal Estate £167 19s.

12 July. The Will of William Cox late of Stuart-street Scholes Wigan in the County of **Lancaster** Labourer who died 1 July 1883 at Stuart-street was proved at **Liverpool** by James Joyce of 39 Wellington-street Scholes Grocer and James Gallagher of 2 Stuart-street Furnaceman the Executors.

COX William.

Personal Estate £578.

17 July. The Will of William Cox late of Toxteth Park Liverpool in the County of **Lancaster** who died 1 July 1883 at Toxteth Park was proved at **Liverpool** by Margaret Cox of 8 Windsor-street Liverpool Widow the Relict and Richard Atherton of 85 Selborne-street Liverpool Blockmaker two of the Executors.

COX William.

Personal Estate £1,308 1s. 7d.

25 August. The Will of William Cox late of Bognor in the County of **Sussex** Baker Miller and Brickmaker who died 8 July 1883 at Bognor was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Ellen Cox of Bognor Widow the Relict the Executrix for Life.

FAMOUS BRITISH :: GARDENS. ::

HOLE PARK, ROLVENDEN, KENT.

Interview with Mr. C. J. Cradwick.

A FEW weeks back a letter from Mr. C. J. Cradwick appeared in GARDEN LIFE, describing a wonderful new Tomato which he has raised, and to which he has given the name of Cradwick's Abundance. This aroused considerable interest, and offers to purchase the entire stock of seed of this season's saving came from several firms; but Mr. Cradwick declined them, desiring rather to distribute it among readers of this paper, to give them a chance of growing a Tomato of extraordinary productivity. When I visited him at the gardens at Hole Park, Rolvenden, early in November, I learned that nearly three hundred people had applied for and received seed; and, as he still has some to spare, he is willing to send half a dozen to each person writing for it and enclosing 3d. to cover expenses of postage, etc.

Rolvenden lies in the south-east of the county of Kent, not far from the Sussex borders—indeed, in normal times the lights of Hastings are visible to the south-west, while to the east those of Folkestone may be seen. Hole Park, the seat of Col. A. S. Barham, C.M.G., is one of the principal estates in the neighbourhood, comprising some three thousand acres, with a frontage running for miles along the main road. Most of this land is split up into farms, but the park itself contains two hundred and sixty acres, and is well wooded. The house—a fine old Elizabethan mansion—is approached by a drive, a quarter of a mile long, which is continued beyond it for another three-quarters of a mile.

"Three hundred large Oaks have been cut down already," explained Mr. Cradwick, as we started on our walk; "and the contractors who are doing the work for the Government are still engaged in clearing them away. Some of them, as you see, are close to the house, and until they are removed it is not possible to get on with the alterations which are to be carried out."

"What alterations are contemplated?"

"On this, the west side of the house, the Oaks are coming down, and the Laurels and other shrubs will be got rid of, and in their place we are going to have large flower beds, cut in grass. Colonel Barham is keenly interested in the gardens, and when things settle down is intent on enlarging them and making many improvements. Fronting the house, which faces south, a new drive will be made, under the avenue of Elms, and this will open up a splendid view from the terrace."

CLIMBERS ON THE HOUSE.

"You still have a nice show of Begonias in the beds below the terrace."

"They are tubers of Laing's strain, and are the only flowers we used, except for some Hydrangeas which were planted out. The other beds on this lawn were filled with vegetables, and I also had four of Sunflowers for poultry, but the seed was not sown in time for them to do much good, as I did not come here until last April. The fountain in the pool plays from both ends, and the jets meet in the middle. There are a number of Water Lilies, and plenty of goldfish."

"What are the climbers on the house?"

"On the front there are two double Pomegranates, whose scarlet blossoms are a beautiful sight; Magnolia grandiflora, and Wistarias, all of which do well."

"And what is on the east side?" I asked, as we moved towards it.

"The Banksia Rose covers this side, and is a mass of yellow when in bloom."

"Did you have vegetables in these beds, also?"

"Yes; we grew Carrots and Beet here, with a few Lupins to relieve the effect. On this side, too, we are going to make a clearance of trees and shrubs, and have more flowers. When the trees are down a good view will be obtained right to Tenterden, five miles to the north-east. This grand Austrian Pine, over one hundred feet high, and the huge Elms, will remain. In place of the big plantation of Laurels, Aucubas, and other evergreens, we shall have a hedge of Yews—in fact, Yews will be a feature here, for Colonel Barham is very partial to topiary work, and we shall go in for it largely as soon as we can get the trees. We have already grubbed up one long patch of Laurels, and the ground is now being got ready for Phlox, which is another favourite subject, both for cutting and for garden decoration. The lawn near the house has been mown, but those farther on have had to go during the war."

"The Rhododendrons are very healthy-looking, and full of bud," I remarked. "Is the soil specially made up for them?"

"No; it is the natural soil of the district—clay—and was not prepared in any way except by digging. They are all choice hybrids, but the one that is most effective is Pink Pearl—a fine thing. The big clump of Rhododendron ponticum just beyond grew so rampantly that it has had to be severely thinned and cut down. The sheet of water at the end of the walk is called, from its shape, the Egg Pond. It is to be made into a water garden. The shrubs are to be cleared away from the edges, and Irises, Primulas, and other moisture-loving plants will be put there."

Here we turned, and made our way towards the back of the house, passing through the Sundial Garden, which is enclosed by a Yew hedge, and has in the centre a number of small beds, edged with Box, and filled—each with a separate variety—with Polyantha Roses; around these are beds planted with Heliotrope for the summer.

GOOD ROSES.

The Rose garden, at the north of the mansion, was next visited. It is of large size, and probably has at one time been a kitchen garden, but now its walls are covered with climbers, Hybrid Perpetuals and Wichuraianas. All around it, and skirting the principal paths, are Ramblers on pillars and chains, while cut in the grass are innumerable beds, some insignificantly small, but each with its separate colour. Under the walls runs a wide border, filled with herbaceous perennials. I asked Mr. Cradwick what varieties of Roses he finds do best.

"There is no beating Madame Abel Chatenay, Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. J. Laing, and Hugh Dickson," he said; "these are always reliable. Madame Edouard Herriot is also good, and others that are more than satisfactory are Mrs. Wemyss Quin, Mrs. A. R. Waddell, Gustave Regis, Lady Hillingdon, Dorothy Page Roberts, Lady Barham, Harry Kirk, Madame Ravary, and Pharisäer. Then there is the China Rose Léonie Lamesch, which, as you see, is still flowering well. It is of dwarf growth, with a small flower, but the colour is very striking—a bronzy red with golden centre."

MR. C. J. CRADWICK AND HIS PRESENT STAFF.

On the farther side of the Rose garden, and directly facing the entrance through which we came, is an arbour, and when the clearance of shrubs is made, anyone resting here will be able to look across the valley to Tenterden.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

Passing on towards the first and smaller of the kitchen gardens, Mr. Cradwick pointed out the gardener's house, the bothy, and other buildings, built in 1914.

"The bothy has not yet been used," he said, "for the staff was reduced on the outbreak of war."

"How many does it number?" I asked.

"Three men and two boys," was the answer; "not counting one old fellow over seventy, who has worked on the estate for fifty-eight years, and has just given up; and my little son, aged five, who is always ready to help, and dons his little blue apron, and is really useful sometimes. It was formerly seven, but as soon as we can get labour it will be increased to

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twelve, as there will be sufficient to keep them all going."

"What is the present extent of the gardens?"

"About five acres of pleasure grounds, and fruit and vegetables account for another two and a half acres. There are two ranges of greenhouses, three in each, and a small stove."

"You have plenty of greens of one sort and another," I observed.

"Yes; we grow more than we want for our own requirements, but we give a lot away to the Red Cross hospital."

THE CABBAGE FAMILY.

"What is the Broccoli in this bed?"

"That is Veitch's Self-protecting. To follow it we have Toogood's Snowdrift, a very nice thing indeed, which comes in about Christmas. Sutton's Satisfaction is another very good variety, and so is Toogood's Reliance; and we finish with Sutton's Late Queen, which I like better than Latest of All—and I have grown both. In Cauliflowers I do not think you could find any better than Autumn Giant and Autumn Mammoth—both splendid stuff. We start with Snowball, and go on with Her Majesty and Sutton's White Queen, which I had not grown before, but which I like very much. The Cabbage we rely on for cutting in March is Harbinger, and we have also a good planting of Best of All. Of Savoys we have Tom Thumb, Drumhead, Best of All, and Toogood's New Year, which is one of the best I know. The Kales are Sprouting, Purple, and Exhibition Curled Dwarf. The Brussels Sprouts are Market Favourite and Dwarf Gem."

"Of course, you grow a good many Potatoes?"

"Yes; for early work we have May Queen and Sir John Llewelyn, and for maincrops, British Queen, King Edward, Up-to-date, and Arran Chief. I have no fault to find with any of them."

CHECKING POTATO DISEASE.

"Have you had much disease?"

"There has been a little, but not much."

"Did you spray to check it?"

"Some rows were sprayed, some were limed, and others left untouched. Those that were limed seemed to turn out best. The lime was sprinkled well under the foliage. I am not altogether in favour of spraying. One thing I do, to prevent the disease from spreading to the tubers, is to lift as soon as the haulm dies down. In my opinion they ripen as well as if they are left in the ground, and even if the skin is a bit tender it soon hardens. It is late in the season that the disease infects the roots, and if you lift before the autumn rains set in you avoid the risk. I also lime the tubers, and the floors and walls, when storing."

"How do you get on with other root crops?"

"Carrots are a splendid success. The varieties are Sutton's Early Gem, and Favourite—this is a very nice Carrot indeed. Beet—Blood Red and Globe—do not do so well; but we get excellent crops of Turnips, which I could not grow at Sherborne, where I came from. Model, Six Weeks, and Golden Ball are the three varieties; and we have had a row of Toogood's World's Best Swede, which I find very good. The soil is too heavy for Parsnips—Tender and True and The Student—and they come a poor shape. We also grow a little Salsafy."

"You have some nice Leeks coming on!"

"The variety is Musselburgh; but for exhibition Prizetaker is hard to beat, though Toogood's Colossal is also excellent."

"And what about Onions?"

"Dobbie's Golden Globe and Ailsa Craig are two of the best; while for general use I know of nothing superior to James's Long-keeping. I have tried most others, but prefer these."

PRODUCTIVE BEANS.

"When did you cease picking Beans—for I see you have some big rows of Runners."

"We were able to cut up to the end of October. For Runners we grow Sutton's Best of All; for dwarf, Canadian Wonder; and for earliest crops, under glass, Negro. We have also grown Climbing Haricot, Green Gem, and Dwarf Gem for drying."

"How did these bear?"

"Two rows of forty feet each of Dwarf Gem gave a bushel and a half of seed, but there were blanks in the rows, as we lost some plants after they came up. Peas do well, but we do not get late crops. We start with Sutton's Dwarf, and sow for succession Early Giant, Fillbasket, Maincrop, Stratagem, Duke of Albany, Alderman Improved, and Latest of All—but this is too late for us."

Then, after taking note of several rows of Celery, which, I was told, were Sutton's Solid White and Pink, and Toogood's Sulham Priory, I inquired concerning the fruit trees.

A PLAGUE OF SQUIRRELS.

"There is a good old Mulberry, which fruits well; and here are several Nut trees, but these are to be cut down, and Apples planted in their place."

"Do they not bear satisfactorily?"

"They bear plenty of nuts, but we are so plagued with squirrels, which take every one, even before it is ripe, that the trees are useless to us."

CRADWICK'S ABUNDANCE TOMATO.

This is the plant which bore twelve trusses and over two hundred fruits, and from which seed has been saved.

"What are the trees on the walls?"

"On the east walls are Plums, though I cannot say what they are like, for we had no fruit on them this year. There are also some black Cherries, which bore plenty of bloom, but the cold winds brought them all down. Apricots do not seem to like an east wall, for they are not very satisfactory. On the north walls are Morello Cherries, and in front of them Apples. Plums on the west wall did better, Coe's Golden Drop and Oullin's Gage cropping as well as any, though it was a poor year at best. On the south wall, inside, Peaches Royal George and Crimson Galande gave splendid crops, and so did Nectarines Early Rivers and Elruge. On the outside wall, facing south, there are Pears, and also twenty varieties on the west wall, but there has been no crop this year. The Apples, Plums, and Damsons in the orchard did poorly, and some bore nothing at all. But there is an old Brown Turkey Fig on the wall that bore hundreds of beautiful fruits. The stems are eight inches in diameter. We netted the tree."

TOMATO CRADWICK'S ABUNDANCE.

And now we entered a pit which had formerly been a vinery, but this year has housed Tomatoes, including the special plant of Cradwick's Abundance. Of course, most of the fruits had been picked, but those left were in various stages of development, and many were full sized and colouring nicely. They were of a good shape, quite round, and with no corrugations. The weight of the crop thus far had amounted to twenty-six and three-quarter pounds.* The picking did not start until August 6th, as, owing to scarcity of labour, the plants were late, and Mr. Cradwick said that if he had had another month he was confident he would have had a few more pounds. There was no artificial heat, and it was discovered, when heavy rains set in later in the season, that the corner where this best plant was growing was very damp.

"What is the parentage of this plant?"

"It is a cross between Sunrise and Bide's Recruit. The fourth truss has been the best, for altogether is has carried forty-eight fruits, and you can judge of their size and shape by those now ripening. It is from the best of this truss that I am saving the seed I am offering to GARDEN LIFE readers, and as I have still some left I can supply half a dozen seeds to anyone who would like them."

"You have, of course, other varieties of Tomatoes?" I inquired, as we made our way towards the greenhouses.

"Oh, yes," was the answer; "I grew several varieties. In this house, which contains Vines, Beans Tender and True were sown in the border, and after these were cleared off Tomatoes were planted out. But they were shaded by the Grapes, and I shall not grow them here a second time. Among the varieties that are in this and other houses are Bide's Recruit, Kondine Red, Sunrise, and Sutton's Best of All, Eclipse, and Earliest. I don't much care for Earliest, as it is not a good shape."

"What are the Grapes?"

"Black Hamburgh is one, and this has done well. Another, Canon Hall, also finished nicely, and so did Muscat of Hamburgh, which is a nice Grape for flavour; but Mrs. Pince, although it is ripening off, shows that it wanted a little heat to finish it properly. We have had no heat in this vinery, owing to the shortage of fuel."

CHRYSANTHEMUMS AND CARNATIONS.

Proceeding, we entered a house bright with Chrysanthemums, mostly Singles and Decoratives.

"In the spring," said Mr. Cradwick, "we shall use this house for Carnations. Among the Chrysanthemums that are favoured here are Ceddie Mason, bright crimson; Sylvia Slade, deep rosy red; Edith Pagram, pink; and Bronze Edith Pagram. These are Singles, and are good doers and easy to grow. Mrs. W. Buckingham is a pretty pink, but I find it is much subject to mildew. For out of doors, Market White is a splendid Decorative; while for indoors Mrs. W. E. Tricker is a deep blush; Source d'Or, golden bronze; A. J. Balfour, pink, would be splendid if it did not mildew so badly. There are a few exhibition varieties, such as Master David, His Majesty, and F. S. Vallis."

In the next house a good collection of Perpetual Carnations was staged, and at the back were Tomatoes Winter Beauty. This house, I was informed, is to be a plant house when the Carnations are transferred in spring, and a

* Writing under date November 27th, Mr. Cradwick says: "I have in all gathered two hundred and fifteen usable Tomatoes. These have weighed twenty-nine and a quarter pounds, with not one bad shape amongst them. Twelve trusses finished; each truss after every successive second leaf. The height of the plant was seven feet nine inches."

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good batch of Cinerarias was indicated as destined to be among the occupants.

"The Tomatoes would be all the better if we could get a little heat on; and I am hoping to be able to do so, and then they will go round to Christmas. The Carnations include some of the best. For a white there is nothing finer than Wivelsfield White, while Wivelsfield Wonder is a good white fancy. Bishton Wonder is a heliotrope fancy with a delightful scent, though in that respect there are few to beat the old white Niagara. Baroness de Brienen is a pink that is much liked for indoor decoration, and the family are very fond of the colour; and Triumph is one of the best crimsons. Carola has size, and I have had blooms four inches across, but it splits badly. Mikado, Mary Allwood, and Eastern Maid are very good; and I am greatly pleased with Golden Idol, a new variety of an old gold shade. Champion, Mrs. Kyffin, Mandarin, and Princess Dagmar are others that are liked. Talking of Carnations, I may mention that the Perpetual Border Carnation and Perpetual Pink (Dianthus Allwoodii) are to become a feature here eventually. I have a few already, and believe they are the coming flowers. They are wonderfully prolific, and bloom all the season."

The intermediate house, which was next visited, had a few Cypripedium insigne coming into bloom, and some Cœlogynes. There had been a nice lot of Crotons, but they were thrown out when war started. Some nice pieces of Nephrolepis and Adiantums, and four or five varieties of Fuchsia, saved for stock, were also noticed; and then we passed through to the stove, a small house, where were several pretty Gesneras in bloom, and healthy plants of Begonia semperflorens and Gloire de Lorraine. A small batch of Poinsettias—kept to provide stock later—were beginning to show colour; and there were a few miscellaneous plants likewise. Before leaving, I asked Mr. Cradwick to give me a few details concerning his professional career, and he replied:

"I started in Hollamby's Nurseries at Tunbridge Wells, my native town; and from there went to Lady Sassoon's, at Matfield. My next place was at Lees Court, Faversham, the seat of Earl Sondes; after that Sandhurst, near Tunbridge Wells. From there I went to Middleton Hall, Norfolk; and then for six years I was head gardener at Sherborne House, Sherborne, Dorset. I stayed there until last April, when I took up my present appointment."

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: Orchid-growing in London. Interview with Mr. F. W. Thurgood, at The Gardens, Rosslyn, Stamford Hill.

MY LITTLE GARDEN IN WAR-TIME.—VI.

To-day, November 7th, is the first work of any sort I have done in my little garden for fully two months, and a cold, biting east wind has been blowing all day, making work more a drudge than a pleasure. Was ever a garden in such a state of chaos? For weeks, practically from the commencement of July, with few exceptions, it has rained almost incessantly; with gales, wind, and hailstorms, and one day of thick fog.

HAVOC OF THE STORM.

Several of my Rose screens and poles are wrecked; the cover of one summer-house lies on the grass-plot; the bulk of my treasured Iris, and plants generally, are torn to ribbons, or have been reduced to pulp. The Roses in particular have been pitiable to behold. Under these conditions it is no wonder that to-day I feel disconsolate and in a despondent mood, and with the poetic pessimist exclaim:

"Hear ye no sound of sobbing in the air?
And with long face and moist eye sigh of the Ah-ness of things, and declare in my heart is grief,
And look upon Nature as passing to the tomb,
Meet subject for depression and tears."

And I really wonder am I the same gardener who sang the praises of this little garden

"With such inordinate optimism in the spring;
For extremes do ever tend to meet."

Usually I can find at least one sheltered spot in this garden, let the wind blow from what quarter it may; but to-day it is not to be, and at last I am driven indoors, and seek solace before a good fire and the peace-pipe.

And yet, is not this the very opportunity I have been waiting for so long? For are not there hundreds of notes waiting to be classified, lists to be tabulated, extracts to be taken from my rough notes made on holidays? After all, the day will not be wasted. The first notes to be tabulated are relative to

THE RAIN GAUGE.

And here is a brief extract from two of the most remarkable months in this rainy year. I wonder if any reader of GARDEN LIFE can produce a more dreadful tabulation of rainfall?

MY LITTLE GARDEN IN WAR TIME.—FIG. V. A CORNER OF THE DRY WALL.
Showing English Iris, Viola cornuta, Saxifraga umbrosa, Santolina incana—all good plants for wet weather. Overhead is an archway of Rose Dorothy Perkins.

During July, from the 1st to the 7th inclusive, were days of fine weather; from the 8th to the 31st there were only six fine days. The total of rainfall for this month was 5.47 inches, against 1.20 inches for this same month in 1917. But when we come to September, I think this will establish a record. There was only one fine day in this month, with a total rainfall of 7.27 inches, against 1.44 inches in the corresponding month of 1917.

During the first seven months of 1918 there were five heavy rainstorms. The most extraordinary was on May 22nd. From 6.45 in the evening to 4.15 of the following morning there was the unusual downfall of 1.19 inches. And when we consider that the weight of rain falling upon each acre of land amounts roughly to one hundred tons for every inch shown by the rain gauge, and add to this wind, hail, and creeping things innumerable, the wonder is that there are any plants left, let alone flowers. One feels inclined to sing Thomson's verse on the "Seasons":

"See, winter comes to rule the varied year,
Sullen and sad, with all his rising train,
Vapours, and clouds, and storms."

Then, again, let us turn to another experience dated for September in my notes—and surely "A gardener's life is not a happy one." Shortly after returning from my last holiday, I wondered what was the cause of all my seedling Columbines gradually vanishing. Then, one by one, the vegetables were going in the same mysterious way, till the Vegetable Marrows growing on the ground revealed the secret. Where or how could a wild rabbit gain entry to my little garden was the puzzling part. Though there are thousands in the woods behind my garden, there is a canal between; but "Bunny" must have travelled a considerable distance, and passed farms and kitchen gardens, before he came to mine. So what with the weather and this depredator, I concluded that luck was against me for this year. The garden will be protected in future with wire netting, though this is the first rabbit that has made its appearance during the ten years I have lived here.

The rabbit's menu is a fairly varied one. Most vegetables seem quite to his liking; but I think of all plants (whether vegetables or flowers) his choice is the Columbine (Aquilegia)—and these were a special hybrid race of Messrs. Barr's. But probably all will come up again in the coming season, for in the Alpine meadows all the flowers, including the Columbines, are cut in the summer to make winter fodder for the cows.

It would take a whole article to tell the tale of bunny's capture, but in the end my neighbour's dog caught sight of him, and there was a speedy Nemesis.

LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE.

But if these notes of mine are to be of service to the readers of GARDEN LIFE, they must have a practical application; and, therefore, I will try to give the lessons I have learned from this doleful experience. I think it was Bacon who said that

"By pain, men come to greater gains,
And by indignities to dignity;"

and one of the first experiences is the value of single flowering plants over the double flowers. Take the Roses first. The single climbers have, in particular, been grand, while the others have been reduced to a disgustingly pulpy mass. There are many exceptions, of course. For in-

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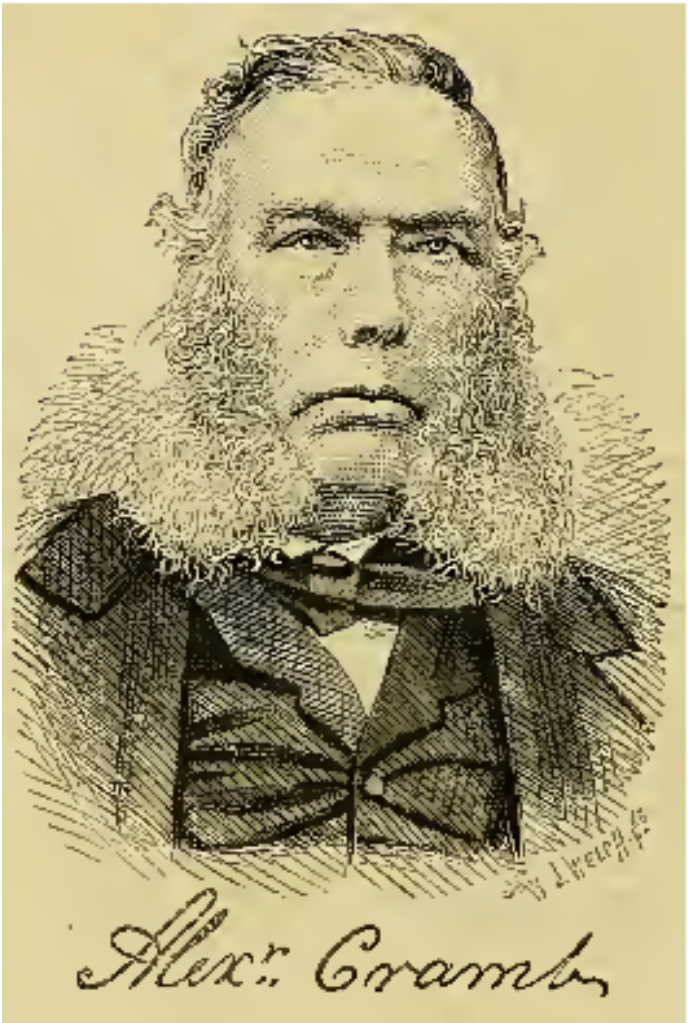


Alexander Cramb

Gardeners' Chronicle 1875, n.s. 3

“I was born in 1810, in the parish of Scone, about four miles from Perth,” writes Mr. Cramb, “and educated at the parish school. I was apprenticed in the gardens of Lord Gray, at Kinfauns Castle, then under the superintendence of Mr. Robertson. The principal ambition among gardeners at that period was not plant cultivation as we now find it, but rather to bring together the greatest number of genera and species. Kinfauns was then famous for its extensive collection of herbaceous and alpine plants, among which I spent every spare minute, preparing a hortus siccus, a much more difficult task then than now. Botanical books were both scarce and dear. We had no Gardeners' Chronicle to consult or reply to questions. The decoration of the flower garden was then in its infancy; Grape and Pine-apple culture was, in the majority of cases, in a sorry condition; had any gardener produced such specimens of either as we now see, the county would have risen en masse and presented him with an annuity.

At the expiration of my apprenticeship I went as journeyman into the gardens of the Earl of Kinnoul, at Dupplin Castle, under Mr. Shilllnglaw, an excellent gardener and British botanist. Here my love of British plants was increased, and it has clung to me through life. Owing to the Castle being burnt to the ground I remained here only ten months, as the hands were reduced to two men. Next I moved on to Edinburgh, and found employment in one of the nurseries, at wages insufficient to pay for food and lodging. Still I do not regret the many hardships I suffered, as I gained considerable knowledge of nursery routine, which I have found very useful.

My next appointment was in the gardens at Tarbert House, now the property of the Duchess of Sutherland, under Mr. Henderson. There was little or nothing to be learned here, so after a term of eighteen months I started for London. One thing I may notice, which is rather unusual in that northern county—the Fig and Apricot ripen thoroughly on the open wall of the kitchen-garden.

My first place in England was in Essex, where I remained a year; and then went as foreman in the garden of Lord Portman, under Mr. Rogers, an excellent Grape and Pine grower. After remaining three years I returned to London, and then to Scotland, owing to domestic matters. Subsequently I found employment in the nursery of the late Mr. Cunningham, at Comely Bank, near Edinburgh, then famous for new plants, and fortunately was placed in the houses, where I secured a knowledge of propagation, in which at this time Mr. Cunningham had few equals. Heaths were struck by thousands by a very simple and unpretentious plan. I may hereafter describe the system, if thought to be useful, [Please do.] Here I remained for eighteen months, and left to lay out a villa garden in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. The entire space was devoted to pleasure-ground and plant-houses. During the winter months I attended the evening classes at the School of Arts—chemistry, natural philosophy, and architectural drawing—and have ever found the information I gained of essential service. Our lectures were in every sense practical, each fact being proved by direct experiment. For instance, we were told that boiling steam and boiling water are, according to the test of our ordinary thermometers, exactly of the same temperature—212°; but that this is incorrect, as boiling steam is very many degrees in advance, containing what is frequently called latent caloric (insensible or hidden heal), as may be clearly proved by converting the vapour into a fluid by introducing the steam through a tube into a body of cold water. Another experiment I may mention is possibly more beneficial to gardeners, and clearly shows us that we should never trench or dig into the ground frozen earth or snow. In proof of which a piece of ice was placed at the bottom of a glass tube and covered to a considerable depth with hot water. Here it remained for a very long time before being dissolved, as heat descends slowly. But reverse the experiment and the ice quickly disappears.

Dr. Lindley's Theory of Horticulture, which was published at this time, raised horticulture almost to an exact science, providing us with a knowledge of the natural

action of plant life and its requirements, and so demolishing that huge monster—empiricism.

I remained at Comely Bank five years, and after a short space went as gardener to II, G. G. Ludlow, Esq., at Heywood House in Wiltshire. I found the garden in a sad condition, the fruiting Pine plants without a live root, and the foliage from top to bottom covered with white scale. Any remedial measure would have been useless. The young stock was nearly as bad, but easier managed, owing to its small size. It was evident they must undergo a cleansing process, and for this purpose I made a liquid of solt soap and turpentine, and thickened by soot; I had each plant dipped singly in the solution, keeping up a continuous temperature of 150°, which proved effectual, as not a scale was seen afterwards. All the heating material was cleaned out, and the pits whitewashed in case of infection. The Vines were not a whit better; the young growths were not stronger than a good-sized Oat-straw, and they had scarcely any roots, so I had no alternative but removal, remaking the borders, and planting a young stock. The Peach trees on the open wall were sadly out of order; very few fruit had been produced for many years past. And how could they be productive?—the border was of a heavy clay without drainage, so that the yearly produce was strong watery wood, less or more destroyed during winter. During the last week in September I had them carefully removed and planted on a prepared border, and merely fastened to the wall. So soon as the buds began to push in spring, the gross wood was removed or cut back to a couple of eyes to fill up vacancies. This plan had the effect of bringing the trees into a sound and fruitful condition. Every other department, as time would permit, received its full share of attention; and even now I have to thank Mr. Ludlow for his kind and unvarying support.

On leaving Heywood, after a residence of over nine years, I entered the service of Earl Ducie, who had a new kitchen garden in progress. The majority of the fruit houses had been built. The additions since that time consist of three Melon-houses, two Fig-houses, a greenhouse, an Orchid-house, and an intermediate house, principally for Ferns; as well as several ranges of pits. Latterly 100 feet of an Apricot wall has been cased with glass, as a mere protection against spring frosts, which has the effect of securing heavy crops yearly. The Vine borders had been made and planted, but in no instance were the crops satisfactory; I fought on with them for years without the least amendment, the Muscat of Alexandria offering the most resistance. As a last resource I had the Vines lifted, and made a change from calcareous soil to that of the new red sandstone, and ever since they have expressed their gratitude. When planting the fruit trees in the kitchen garden I have invariably grouped every kind by itself, which in several instances is a convenient arrangement, enabling me to protect in the smallest compass against spring frosts, wasps, and birds.

The greater part of our walls are built a foot deep upon a dry foundation, which keeps them warmer by preventing the ascent of moisture by capillary attraction. No Apples are grown in the kitchen garden; the whole of the borders by the walk sides, with the exception of a few Plums, are occupied with dwarf trained Pears worked upon the Pear stock. Here, as elsewhere, every fruit is correctly named, the names being impressed on lead by steel types.

Our collection contains over fifty varieties, and the selection has been made with much care. The entire kitchen garden was, in the first instance, trenched 30 inches deep—a refuge for the roots of both vegetables and trees during the late dry summer. Just on the outside, 3 acres of ground have been set apart as an Apple orchard. This is of a variable texture, the soil of one part is light and brashy, and the other a heavy marly clay, and well drained. On the former the trees are subject to canker, particularly the Ribston Pippin, whereas on the latter it is quite free, and yearly bears heavy crops of excellent quality. We cultivate about seventy kinds, which give an abundant supply so long as

Apples are useful. As a late dessert fruit, none equals Sturmer Pippin, which is juicy and crisp to the last.

In every instance our fruit trees are dwarf, trained, as the blossoms and fruit are afforded more protection, and more particularly on high situations. A few years ago we had an immigration of the American bug, which at one time threatened to do us considerable damage. We have, however, by perseverance and the use of paraffin oil, been able to kill the major part. It is sometimes said that this oil is injurious to the tree, but it is really not so. I suspect this pest came from some of the neighbouring farm orchards.

For more than eleven years I have regularly devoted one evening weekly for the instruction of my young men who chose to attend, taking up such subjects as were likely to benefit them hereafter. With some this was a pleasant task, and with others it proved a continued struggle to fix their attention. In the case of the majority the sight of a book, particularly if requiring the exercise of any mental effort, was about as palatable as a dose of bitter aloes.

The flower garden, arranged purely in the geometric style, is situated on the south side of the Court, bounded by terrace walls, and overlooking the lake. The pleasure-ground is extensive, and planted with choice trees and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen, which in the course of time will produce a striking feature throughout the place. Tortworth possesses an extensive collection of Coniferae, but no attempt has been made to form a pinetum; the different species have been planted on a variety of soils and situations, to prove which is best adapted to their requirements. Some kinds, indeed the majority, dislike the limestone, while none refuse the red sandstone; the Wellingtonia treats the greater part with indifference."

things of taller growth that would have to be used in a large garden.

Supposing a garden has a long border on one side which is open to the sun, say 4 feet or so in width—here is scope for making a pretty display with annuals. Along the back might be planted Sweet Peas, Convolvulus major, Tropæolum aduncum (Canary-flower), and tall Lupines. A few bunches of pea-sticks should be employed for the climbing annuals to attach themselves to. If these could alternate with Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Foxgloves, Delphiniums, and the taller growing Michaelmas Daisies, the display would be varied and continuous. Then in front of these might come such good things as Malope grandiflora, crimson, and the new rose-coloured variety, which is very pretty; the double white and double yellow Chrysanthemums, the admirable and useful hardy annuals—Coreopsis Drummondii, yellow; C. grandiflora, yellow and dark; and C. nigra speciosa, dark crimson; Erysimum Peroffskianum, orange; Godetia, The Bride, white and carmine; and G. Whitneyi, white and crimson; double Larkspur, Oxyura chrysanthemoides, Linum grandiflorum rubrum, Schizanthus pinnatus, and Whitlavia gloxinoides. Then the dwarfer varieties already enumerated would come into the front, with such other plants as would be likely to do well among the annuals. What an interesting garden this would make, and it would also be very instructive.

A very small quantity of seeds of some of these annuals suffices for several sowings, and by means of a little expenditure of attention and labour successional sowings might be made during the summer, thus continuing and prolonging the display. Directly any one batch begins to decay, out with it, and make another sowing: growth soon takes place, and annuals are speedy bloomers.

And this leads up to the matter of preparing the soil for sowing. Annuals are very often disappointing, simply because they are sown under conditions deadly hostile to their well-being. A sower goes forth to sow on some hard piece of ground, caked by drying winds, and burnt by the sun. He simply contents himself by stirring the surface soil ever so slightly, sows the seed, covers it very thinly with a coating of earth, and calls it sowing. What is the result? The seeds lie till a shower of rain falls, then they spring up weakly, grow imperfectly, flower sparingly and disappointingly, and the conclusion reached is—I shall not attempt to grow annuals again. How can annuals be expected to behave themselves well under such circumstances? Simple as they are, they are yet messengers charged with the tenderest messages of love and beauty from the bountiful heart of Nature, and they should be properly received and tended by those to whom they are sent.

The soil for annuals should be as carefully prepared for them as for any other garden crop. It should be deeply dug, crumbled to pieces, and then have mingled with it some rich soil to make it kindly in nature, invigorating and holding; and then the seeds carefully and thinly sown, a little of the fine rich soil laid on the top, and the whole gently pressed down, and sprinkled with water if the weather be dry. The seeds cannot fail to grow if there is any power of vitality in them, and the plants are strong and bushy. And while they are making growth, if the weather continue dry, let it not be thought too much trouble to sprinkle the plants occasionally with water, and protect them as far as possible from the ravages of slugs and such-like. All this nurture is a kind of promising investment; in due time it will be repaid with a welcome harvest of flowers.

Then there is the matter of thinning out the plants. This duty is sadly neglected. Very often a large number of plants in a very small space are left to struggle for existence as best they can, and with a disheartening result; but if they were thinned out to a few of the strongest, there would yet remain enough. A few vigorous plants is far preferable to a number of attenuated ones; the stronger will bloom more abundantly, with a superior excellence, and a surer gratification to the cultivator.

Obituary.

We deeply regret to announce the sudden death, on April 27, of Mr. Alexander Cramb, gardener to the Earl of Ducie, Tortworth Court, Gloucestershire. Mr. Cramb, whose portrait and autobiography we had the pleasure to publish in our issue for June 5, 1875, had been gardener to the Earl of Ducie for many years, and was held in high esteem by his noble employer, as well as by a large circle of horticultural acquaintances. It had been arranged, we believe, that he was to retire from the management of the gardens at Tortworth at midsummer next; and his friends, were looking forward to his enjoyment of a well-earned pension, when he suddenly died of heart disease in his sixty-eighth year.

—— On May 1, at Wimbledon, John Russell Reeves, F.R.S., F.L.S., of Woodhayes, Wimbledon, and Huntsland, Sussex, formerly in the H.E.I.C.S. in China, aged 73. Mr. Reeves when in China was the means of introducing several fine plants to this country, some of which, such as Reevsia thyrsoidea and Spiræa Reevsii, bear testimony by their names to the good service he rendered to botany and horticulture. Mr. Reeves was, a few years since, a member of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, and was always a zealous patron and promoter of horticulture, while his amiable manners and consistent principles procured him the respect of all with whom he came in contact.

The Weather.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
For the Week ending Wednesday, May 9, 1877.

Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 60 Years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 5th Edition. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
May 3	29.93	+0.17	52.6	31.6	21.0	39.0	−11.4	36.7	92	N.: N.N.E.	0.00
4	29.82	+0.06	50.0	28.3	21.7	37.1	−13.7	31.3	80	E.N.E.: N.E.	0.03
5	29.67	−0.09	54.0	28.6	25.4	39.7	−11.5	31.2	72	S.E.: N.E.	0.00
6	29.65	−0.10	54.8	32.3	22.5	41.5	−10.1	33.6	74	E.S.E.: N.E.	0.00
7	29.60	−0.15	56.3	32.7	23.6	47.5	− 4.2	36.7	67	E.N.E.: E.S.E.	0.00
8	29.48	−0.26	69.0	35.4	33.6	50.0	− 1.6	38.7	66	E.N.E.	0.00
9	29.34	−0.41	67.5	44.9	22.6	54.3	+ 2.8	41.9	63	S.E.: S.: S.S.W.	0.03
Mean	29.64	−0.11	59.2	33.4	25.8	44.2	− 7.1	35.7	73	E.N.E.	sum 0.00

May 3.—Fine and bright till 11 A.M., overcast and dull till evening, then cloudless. Few drops of rain in afternoon. Cold.
— 4.—A fine day, very cloudy at times. Raw cold.
— 5.—A fine bright day, partially cloudy. Cold.
— 6.—A very fine clear day. Cold wind.
— 7.—A very fine pleasant day, but cool.
— 8.—A brilliantly fine day. Warmer.
— 9.—A fine bright day, warm. Overcast at night. Few drops of rain about 8 P.M.

London: *Barometer.*—During the week ending Saturday, May 5, in the vicinity of London the reading of the barometer at the level of the sea increased from 29.83 inches at the beginning of the week to 30.40 inches by the evening of May 1, decreased to 29.85 inches by the afternoon of the 5th, and was 29.86 inches at the end of the week. The mean reading for the week at sea level was 30.10 inches, being 0.23 inch lower than that of the preceding week, and 0.14 inch above the average.

Temperature.—The highest temperatures of the air observed by day varied from 54° on the 5th to 48° on May 1, the mean value for the week being 51½°. The lowest temperatures of the air observed by night ranged from 28¼° on May 4 to 40¼° on April 30; the mean value for the week was 34½°. The mean daily range of temperature in the week was 17°, the greatest range in the day being 25½° on May 5, and the least 11¼°, on April 29.

The mean daily temperatures of the air were as follows:—April 29th, 44°.6; 30th, 44°; May 1, 40°; 2d, 42°; 3d, 39°; 4th, 37°.1; 5th, 39°.7; and the departures in defect of their respective averages were:—4°.5, 5°.4, 9°.8, 8°.1, 11°.4, 13°.7, and 11°.5. The mean temperature of the air for the week was 40°.3, being 9°.2 below the average of observations extending over a period of sixty years.

The highest readings of a thermometer with blackened bulb in vacuo, placed in sun's rays, were 100¾° on April 30, 103° on May 4, and 125° on the 5th; on April 29 the reading did not rise above 59°. The lowest readings of a thermometer on grass, with its bulb exposed to the sky, were 27° on May 3 and 4, and 23° on the 5th; the mean of the seven low readings was 31¼°.

Wind.—The direction of the wind was N.E., and its strength gentle. The weather during the week was generally dull, dry, and very cold for the season, the sky was mostly cloudy.

Rain fell on Sunday, April 29; the amount measured was 0.22 inch.

England: *Temperature.*—The highest temperature of the air was 64° at Portsmouth, at Bradford 50¼° was the highest temperature in the week; the mean value from all stations was 54°. The lowest temperatures of the air were 22½° at Cambridge, and 25° at Eccles; at Plymouth 35½° was the lowest temperature; the mean from all stations was 29¼°. The range of temperature was the least at Liverpool, 18¼°, and the greatest at Cambridge, 33¾°; the mean range of temperature from all stations was 24½°.

The mean of the seven high day temperatures was the highest at Portsmouth, 56¼°, and the lowest at Sheffield, 46½°; the general mean from all stations was 50¼°. The mean of the seven low night temperatures was the lowest at Eccles, 30¾°, and the highest at Plymouth, 38½°; the mean value from all stations was 35°. The mean daily range of temperatures was the greatest at Eccles, 20¼°, and the least at Norwich, 11°; the mean daily range of temperature from all stations was 15¼°.

The mean temperature of the air for the week from all stations was 41°, being 3½° lower than the value for the corresponding week in 1876. The highest occurred at Portsmouth, 45¼°, and the lowest at Wolverhampton and Sheffield, both 38¾°.

Rain.—Scarcely any rain fell during the week. At Blackheath a quarter of an inch fell, but at most other places little or no rain was measured. The average fall from all stations was three-hundredths of an inch only.

The weather during the week was dull, cold, and dry, and the sky cloudy. Snow fell at Bradford, Hull, and Sunderland on May 3, 4, and 5.

Scotland: *Temperature.*—The highest temperatures of the air varied from 55½° at Edinburgh to 50½° at Aberdeen; the mean value from all stations was 54°. The lowest temperatures of the air ranged from 27° at Perth to 33° at Leith; the general mean from all stations was 30¼°. The mean range of temperature from all stations was 23¾°.

The mean temperature of the air for the week from all stations was 40¾°, being 5¼° lower than the value for the corresponding week in 1876. The highest was 42½°, at Greenock, and the lowest 39½°, at Aberdeen.

Rain.—The amounts of rain measured at Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Leith were 0.04 inch, 0.08 inch, and 0.06 inch respectively; at Dundee, Greenock, Paisley, and Perth no rain fell; the average fall from all stations was 0.03 inch.

Dublin.—The highest temperature of the air was 56½, the lowest 28°, the range 28½°, the mean 44½°, and the fall of rain 0.08 inch.

JAMES GLAISHER.

Law Notes.

A Salesman's Dispute.—*Thomas* v. *Carrey.*—This was an action brought by one salesman in Covent Garden against another salesman to recover the sum of £6, under the following circumstances. The plaintiff—or whom Mr. R. Bartlett, solicitor, of Bedford Street, appeared—stated that on the 12th of January last he sold the defendant ten crates of Broccoli, at 9*s.* 6*d.* a crate, and that they were delivered according to order, but only two crates were accepted and the rest returned to the plaintiff, who refused to receive them, and on application being made for payment the defendant refused to pay; hence the present action. The plaintiff corroborated his solicitor's opening, but, in cross-examination by Mr. Lawrence, the defendant's solicitor, admitted having received £47, £52, £28, and other sums subsequently, and not alluding to the present claim.

The solicitor for the defence urged that his client was in no way liable, as the goods were not what he bought. Those he saw were quite fresh, but those received were not fit for human food, being completely rotten. E. Carrey, the defendant, said the plaintiff introduced some Broccoli to him which were very good. Two crates were sent at once, but when the eight arrived, he could not sell them. The price agreed upon was 9*s.* 6*d.* per crate, and the next day he sold two crates to a costermonger for 2*s.* 9*d.* each, as they even were not fit for sale in the market at 12*s.* 6*d.*, which was the market price on the day.

In cross-examination by Mr. Bartlett, the defendant said it was not an unusual thing to buy goods in the market upon the representation of a fellow-salesman, but in the present instance he considered he had been imposed upon, and thought he was justified in

as Executrix Dative quâ Next of Kin of Alexander Scott Craik formerly of Idol-lane London afterwards of Glen Allan House who died at Glen Allan House 5 May 1877.

CRAIK Charles.

Effects under £7,000.

Resworn March 1877 under £8,000.

17 February. The Will of Charles Craik formerly of Great-Winchester-street in the City of London but late of 150 Southgate-road De Beauvoir Town Islington in the County of **Middlesex** Gentleman who died 20 January 1877 at 150 Southgate-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Jane Craik of 150 Southgate-road Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

CRAMB Alexander.

Effects under £1,000.

5 June. The Will of Alexander Cramb late of Tortworth Court near Wotton-under-Edge in the County of **Gloucester** Gardener who died 27 April 1877 at Tortworth Court was proved at **Gloucester** by William Cramb of Melton Constable in the County of Norfolk Land Agent the Son one of the Executors.

CRAMP George.

Effects under £100.

11 September. The Will of George Cramp late of Bridge-street Margate in the Isle of Thanet in the County of **Kent** Brewer who died 24 April 1869 at Bridge-street was proved at **Canterbury** by Charles Stephen Woodruff of Kingsgate near Margate Gentleman the surviving Executor.

CRAMP Harriett.

Effects under £1,500.

Resworn August 1878 under £3,000.

12 December. The Will of Harriett Cramp late of 134 Devonshire-road Holloway in the County of **Middlesex** Widow who died 8 November 1877 at 134 Devonshire-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Albert Henry Clark of 3 Southampton-street Fitzroy-square in the said County Gentleman and Henry Leander of the Inrolment Office Chancery-lane in the said County Office Keeper the Executors.

CRAMP Peter.

Effects under £100.

24 March. Administration of the effects of Peter Cramp late of St. Sebastian in **Spain** Widower who died 16 November 1859 at St. Sebastian was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Emma Halsted of Preston near Brighton in the County of Sussex Widow the Sister and one of the Next of Kin.

CRAMPHORN James.

Effects under £80.

10 January. Administration of the effects of James Cramphorn late of Merstham Redhill in the County of **Surrey** Widower who died 16 November 1876 at Merstham was granted at the **Principal Registry** to James Cramphorn of Merstham Commercial Clerk the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

CRAMPIN Joseph.

Effects under £200.

28 February. The Will of Joseph Crampin formerly of Aston Clinton but late of Chapel House Waddesdon both in the County of **Buckingham** Baptist Minister who died 2 February 1877 at Chapel House was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Lot Ginger of Aston Clinton Farmer the sole Executor.

a mystery. Self-sown Shirley Poppies are also more abundant, many of them already of considerable size. There will be no need to sow seeds of these or many other hardy annuals this autumn. I notice, too, quite a number of young plants of perennials, such as Del-

MR. J. W. C. GRAY.

phiniums. Here and there, pods had been left to ripen, and some of the seed must have fallen before it was gathered. To the dry weather the seedlings probably owe their escape from slugs. For outdoor Tomatoes it has been a wonderful year. In one part of my garden manure was used which must have contained some seeds, for young Tomatoes sprang up in all directions and grew like weeds. Beyond some thinning and stopping, they have received no attention, many of them sprawling about on the ground, yet they have borne and ripened an excellent crop. If we could rely on such summers as we have just had, glass would be quite unnecessary for Tomatoes—they could be grown as easily as Turnips or any other vegetable. There cannot be much doubt that plants grown entirely out of doors—from seed to fruit—must be hardier than others raised under glass in heat, and by selection we may yet hope to get a race which can be trusted to produce a fair crop outside in an ordinary English season. That, however, is more than we can say at present.

September 20th.—My Lettuces have been tumbling over in a most exasperating way. On examination, each plant is found to have been severed, or almost severed, just at the surface of the ground, and the result of scraping away a little soil brings to light a "leather-jacket," the grub of the crane-fly or daddy-longlegs. These insects do an immense amount of damage, and are most difficult to get rid of. The application of soot or lime cannot be said to be really effectual, and trapping them with pieces of Turnip or Potato is laborious in any case, and, for any but a very small area, impracticable. Fowls will devour the insects, but cannot be turned loose among Lettuces. Nothing remains but to destroy the grubs as soon as they have disclosed their position by destroying the plants—hardly a satisfactory remedy.

September 21st.—The illustration shows admirably the effect to be aimed at in constructing a rock garden. The rocks look as if they had been laid bare, or brought to their present position, by the agency of water. Even in a small rockery this idea should be kept in view. The thing to avoid is a mere jumble of stones.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 246.—MR. J. W. C. GRAY, AT THE GARDENS, CONDOVER HALL.

AMONG the numerous beautiful seats in the fair county of Shropshire, Condover Hall, the residence of Mr. E. B. Fielden, takes a foremost place. Within five miles of Shrewsbury, it has for a background the hills of Church Stretton, and it also stands in a commanding position. The fine Elizabethan mansion is approached from the main road by a short carriage drive, and it is at once apparent that English Yews are a feature of the pleasure grounds. As Mr. Gray, the head gardener, pointed out, on my arrival on a bright afternoon towards the close of July, there are eight Yews on each side of the drive.

"But of these," he continued, "I will say more presently. Among the trees on the lawns on either side of the carriage drive are rather fine specimens of Cedrus atlantica, Cedrus deodara, Cupressus Lawsoniana, and C. retinospora; also a very fine one of Wellingtonia gigantea."

A Favourite Sweet Pea.

After I had spent a little time in looking at the trees, and at a fine clump of Yews close to the Hall, we strolled into a small garden at the side, where Sweet Peas in clumps of one variety were flourishing.

"Your soil appears to suit Sweet Peas," I said.

"Yes, they do remarkably well in it. As you see, I grow them in round rings, having each colour by themselves; the advantage is that they are handy to get at. The varieties are all good, but Salopian is one of the best. Others, if you would like a dozen, are Countess Spencer, Sadie Burpee, Gorgeous, Dorothy Tennant, Duke of Westminster, Mars, Coccinea, Venus, Black Knight, Blanche Burpee, and Lottie Hutchings."

"Have you any special varieties in the bed of Dahlias beyond?"

"No. We only grow Dahlias for church decoration, Roses being grown behind."

"I notice that you have a hedge of Lavender facing the Sweet Peas, and that is a capital specimen of Crimson Rambler on the wall."

"Fortunately, this year it is free from blight, which sometimes gives us a good deal of trouble."

The Terraces.

Then we proceeded to the terraces, and here the Yews were a blaze of gold.

"How many are there on the terraces?" I inquired, as I admired the effect.

"Twenty-two. We do not clip them until the middle of September, because they look so beautiful."

"Will they bear shifting?"

"Oh, yes, and do well afterwards. As you perceive, they differ in size, but we cut them all round. The cutting is done by hand."

"I never saw Yews present a more charming picture."

"There are more in other parts of the grounds."

"The scarlet of the Henry Jacoby Geraniums in the terra-cotta vases show up well amid the green. How many vases do you fill?"

"Twenty, in different sizes. We always place them on the pillars of the stonework on the first terrace, immediately in front of the Hall. Mixed with the Geraniums are Lobelias, and a few Eulalias. There is a bit of carpet-bedding at the south entrance to the terrace, with one of the Succulent plants, Echeveria, as a feature."

"What does the very striking piece of stonework near represent?"

"A hermit clinging to a flag. The face is cut out of solid stone, and the hands are considered particularly good. It has been here ever since the mansion was built, some three hundred years since."

"The bedding on the west side of the terraces is rather elaborate."

"It was designed many years ago. Here, again, English Yews are greatly in evidence, Hollies (Silver Queen) and Junipers being also used. In each case the two triangles form a square, and inside are Cotoneasters. The Box hedges, with a cone in each corner, are a part of the design."

"There are two splendid Golden Yews here."

CONDOVER HALL—THE FRONT DRIVE.

"They are two of the best. Golden Yews are also on one side of the beds, in pairs, while behind these are numerous trees, including a notable specimen of the evergreen Oak."

Features of the Bedding.

"And the bedding itself?"

"There are five beds between each square, two corresponding. In the centre beds are Souvenir de Charles Turner Geranium, Ivy-leaved Geranium Golden Harry, large-flowering single Begonias, and blue Lobelias. Some of the side beds contain Cannas in the centre, quartered with Flower of Spring and Henry Jacoby Geraniums, edged with Alyssum compacta. I can get the Alyssums from seed, but I find that cuttings do better, and they are very free-flowering and graceful, as well as sweet-smelling. Of the remaining side beds, one consists of Crystal Palace Gem Geranium, and the other of Henry Jacoby, and these are edged with two rows of Box hedges."

"You have Irish Yews, I see, on either side of a large piece of bedding on the lawn."

"There are twelve, which have been cut into shape, with three vases on either side, the latter containing Rosa polyantha multiflora, with Golden Feather and blue Lobelias. As to the beds, there are two of Crystal Palace Gem Geranium, edged with Box, one containing only Henry Jacoby Geranium; and two diamond-shaped beds, with Lobelia cardinalis, small-flowering Begonias, Golden Harry Geraniums, and blue Lobelia, edged by a double row of Box."

"The Beech trees make a good background for the flower beds."

"Speaking of trees, you might add that here there are also more specimens of Oaks, a fine specimen of Retinospora tetragena aurea, two large Elms, some Horse Chestnuts, and several more Golden and Irish Yews."

A Rare Magnolia.

"You have not included the Magnolia?"

"No, but that is well worth a note. It is a rare tree, and the variety is Hypolmen glauca. It is a foliage rather than a flowering tree, and the flowers, which are white, do not expand much. The Tulip-tree beyond is Liriodendron tulipifera. There is also a very fine specimen of Ailanthus glandulosus (Tree of Heaven)."

"You have Golden Yews behind the Rose beds, and in the background two fine deodara Cedars."

"I think there are fifteen there, and alongside them a number of vases containing Chinese Roses."

"Perhaps you could tell me now how many Golden Yews you have in the pleasure grounds."

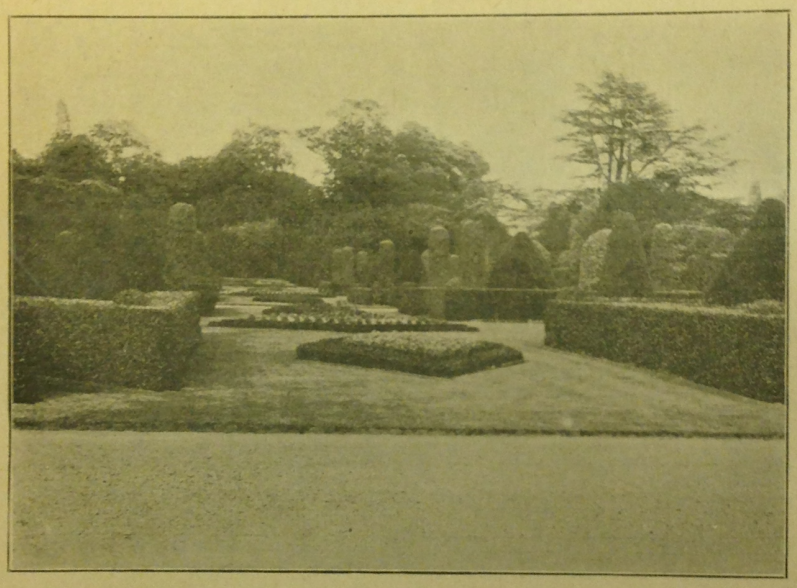
"About eighty. I believe this is the finest collection in the country. You will observe that beyond the Rose beds there is a Yew hedge of great height and width, which is kept closely clipped."

The Rose Beds.

"Do you go in largely for Roses?"

"There are four beds, and in each of the big ones there are about sixty bushes. The system adopted is a mixture of sorts in each bed. The varieties, which are rather numerous, include Her Majesty, Mrs. John Laing, Grand Mogul, Merveille de Lyon, Ulrich Brunner, John Hopper, Margaret Dickson, La France, White Niphetos, Madame Morel, and Robert Duncan."

"In the spring," continued Mr. Gray, "I took up a large bed of Rhododendrons and planted Roses instead. There are six arches of pillar Roses, three in each bed, the varieties in the beds being Hybrid Teas, and including Bardou Job, Francisca Kruger, Madame Lambard, The Bride, Madame Falcot, Catherine Mermet, Princess of Wales, Safrano, Papa Gontier, Maman Cochet, Marie van Houtte, and Homere, with L'Ideal. The centre bed is filled chiefly with Lobelia cardinalis and Nicotiana Sanderæ, edged by Golden Feather, and in the outside borders are annuals, mixed with Pentstemons and Scabiosas."



Some of the Bedding at Condover Hall.

The Kitchen Garden.

From the pleasure grounds we went to the kitchen garden, which is about three acres in extent. There is a herbaceous border right along on both sides, with a few Chrysanthemums of the early-flowering varieties at the end. Here, too, are more Sweet Peas.

"These," said Mr. Gray, "flower in August, and are grown in two clumps of one variety, for decoration, others being grown as a hedge, for cutting. The best of these varieties are Modesty, America, Miss Willmott, the Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, Mrs. Walter Wright, the Hon. F. Bouverie, King Edward VII., Scarlet Gem, and Lady Grisel Hamilton. We also grow, for autumn flowering, Salopian and Black Knight. The Michaelmas Daisies, facing the Sweet Peas, are also grown in clumps."

Specialities in the Herbaceous Border.

"Have you anything special in the herbaceous borders?"

"I can mention some of the varieties that do best. They include Achillea (The Pearl), Gypsophila paniculata, Hemerocallis fulva, Lilium candidum, Valeriana of varied colours, Lychnis viscaria and L. chalcedonica, Thalictrum aquilegifolium, Statice latifolia, Tritomas, Eryngium alpinum, Chelone glabra, Geum coccinea, Montbretias, a number of Pæonies, Phloxes in variety, and a large collection of Hollyhocks."

"How long has the border been made?"

"Four years, with fruit trees planted as espaliers behind, and, at the end, tall red Nasturtiums are trained to poles, with Pampas Grass in the centre, and Lavender in the beds. We think of having a Hollyhock walk right along the middle of the garden. Hollyhocks do exceptionally well here."

"And Nuts, I should think."

"We shall have a very good crop this year in the Nut walk, including Filberts, Kentish Cobs, and the small early kinds. Pears are grown on bushes, which were covered with flower, but the frost intervened and did great mischief."

Pears and Plums.

"What are your principal varieties of Pears?"

"Jargonelle, Clapp's Favourite, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Souvenir du Congres, Marie Louise d'Uccle, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurré Diel, Doyenné du Comice, Marie Louise, Winter Nelis, Easter Beurré, Bergamotte Esperen, Le Lectier, Marie Benoist, Oliver de Serres, Catillac, Verulam, and Uvedale's St. Germain."

"Your Plums appear to be doing well."

"Yes. Some of them are old trees, which I cut back two years ago, and which have now formed some good fruiting wood. I like nothing better than to see a well-trained fruit tree on a wall. The crop promises to be fairly good. We only grow five varieties—Jefferson, Greengage, Victoria, Goliath, and The Czar."

Apples and Bush Fruit.

"I should like the names of some of your Apples grown as espaliers."

"The principal are Stirling Castle, Newton Wonder, Lord Grosvenor, Bramley's Seedling, Mere de Ménage, Dumelow's Seedling, Cox's Orange Pippin, Alfriston, Bismarck, King of the Pippins, Worcester Pearmain, Allington Pippin, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Adams' Pearmain, Devonshire Quarrenden, Court Pendu Plat, and Blenheim Orange."

"Do you net all your bush fruit?"

"Yes, and I have all of it planted together, as it is much easier to protect. I think it is a better plan than planting on sides of the walks. The Black Currants are Ogden's Black, Carter's Black Champion, and Lee's Prolific; the Red, Long Bunched, Comet, Raby Castle, and Red Dutch. We also grow White Dutch. The four principal varieties of Strawberries grown are Royal Sovereign, President, The Viscountess, and James Veitch."

Herbs and Vegetables.

Passing a corner of the kitchen garden which is reserved as a nursery, where Oaks, Box, and Privet, among other things, are grown, we paused for a minute at a large bed devoted to herbs. Here are grown Mint, Thyme, Bush Basil, Tarragon, Rue, Sage, Marjoram, Balm, Fennel, Sorrel, Chives, Chervil, Camomile, and Borage. Vegetables are a great feature in the kitchen garden, and receive special attention. I asked as to the Potatoes preferred.

"Royal Ashleaf for early work, and two of the best of the others are Sharpe's Express and Sutton's Abundance. Seakale is dug up for

forcing, and we bring it on inside. Of the climbing Beans, I find Carter's Champion the best, and of Cauliflowers I grow Early London, Veitch's Autumn Giant, and Johnson's Market."

"What about Broccoli?"

"I have several varieties, including Veitch's Self-Protecting, Sutton's Winter Mammoth, Covent Garden, Sutton's Late White, Eclipse, Leamington, and Late Purple Self-Protecting. The Peas, of which Autocrat is the best, include, also, Earliest of All, Veitch's Exonian, and Sharp's Monarch."

"Your Celery looks remarkably well."

"The two varieties are Wright's White and Red. Of Lettuces, we grow Webb's Wonderful, and All the Year Round; of Leeks, Musselburgh; of Brussels Sprouts, King of the Market, and Covent Garden Select; of Parsnips, Elcombe's Improved; of Carrots, St. Valerie, Long Red, and New Scarlet Intermediate; of Beetroot, Dell's Improved and Cheltenham Green Top; and, of Onions, Brown Globe, James' Keeping, Up-to-Date, Bedfordshire Champion and Banbury Improved."

The Fruit Range.

Before inspecting the houses, Mr. Gray called my attention to six rows of annuals opposite the Vineries, one consisting of Scabious, a second of Jacobæas (a very pretty annual, quite easy to grow, and lasting well when cut), Pentstemons, Aster sinensis (mauve), Alyssum compacta, and Antirrhinum Golden Queen.

"Do you go in largely for Violets?" I enquired.

"Yes, we have a considerable number, and grow Marie Louise, Princess of Wales, Mr. J. J. Astor, Wellsiana, Swanley White, Lady Hume Campbell, Kaiser Wilhelm, and California. The long-flowering Mignonette proves to be one of the best sorts, which has very fine heads of bloom, and is very strong-scented."

"In the early Vinery you have some fine bunches of Foster's Seedling."

"The other varieties are Black Hamburgh and Madresfield Court. In the middle Vinery we have Muscat of Alexandria, and, in the late house, Lady Downe's Seedling, Black Alicante, and Lady Hutt."

"What is the width of the range?"

"Twenty feet. It was put up five years ago. The Peaches grown are Grosse Mignonne, Royal George, Sea Eagle, Dr. Hogg, Exquisite, Alexandra, Early Beatrice, Crimson Galande, and Early Rivers. The Nectarines are Lord Napier, Elruge, Spencer, and Dryden; but, owing to the late frost, Peaches are very scarce outside, though these and Nectarines inside look remarkably well, and are bearing a good crop."

Tomatoes and Melons.

"What do you grow in the other houses?"

"Well, first, as you see, Tomatoes in pots; the varieties are Ham Green Favourite, Challenger, and Frogmore Selected. In front of the Tomatoes are Poinsettias, and Coleus thyrsoides, and on the stage are Salvia patens. The Cucumbers are Rollison's Telegraph and Blair's Prolific. I have only one variety of Melons—Hero of Lockinge—and on the stage there is a batch of Gesnera splendens, with Gloxinias and Begonias, all seedlings. The small house is devoted to Ferns in variety, Grevillea robusta, and Begonia Gloire de Lorraine."

"You might name some of the plants now in bloom in the flowering house."

"There are Hydrangeas Hortensis and Japonica, Sutton's Fairy Queen Begonias, Canterbury Bells, Francoa ramosa, Streptocarpus, Celosias, and Geraniums in variety, one of the best of the latter being Leopard."

"Which Orchids do you find thrive most in your stove?"

"We have a very fine batch of Calanthe Veitchii, and other Orchids grown are Dendrobium nobile, Cattleyas (mixed), Cœlogyne cristata, Zygopetalum, Lælias, and Cypripediums. In this house, among other plants, are Gardenias, Crotons, Acalypha musaica, Isolepis gracilis, Pandanus Veitchii, and Dracænas (His Majesty), Gardenia florida, and others. A feature of the Palm house are two fine pots of Adiantum, and here we grow Plumbago rosea, a very beautiful scarlet flower, which ought to be more cultivated in pots."

The Frames.

"Then, there are the frames facing the houses."

"The chief contents of these are Chrysanthemums, of which we have about two hundred, and Bouvardias. Of the former, a dozen good varieties are Mrs. E. L. Fox, Madame G. Debrie, Niveus, Australia, Millicent Richardson, Vicar of Leatherhead, Mafeking Hero, Mrs. H. Emmerton, Viviand Morel, Simplicity, Soleil d'Octobre, and Mrs. J. McCallum. The Bouvardias, which we dig up and pot for the winter, include President Garfield, Alfred Neuner, and President Cleveland. A few Malmaisons, of which Princess of Wales is the best, are also grown."

"Finally," I enquired, "how long have you been at Condover, Mr. Gray?"

"Five years in September. Previously I was in Scotland, at Dunnikier House, Kirkcaldy, where I had the management of the glass department for five years; and I was two years at Trentham Hall, Staffordshire, four years at Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, N. Wales, and four years at Wicken Park, Northamptonshire."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 216.—FRUIT AS FOOD—PEARS FOR NINE MONTHS.

DEAR KATE,—We live and learn (or should do so), and the latest dictum of science on the subject of the necessity to eat plenty of fruit, if we would be healthy, confirms me in the opinion which I have before expressed to you, I think, that we don't get half enough fruit to eat, and that everyone

A PROMISING PEAR TREE.

(especially women) ought to see to it that their tables are properly supplied with both ripe, raw fruit for breakfast, and stewed or cooked fruit later in the day.

Certainly, this is not so difficult as it used to be, for we have Bananas, Dates, and Oranges from many countries brought to our doors very cheaply in these days of rapid transit, and these are all valuable as food; but where we sometimes fail is, I think, in the provision, each one in her own garden, of an abundance of the small fruits during the summer time, and of Pears and Apples for the autumn.

Strawberries and Raspberries, which have been picked before they are quite ripe, packed in baskets, and sent many miles by train, are not nearly so valuable for food as fresh fruit gathered with the sunshine on it, for they quickly deteriorate, unfortunately, and actually become unwholesome in the first stages of decay. Therefore, we women, for whom fruit-growing is specially suited (witness the thousands of American women who "run" fruit farms on their own account, with success), should be up and doing, learning, first of all, in our own gardens, however small, to really understand the culture of various good fruit, for our families and our tables.

The Food Value of Fruit.

One of the facts which have lately come to light is this: that the pure sugar in ripe fruit is capable of producing more muscular power than even fat meat, which is generally supposed to be most important and necessary for the hard worker. Figs, Bananas, Grapes, and Pineapples contain a large percentage of this glucose (as it is called), besides various valuable salts and acids, whilst the Strawberry, Raspberry, Gooseberry, and other small fruits, as well as Oranges, Lemons, Currants, etc., are most useful purifiers of the system, which have this peculiarity, that none of the noxious germs which infest the digestive organs can survive in fruit juice, as an American doctor, who has made many curious experiments in this direction, has abundantly proved. That fashionable complaint, appendicitis, is, it is said, unknown amongst tropical people, who live largely on fruits—no doubt, because the bacillus which causes this complaint is thus destroyed.

Some years ago, when I had a large garden splendidly stocked with Apple and Pear trees, I noticed some poor little children in a neighbouring lane eating hard and unripe Blackberries from the hedge. Their faces were much disfigured with sores about the mouth, and it struck me that they needed good fruit to cleanse their blood, so I asked them to fetch a basket from their cottage, after which I took them into my garden, and told them to pick up enough ripe Apples to fill it. This they did, with joy, as you may think, and, after repeating the dose for a few weeks, their little faces healed up completely, and they looked far more healthy and happy.

Ripe Apples and Pears are excellent for breakfast, and those who eat plenty of them will soon find out their good qualities; but hard, unripe fruit, or over-ripe, bruised, and rotten specimens are all most objectionable. Plums, too, are amongst the most highly nourishing of food, but they should be perfectly whole, ripe, and, if possible, just gathered from the tree, whilst the mashy mess which is sold for Plums on costers' barrows is too often poisonous with the bacilli of decomposition, and is likely to cause illness.

We Britishers, as the Americans call us, have

The Gardens of the Earl of Lytton, at Knebworth House, Hertfordshire.

INTERVIEW WITH

MR. A. E. CRESSWELL.

AMONGST the historic homes of England, Knebworth House occupies a high place, both on account of its magnificence and its associations, while the extensive gardens which form its surroundings are of great beauty and interest. Visiting the gardens for the first time on a pleasant October afternoon, when I was conducted over them by Mr. A. E. Cresswell, who has been head gardener since the Earl of Lytton came into residence, I was struck by the grandeur of the Tudor mansion, and yet even more impressed by the remarkable manner in which its dignity is enhanced by its harmonious setting. Ivy and Wistaria are the only climbers on the house, which, in fact, does not need decoration, and we turned our attention at once to the Italian gardens. In grounds so large as those of Knebworth, the principal features alone can be referred to. One of these is, of course, the bedding, and I asked Mr. Cresswell to tell me the details of the scheme which is worked out with such fine effect.

Bedding on the Terraces.

"You see that we use Begonias largely," he rejoined. "Each bed contains two hundred and fifty plants, which are mostly three or four years old. They are mixed colours. The clay soil suits them well. We start them in the pits, get them into the ground in the first week in June, and they flower from the end of June right on to the frost. Then there are eight beds of the Worthiana Begonias, which we treated in the same manner as the others."

"I notice that you have several beds of Heliotropes, and that Geraniums occupy a good deal of space."

"We are going to increase the Heliotropes. The variety is Lord Roberts, and it is very satisfactory. With regard to Geraniums, there are single beds of Galilee, Charles Turner, Thomas E. Hanbury, and H. Cannell, all of them edged by Lucy Lemoine, with the broad-leaved silver Euonymus in the centre. There are also on what we call the lower terrace a few beds of Pentstemons of different colours; and four beds of Nicotiana affinis, combined with Oak-leaved Geraniums, and a groundwork of silver-leaved Madame Sallery. We go in for as many fragrant flowers as we can grow."

"How are all these beds filled for spring?"

"The whole of those on the lower terrace will consist of Myosotis compacta and English Iris. We shall use quite six thousand of the Forget-me-nots. The beds on the upper terrace will be entirely composed of dark red Wallflowers—Vulcan."

"Some notice ought to be given of the specimen trees in the vicinity of the Italian gardens."

"There are two nice pieces of Cedrus deodara, a fine specimen of Wellingtonia gigantea, and on the upper terrace four singularly good Irish Yews. As to other points, the basins with the fountains in the centre have Calla æthiopica. We are planting the new wall at the end with a representative collection of Alpines and rock plants. In the Fernery all the best British hardy varieties may be found, and the long border near the Fernery, which is now filled with Phlox, will next year consist exclusively of Canterbury Bells and white Foxgloves."

The Dutch and Horatius Gardens.

Proceeding quickly through the quaint Dutch garden, with wonderful English Yews trained as sugar-loaves, twenty-five feet high—which are clipped every October—and observing more fine Cedars, and a beautiful Pine, we paused a little longer in the new garden.

"Here," said Mr. Cresswell, "are more clipped Yews, as well as Portugal Laurels (umbrella-shaped), and clipped Hollies. The centres of the four corner beds are Rhododendrons, with Azalea mollis outside. They are old, but very good. The summer-flowering plants are chiefly Phlox in variety, but not named, and Roses of the Tea section. The maze close by is all composed of English Yews, flanked by a row of specimen Irish Yews."

MR. A. E. CRESSWELL.

"What is the name of the garden with the statues which we are now approaching?"

"The Horatius garden, because it contains statues of Horatius and others. Contiguous to this is the old Rose garden, with beds of separate varieties, such as Camille de Rohan, La France, General Jacqueminot, Moss Rose, and White Polyantha. Here is the memorial, erected in 1886, to Mrs. Bulwer-Lytton, wife of the grandfather of the present peer. Facing the old Rose garden are the tennis courts and bowling green. But most of the Roses are in the new Rose garden."

Roses and Violas.

Making our way thither, my attention was attracted to a number of Yews, which are now trained as standards, looking remarkably well, and with the advantage that it is possible to plant under them.

"When was the new Rose garden made?" I enquired, as we entered a charming enclosure with grass centres six feet wide, and brick paths.

"About twelve months ago. There are twelve separate beds, the red and pink varieties alternating."

"I should like to know the names."

"Duke of Teck, Countess de Cayla, Hugh Dickson, Madame Abel Chatenay, Mrs. Reynolds Hole, Madame Lambard, Duke of Edinburgh, Betty, Dean Hole, General Jacqueminot, Papa Gontier, Leonie Lamesch, and Marlborough. For protection for the Roses are Yews all round, and on the poles dividing the garden from the new frame ground are Climbing Liberty and Lady Waterlow Roses, while on the wall Moor Park Apricots yield good crops."

"What do you use for groundwork in the Rose beds?"

"Violas only—a separate colour in each square. The varieties are J. B. Riding, W. Niel, Beauty of Chipping Norton, Sunset, Blue King, Victoria, White Gem, and Duchess of Fife. Beyond the four pyramid Bays in pots at the corner is a Lavender border, which extends to the herbaceous border. The latter has Carnations Raby Castle in front, and in the border itself are Phlox in variety, Pæonies (herbaceous and tree), Spiræas, Delphiniums in variety, Lychnis, Chrysanthemum King Edward VII., Galega officinalis, double Pyrethrums, Potentillas, Anemones (japonica and St. Brigid), Hemerocallis, and a few Liliums. On the west wall behind are dessert cordon Cherries, which were planted twelve months ago. The varieties are Governor Wood, Early Rivers, Bigarreau Napoleon, May Duke, Black Heart, Black Tartarian, and Adam's Crown. Lady Lytton likes a background of fruit for the flowers where it can be arranged."

The Wilderness Garden.

"To the right," continued Mr. Cresswell, "is the wilderness garden of between seven and eight acres, where things are allowed to grow as they please. For example, there are great beds of double Deutzias, Rosa rugosa, Spiræas, herbaceous Fuchsias, Rhododendrons, Lilacs of different sorts, Prunus Pissardi, Cerastiums, and Penzance Brier Roses. There are also numerous flowering trees. We cut quantities of the bloom for decorating."

"The park must be immense," I said, as we got a peep of it from this point.

"It is not quite two thousand acres in extent. The lakes cover six acres at least. I have charge of the park as well as of the gardens. Now we come to the new frame ground, which was made last year. The Violets are Marie Louise and Princess of Wales. We force about a thousand Royal Sovereign Strawberries, the only variety we grow, either in or out. Cauliflowers and Lettuces are also grown in frames. Adjoining this we grow our Sweet Peas, which we use very largely for table decoration."

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How Sweet Peas are Grown.

"How do you start them?"

"In pots, early in February, five Peas in a 'sixty' pot. They are kept close to the glass. In April, when the weather is open enough, we plant out in rows, and place each pot, about eighteen inches apart, in the rows, which are eight feet apart. The ground is thoroughly well trenched, and we use plenty of manure."

"Do you keep the varieties separate?"

"Yes, we do not mix them up. Here are some of the best varieties:—Etta Dyke (syn. White Spencer), Norah Unwin (white), Black Knight (dark), Evelyn Hemus (cream and pink edge), Frank Dolby (the best lavender), Helen Lewis (orange, the finest flower of any), Helen Pierce (mottled blue), Henry Eckford (salmon), King Edward Spencer (scarlet), Lady Grisel Hamilton (lavender), Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes (black), Countess Spencer (finest pink), Queen Alexandra (good scarlet), Mrs. Walter Wright (mauve), and St. George (mauve). These, I think, are the pick."

"When did you begin to gather flowers?"

"Early in July. They were about twelve feet high during last season. As to table decoration, the time the flowers last depends a good deal upon the weather, but they are usually fresh for four or five days."

Favourite Vegetables.

"Now, I conclude, we have the kitchen garden to explore, and the glass."

"There are two kitchen gardens. We might look into the new one first. As you see, it has hedges round. There are about six acres here, chiefly devoted to fruit and vegetables, but we also grow a few Chrysanthemums for cut flowers. There are large plantations of Apples and Pears, and one of good size of Raspberries. Pears, Asparagus, Potatoes, Celery banked up, and Onions do well in this garden."

"You seem to have an especially fine crop of Onions."

"They are chiefly Ailsa Craig, but we also grow Rowsham Park."

"What Peas do you start with?"

"Little Marvel. In a dry season this variety fills well. The other early variety is Daisy. A few Peas are raised under glass, but we begin to pick outside the last week in May, and go on until the middle of October. The Scarlet Runner Beans are Scarlet Emperor and Red Giant, and we have several dwarf varieties."

"What sort of fruit crops did you have generally this year?" I asked, as we reached the old walled-in kitchen garden.

"Those of bush fruit were very satisfactory, and we had a fine crop of Plums on the walls. The varieties of the latter are Coe's Golden Drop, Washington, Jefferson, Greengage, and Black Monarch. The Peaches on the walls also yielded an excellent crop."

"You grow Pears in various shapes?"

"Cordons and fan-shaped. The crops of both Pears and Apples have been good."

"Are all your Apples pyramids?"

"Yes. Perhaps you would like the names of the exhibition varieties, as we show Apples a good deal. They include Emperor Alexander, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Bismarck, Grenadier, King of Tompkins County, Lane's Prince Albert, Sandringham, Lord Derby, Hitchin Pippin, Queen, Allington Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Baumann's Red Reinette, Gascoigne's Seedling, Blenheim Orange, Ribston Pippin, Mere de Menage, Washington, and Stirling Castle. Allen's Everlasting is the latest of all Apples, which also has the merit of keeping sound until June."

"Do you go in for much pruning?"

"We prune in summer—the first week in August, and in autumn as soon as the leaves are off the trees, but I do not believe in too hard pruning."

"Do your Peach cases date far back?"

"They are quite forty years old, and have very little heat. One variety is Walburton Admirable, which is a bigger Peach and of better colour than Late Admirable. We bring our Chrysanthemums into these houses, and into the Vineries. These are for cut flowers. Our principle is to grow a good many of one variety, rather than a great many varieties. The next range of houses is only twenty years old, and has recently been done up."

"You might mention some of the plants."

"Begonias (Gloire de Lorraine and Turnford Hall), a few Gardenias, a few Orchids (including Vanda cœrulea, now in flower, Cœlogyne cristata Chatsworth variety, Cypripedium insigne, Aerides crispum, and Dendrobium nobile), and a quantity of double white Primulas, our own strain. We propagate this year after year, growing about a hundred, which we use for cutting for small vases."

Collections of Carnations.

"You have a nice show of Carnations."

"We have lately started a collection of Winter-flowering and Malmaisons. The varieties of the former are Britannia, T. W. Lawson, Enchantress, Mrs. H. Burnett, Cardinal, Mrs. W. J. Brookes, Harlowarden, Winter Cheer, Leopold de Rothschild, Countess of Lytton, Fair Maid, and The Mikado, the favourite of all. We have also a number of Border Carnations, of which Raby Castle is the favourite."

"Do you use Primula obconica for cutting?"

"Yes, and it is very useful to us; and also Primula kewensis. Another useful pot plant is Eupatorium alba, which is one of the flowers we use to decorate the church. After the plants have flowered, I cut them down, let them break, plant out in the open garden, and lift and pot them up again in September. Here is a house in which we have had two crops of Melons, and are now getting a good crop of Tomatoes."

"What varieties of Melons do you grow?"

"Carter's Hardy Frame, a new variety, which has done very well; and Blenheim Orange and Royal Sovereign. Of Tomatoes, we use Sunrise, saving a great deal of seed, from which we get better fruit than by any other means. We also grow, as you notice, a house full of Sutton's Currant Tomatoes; they are used for salad, or may be eaten raw. Now there remain the Vineries."

"How long does your Grape season last?"

"Usually until March. In the late house, the varieties are Lady Downe's Seedling, Alicante, and Gros Colmar; in the mid-season house, Muscat, Madresfield Court, and one Vine of Melton Constable, a Grape resembling Gros Colmar, but of better flavour. In the early Vinery there are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling."

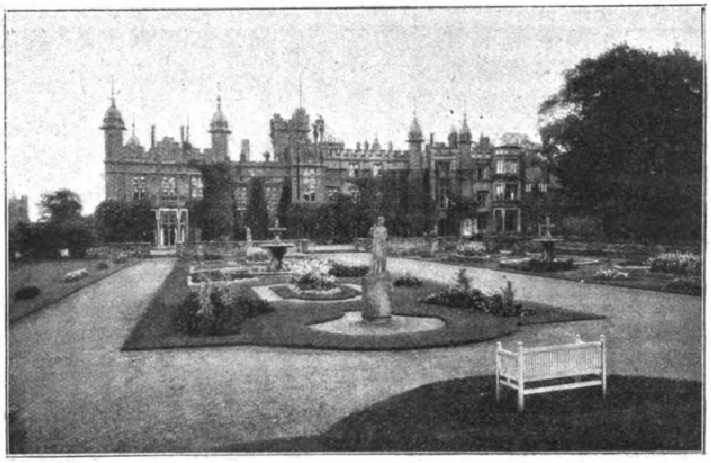
"Then there are the Chrysanthemums and Zonal Pelargoniums."

The Finest Chrysanthemums.

"Of Zonal Pelargoniums we only grow the double varieties of pinks and whites, for cutting. Chrysanthemums are a great feature. We show them, and have flowers until February. There are considerably over a hundred varieties of Japanese, a dozen of the best being F. S Vallis, A. T. Miller, Mildred Ware, Mrs. W. Knox, Soleil d'Octobre (a big batch), Mrs. J. C. Neville, J. R. Upton, Lady Conyers, Walter Jinks, Sappho, Mrs. F. W. Vallis, and Valerie Greenham. All the Pockett family are also included. Of Incurves, we have about twenty varieties. The best half-dozen are Mrs. J. J. Bryce, Duchess of Fife, C. H. Curtis, Buttercup, Lucien Giles, Mrs. Judson, and Embleme Poitevine."

"You were very successful, I think, with Chrysanthemums at the Hitchin show."

"We had the best blooms in the show at Hitchin in 1908. Since I have been showing at Knebworth, I have taken prizes for Chrysanthemums and Sweet Peas, and collections of fruit and vegetables at Hitchin, Luton, King's Walden, Sandy, Stevenage, Knebworth, and Baldock."



KNEBWORTH HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE OF THE EARL OF LYTTON.

Mr. Cresswell's Career.

"Perhaps you will give me a few particulars of your career, Mr. Cresswell?"

"I first started showing at The Elms, Wanstead, and have been pretty successful ever since. As to my career, I started in market gardens at Thornton Heath, now all bricks and mortar; at fifteen years of age I went into a nursery at South Norwood, where I remained for three and a half years. Then for five years I was single-handed at gardens in Thornton Heath, proceeding next to Essex Hall, Walthamstow. At the end of eighteen months I was appointed head gardener at Leigh-on-Sea, and from there I went as head gardener at The Elms, Wanstead. That appointment I kept for four years, and I was then for a time at Fellside, Wanstead, which was afterwards sold. For some considerable time, I was also secretary of the Forest Gate and Stratford Amateur Chrysanthemum Society, which I think I may say I was instrumental in making a very satisfactory organisation. We had several hundred members, and our monthly display averaged a hundred exhibits. Moreover, we handed over every year to the West Ham and East London Hospital a nice little cheque. In November, 1907, the Countess of Lytton offered me the position of head gardener at Knebworth, which I accepted, and came here on June 24th, 1908. From November to June I was employed by

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the Leyton Urban District Council, under the superintendent of their open spaces. This year I was elected at the top of the poll for the Executive Council of the British Gardeners' Association, of which I had only been a member since May, 1908 You will like to add that Lord Lytton, who, like Lady Lytton, takes a keen interest in the gardens, opens them to the public once a year, and, judging by the attendance in August this year, the privilege is very much appreciated." ALFRED WILCOX.

The interview for next week is with a well-known amateur gardener, viz., The Rev. Arthur Bridge, Rector of Worth.

Fruit Under Glass.

WORK IN THE VINERY.

VINES require severe pruning every year to keep the branches within the space allotted them. Indeed, so close are the season's growths cut back to the main rod, that they lose the dignity of branches altogether, and are termed spurs. When it is remembered that all the prominent buds upon the brown canes produced this year would, if permitted to develop, each become a long shoot equal to the parent, the wisdom of hard pruning is apparent.

Rule for Pruning.

Provided the spurs are set at proper distances apart upon the rods, the Vinery should be amply furnished with fruit and foliage in due course, if one strong bud only be left upon the current season's wood. The rule to adopt in pruning is to cut back all sidegrowths to one, or, at most, two prominent basal buds. If the latter method is favoured, the grower has a chance of selecting the strongest or best-placed of the two resultant shoots, but this advantage is gained at the expense of a somewhat longer spur.

To facilitate pruning operations, the Vines should be unfastened from the roof-wires, and slung upon cords at a convenient height. With a sharp, strong knife, each shoot should be cleanly severed in one slightly slanting cut. Steady the spur with a firm grip of the left hand, and begin the cut at a point just opposite to the position of the bud to be retained, and a little in front of the nodal swelling. With a well-controlled, unhesitant sweep, the knife should take a slanting direction, and come out immediately in front of the point of the bud—not too near so as to imperil its life, but as close as possible without touching it. Of course, if a lack of confidence, due to inexperience, is felt, it is well to keep at a perfectly safe distance from the bud, but if a long length of the internode is left, it ultimately dies back to the bud, thus producing an ugly, dead "snag."

Treatment of Young Vines.

The leaders of young Vines that have not become properly furnished with spurs are often left at too great a length. It doubtless seems a great shame to reduce a fine cane, eight or ten feet long, to about a third of its length, but, in the interest of the Vine, it should be pruned thus hard. In the case of young Vines planted this autumn, cut the canes right back to a bud, about level with the top of the low wall beneath the front ventilators. Although such procedure may look like wholesale slaughter, it is the only practical way of building up Vines on the right lines.

Regulate the Spurs.

Another point to be considered in the shaping of young Vines is the regulation of the spurs. The side-growths will often be produced too thickly, in which case a sufficient number of them should be cut out, either with the pruning knife or a small saw, afterwards smoothly paring the wound. Spurs should emanate first from one side of the rod, and then the other, as far as possible, and there should be a space of at least eighteen inches between each spur upon a given side of the rod. That is to say, allow not fewer than nine inches from one spur to the next, but take care that the latter stands upon the opposite side to the first. This distance is suitable for Black Hamburgh and kindred varieties; but Gros Colmar, Gros Maroc, Black Alicante, and the stronger-growing kinds are the better if from twenty to twenty-four inches are given between spurs on the same side.

After pruning, a little styptic should be applied to the cuts. This preparation soon sets hard, and stops any tendency to bleeding when the Vines are started.

KNEBWORTH FROM THE PLEASURE GROUNDS.

Cleaning the Rods.

The washing of the rods must next be taken in hand, and this work is the more important if mealy bug is unfortunately in evidence. Where this persistent pest has established a hold, all loose bark should be removed, so that the wash may penetrate to the cracks and fissures.

In giving this advice, we hope the amateur grower will discriminate between merely rubbing off the easily detached outer bark, and the barbarous peeling which is sometimes practised. It is never necessary to scrape below the firm, brown, second layer that constitutes the real covering of the wood, which cannot be torn away without misapplied effort. A blunt knife may be used with advantage round the spurs, to enable the operator to get a better hold of the loose, hollowed-up outside layer, but particular care must be taken that the eyes are not injured, and that no cutting takes place.

A strong insecticide, such as Gishurst compound solution, should afterwards be thoroughly well rubbed into every part of the wood and spurs with a soft brush. A large paint-brush is an excellent implement for the work. Two or three dressings of hot solution should be applied, at a temperature of about 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

Work Before Growth Starts.

The Vines may then be slung up loosely, with their top extremities dipping slightly downwards, and until the time comes for starting them into growth, keep the house very cool, with abundance of ventilation.

All prunings should be taken away and burned as soon as possible, also any loose soil from the surface of the border.

Thoroughly wash down all parts of the house, glass, doors, trellis, etc., with hot water and soft soap, using new scrubbing-brushes in order to clear out odd corners, where stubby bristles would not penetrate. Syringe off the soapy grime with clear water before it dries on. The walls should be limewashed.

The pruning of Vines should, in no case, be delayed after the middle of January, or the rising sap may drip from the cuts—an unfortunate result, which causes serious weakness.

J. E. S.

Two Fruit Tree Pests.

THE lackey moth often causes considerable damage to fruit and other trees by the onslaught it makes upon the leaves. It gets its name from the bright colouring of its body, which is bluish-grey, with black spots and blue and scarlet or orange stripes evenly marked upon each side. It grows to about an inch and a half long, and is then covered with long, soft hairs.

The eggs are deposited in close, spiral masses encircling the smaller twigs, during the latter part of the summer and early autumn. At about the beginning of May, the eggs hatch out, producing small caterpillars, black and hairy. These at once commence to spin a web over themselves, enlarging it as occasion requires. In this web or nest they live in companies ranging from fifty to two hundred, and thence they go to seek their food, returning for shelter in dull or wet weather, and at night They are full-grown by the middle of the summer, and they then separate, to spin for themselves cocoons, on leaves, under roofs of sheds, in hedges, or anywhere near their food. From the cocoon a moth emerges later, and proceeds to lay her eggs.

One of the best remedies for reducing the numbers of this insect is to seek for the rings of eggs during the winter, burning or otherwise destroying them when found. Another method is to cut off the webs made by the caterpillars in the early part of the summer, and plunge them in an insecticide, or burn them. For this, a dull or wet day should be chosen, as all the caterpillars are then more likely to be inside. Spraying with Paris green, or an emulsion, as previously described, is also very effective.

The garden chafer, or Rose beetle, does not—as its name might imply—confine its destructive attentions to the Rose, but attacks at times the Apple, Pear, Plum, and other trees, feeding on the leaf, and even the blossoms and young fruit. It is about half an inch in length, bright glossy green in colour, and usually appears towards the end of May, or early in June. In the autumn, the grubs or maggots—which are of a yellowish-white colour—descend into the ground, feeding on the roots of grass and certain vegetables, and doing considerable damage to lawns, etc. While in the ground, they turn into chrysalids, from which the beetles emerge in the spring, to fly about and devour anything suitable. The best method to capture them is to shake the trees in the early morning, or late in the evening, laying sheets or other receptacles beneath the trees to receive them as they fall. Soot applied to the ground is stated to be useful in preventing the pests depositing their eggs. Birds are keen hunters of the Rose beetle, and should be encouraged. RHEA.

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same condition to treat it in the same The rapidity with which these insects and spread is so great that unless they checked at the fountain-head, they will soon the garden.

Annuals.

August 25th.—That annuals are generally far too thickly can hardly be disputed. in my own garden, some groups of Poppies which have not been thinned nearly enough. Massing does not mean packing. Every plant should be allowed sufficient space to develop, and to show its individual features. This is impossible, if they all make a simultaneous bolt for the air or go under. Some time ago I measured Shirley Poppy, and found that the plant was over three and a half feet through. from seed sown last autumn, it was than the generality of spring-sown plants, if it had been transplanted, which always some reduction in size. It will be seen a dozen plants grown thus will cover a considerable area—an area often crowded with or eight times their number. Not only is a loss of effect when they are crowded together, but also they are so weak that they cannot withstand the slightest pressure of wind rain. Whereas my solitary Poppies were unscathed, my insufficiently-thinned groups were bent to the ground by the heavy downfall of rain at the end of June, and though they were held like sheaves of Corn and supported, they lost much of their beauty. Almost everyone knows these charming annuals, but I find that many people do not sow the seed until spring. Sowing in spring, and also in early summer, is all right for a succession, but to obtain really large plants and fine flowers it should be done about the present time. The seed should be sprinkled very thinly, and the seedlings should be thinned as they grow, never allowing them to do more than just touch one another. As accidents may cause some gaps during the winter, they may remain so until they recommence growth in spring, when they should be thinned out to a foot and a half from centre to centre, and eventually to three feet. Advantage should be taken of each thinning to hoe the ground around the plants, and if, at the same time, some artificial fertiliser is sprinkled about them, it will greatly improve them. Those who have been in the habit of growing their Shirley Poppies only in dense masses have no idea of the magnificent plants they make when treated as recommended.

August 25th.—I mentioned last week the importance of providing in a garden a cool retreat for summer. The illustration shows another and more elaborate style—a delightful summer-house, delightfully situated, with a fine view of its surroundings. H. C. DAVIDSON.

Gardening for Ladies.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS MAY CROOKE, F.R.H.S., AT MANOR FARM, BREDON'S NORTON.

IT is quite true that every woman is not fitted to enter the gardening profession. Just as the successful nurse possesses the nursing instinct, so the successful lady gardener has a natural love and aptitude for the work. But, however large or small the number of girls may be who fulfil this condition, there is no doubt that the lady gardener has come to stay. In making provision for her requirements, Miss May Crooke is supplying a need which is likely to increase rather than to diminish. A visit to the scene of her operations at Bredon's Norton in July, when the country was looking its best, justifies the assertion that the School of Gardening which she has founded promises to be an extremely useful and popular undertaking.

ON THE TERRACE, NORTON PARK.

THE MANOR FARM.

The Situation.

The place has been happily chosen. Situated within a mile and a half of two stations on the Midland main line, between Birmingham and Bristol, it has all the advantages of delightful surroundings, and convenient proximity to important centres. The district is not only beautiful, but it is remarkably healthy. Protected from east winds by the Bredon Hills, which are a constant source of admiration, with the Malvern and Cleeve Hills in view, it is only a short distance from Tewkesbury and its glorious Abbey; and, as Miss Crooke informed me, soon after my arrival at the picturesque and spacious Elizabethan manor house, which is the headquarters of the school, the soil, being loam with a gravel bottom, is particularly well adapted for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables.

"In fact," said Miss Crooke, as we chatted in one of the pleasant rooms in the Manor House, "this is the very heart of the choicest portion of the long stretch of Worcestershire which is famous for fruit-growing. The land is very early, and the garden lies on the north-west slope of the Bredon Hills. It is quite an ideal spot."

"Perhaps, before we go any further, you will tell me how it was you decided to start here?"

The Origin of the Scheme.

"When I left Studley Castle, where, as you know, I was instructor in horticulture at Lady Warwick's College, having previously filled the same position at the hostel in Reading, I intended to go on with the work in conjunction with Miss Bradley, who had taken a house in the village of Bredon's Norton; and Miss Zula

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Woodhull, of Norton Park, kindly offered me the garden attached to the park for the purpose."

"Did any members of the staff come with you?"

"Yes, two. One acts as assistant-instructress, and the other as housekeeper. Three of the former Studley and Reading students have taken up their residence in cottages in the village, and Miss La Motte is coming in the autumn to take up dairy work."

"All the work, I conclude, is in conjunction with the Mercia Settlement, yours being, in effect, the horticultural branch?"

THE VINERIES AT MANOR FARM.

The Club House.

"That is so. Miss Bradley and I have worked together for years, and she is always willing to give me the benefit of her wide experience. The Settlement, as you can see for yourself, has already made a promising start, and is likely to develop largely. It is intended to convert this Manor House into a Club house. That is to say, one part of it will be for my students, and the other for a ladies' club, so that all the ladies who live in the cottages can take their meals at the Club, which will have suitable accommodation. We hope that it will eventually be affiliated to the leading women's clubs in London, and that the members of the latter will come to Bredon's Norton for rest and change."

Three Years' Training.

"In that case, will they be afforded an opportunity of obtaining an insight into the work?"

"If they like, they will be afforded the opportunity of judging whether gardening, or dairying, or poultry-keeping would attract them as an occupation. With regard to this School of Gardening, I am endeavouring to carry it out on different lines to the gardening colleges."

"In what respects?"

"Why, it always seems to me that at the gardening colleges practical work is neglected for the sake of the theoretical, very much to the detriment of the pupil. I am also advocating three years' training, instead of two, because I feel that at the end of two years a girl only begins to feel her feet."

"Do you undertake to prepare students for the examination of the Royal Horticultural Society?"

"Certainly, if they wish to be prepared. Moreover, with the consent of Miss Beale, the Principal of Cheltenham College, I have arranged that any of the students here can go to the College to take any class they wish, providing that it does not unduly interfere with the practical work."

"Are the trains convenient?"

"Very, and it only takes a quarter of an hour to get to Cheltenham. Another advantage of being so near Cheltenham is that Mr. Cypher has kindly told me that if the students have time they can always go through his nursery, and see what is being done there at the different seasons."

The Theoretical Work.

"Of course, a portion of time is devoted to theoretical work?"

"I give lectures regularly on fruit-growing, vegetable-growing, and plant cultivation. My experience in lecturing has been rather considerable. In addition to the lectures which I gave at Studley, I have given them at Clifton, Altrincham, Sheffield, and other places. I always try to lecture at the time the practical work is going on. Thus, at the present moment the practical work here is in the vegetable cultivation, and I am lecturing on vegetables. The object-lesson is therefore ready to hand. In the winter I give the fruit lectures, when the practical work of pruning is proceeding; and in the spring, when seed-sowing is in hand, I lecture on general knowledge, and gardening of all sorts."

"What about flowers?"

"Lectures on flowers come in at various times—on wet days, for example, when no practical work can be done."

The Practical Work.

"With regard to practical work, are the students expected to dig?"

"I do not approve of women doing any very heavy physical work. The great point is that they should utilise their brains. It is essential that they should thoroughly understand how the digging and other rough work is done, and be able to show the man, who is paid fourpence or sixpence an hour, the way to do it."

"They do all the work under glass," continued Miss Crooke, "and do not in the least mind the heat."

A French Garden.

"What are the chief crops in the glasshouses in summer?"

"Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Melons, and Vines. In the winter there are Adiantums in quantity, Arums, Geraniums, and bedding plants generally. I am thinking of starting a house for Lilies of the Valley, in order to keep up a succession of flowers throughout the winter. I also propose to go in for a French garden, on the lines of that of Mr. John Idiens, at Evesham, who has been so successful in producing early salads for the market."

"How much land do you mean to devote to that purpose?"

"I contemplate starting with a quarter of an acre, on which I hope to be able, by using the French cloches, to pull Radishes at Christmas, cut Lettuce in January, and pull Carrots in February or March. The object aimed at will be, in short, the production of five crops a year."

"I suppose you already grow bedding plants of many varieties?"

THE CUCUMBER HOUSE AT MANOR FARM.

"Yes, and also herbaceous plants of various kinds. The garden, as it stands, is a first-rate one for teaching. There is a walled-in kitchen garden of about an acre, and a hundred feet of glass. We turn what we have to the best possible use, but there is plenty of land to enlarge the garden as enlargement becomes necessary. I do not, however, desire any great rush of pupils."

"You would rather that they came gradually?"

"I do not wish to receive the casual young lady who takes up gardening as a passing amusement. The School is intended for those who are really interested in the work, and who either take it up for the pleasure of doing it, or intend to earn a living—girls who deliberately choose it as a pursuit."

"Do you care to say anything about the domestic side?"

"I attach great importance to the domestic side, which in the big schools, I think, is often not at all adequately considered. I have tried to make the home life as good as possible. The fee for resident students is £60 a year, which includes everything, except the small item for the classes at Cheltenham College, and for that amount I provide a study bedroom for each. At the Colleges, similar fees do not cover the cubicle. But I object to the cubicle altogether as unsuitable for women. It is most important, I think, both for the student and for the institution, that the former should have her own room. She needs one place where she can be absolutely alone."

Marketing the Produce.

As we proceeded to inspect the garden, Miss Crooke observed,

"I took the garden as I found it, and this year only got in the running crops. But, for the future, I shall grow only what I require to grow, and my hands are entirely free as to cultivation."

"Is there plenty of scope for the sale of crops?"

"Ample. I do not contemplate the slightest difficulty in marketing whatever we grow. So long as the standard is maintained, we shall always be able to command a sale for our products."

"You have a nice little potting shed."

"Here, also, the students keep their tools. Each one has her own set."

"Do you grow many varieties of Cucumber in the range?"

"Only one—Rochford's Market. I supply the Park with Cucumbers, and a shop at Cheltenham takes all the rest. The Tomatoes are Holmes' Supreme, which I find a very good market variety. We have been picking since the first week in May, and have made satisfactory prices."

"What Grapes do you grow in your Vineries?"

"Muscat of Alexandria and Black Hamburgh."

"And in the plant-house and frames?"

"There is a little batch of Cyclamen, and we have a few cool Orchids. Winter Carnations and about a thousand Chrysanthemums are grown. The Violets are Marie Louise and Princess of Wales. The outside is divided into four principal plots. One consists of roots, such as Beets, Leeks, Carrots, and Parsnips."

The Vegetable Crops.

"I notice that in another you have Potatoes?"

"Yes, first and second-early sorts, between which we grow Brussels Sprouts. Of Potatoes, I have tried Duke of York and Royal Kidney, and I shall probably change them. The former has been disappointing. Our third plot is limited to Celery, except that I have cropped all the trenches."

"Do you grow many varieties?"

"No, only Sutton's Prize and Standard Bearer. In the trenches I have had Peas (Eclipse), Beans (Ne Plus Ultra), Lettuces, Spinach, and Radishes. Of course, the object is to make the most of the ground."

"How is your fourth plot laid out?"

"With a general crop of Cauliflowers (Early London), which do remarkably well and are already being cut, Tomatoes, and Peas (Autocrat)."

"Then, you have a fine lot of Sweet Peas?"

"We began to pick flowers in the middle of June, and sent them to our flower market, which is chiefly Birmingham. I prefer the clump system, and we try to get the stems as long as possible. The three varieties are Gorgeous (red), Countess of Cadogan (blue), and white Blanche Burpee."

"What fruit do you grow on the walls?"

"Peaches and Apricots. Apples and Pears (bush, standard, and horizontally-trained) are grown right round the plots, and we have a little orchard of a quarter of an acre where we get some good fruit."

"Have you anything special in the pretty herbaceous border?"

"The Delphiniums are just over. The Papavers are rather fine, and we have had a brave show of Columbines."

The Pleasure Ground.

From the kitchen garden we made our way to the small pleasure ground, taken out of the private garden at the Park, which is richly dowered with shrubs and Conifers. There are seats along the pathway, and it is altogether a charming retreat. The same may be said of the flower garden near Hermes Lodge, an ancient cottage which is being transformed into a modern house. Here, when the Manor House becomes a Club house, Miss Crooke will take up her abode, and I think that she will be envied. As an illustration of what can be done with the soil, I may mention that close to Hermes Lodge are several beds bright with many blooms. They have taken the place of a Potato patch, and the soil is evidently appreciated by the Carnations, the Stocks, and the Asters, which now reign, instead of the one indispensable vegetable. There can be no doubt as to the varied character of the School at Bredon's Norton, and its progress will be watched with attention by all who are interested in gardening as an avocation for women.

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 212.—IN PRAISE OF THE OPEN AIR AND CLEANLINESS.

DEAR KATE,—When I go into the drawing-rooms and greenhouses of my friends, I often see signs of anæmia, both in the plants and their owners, and this I usually attribute to the want of fresh air. My own theory of the way to be healthy is to live in the garden, not in the house; and certainly this is a wonderful cure for many ills. On my terrace, facing south, there is a revolving shelter, and this cosy nook is much more used than the house, except at night and for meals.

Those who habitually live in pure air never catch a cold, and, instead of being pale and anæmic, they become rosy and strong; in the same way, our plants need plenty of fresh air, few of them failing to benefit by it during the summer months.

More Air.

When I suggest to my friends, sometimes, that they should sit in the open air, they often reply: "Oh! we open the windows instead!" Now, open windows are, of course, necessary to life; but if you compare the window plants with those in the borders—and we are much the same—you will see at once that there is a great difference in robustness, the strong, dark green growths made in the open air being far better than the long, weakly stems of the poor plants which are reaching towards the sunshine and air in a window. Especially towards the end of the summer our plants need the tonic of a time in the open air, and if you have not yet given your room-plants such a help, you should do so at once, before frosts set in, when they will be in a far better state to stand the winter than if they have been kept indoors and coddled up throughout the year.

PRUNING IN THE GARDENS AT MANOR FARM.

Of course, there are exceptions to this rule. Delicate Ferns and hothouse plants (such as Gloxinias) always need more moisture in the atmosphere than they can obtain out of doors in Britain, but greenhouse and room-plants generally improve wonderfully if placed in the open air in summer, and properly tended there. A border of fine ashes is a useful place for this purpose. If the pots are merely placed on the ground, they will probably be blown over and broken, but if sunk to the rim in a coal ash bed, they will need less watering, and be safe from falls. Each plant should have plenty of room, and must not touch any of its neigh-

FAMOUS BRITISH GARDENS.

KIDBROOKE PARK, FOREST ROW.

Interview with Miss May Crooke

AMONG women who have taken up gardening as a profession Miss May Crooke can be considered a pioneer, for she has been actively engaged in it for over twenty-three years. She was one of the first members of the teaching staff when the Lady Warwick Hostel was instituted at Reading, subsequently assisting in its removal to Studley Castle. Later she became principal of Bredon's Norton School of Gardening; and a few years ago founded a school for women gardeners at Ivybridge, South Devon, which she relinquished owing to a breakdown in health. In 1916 she was appointed head gardener at Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row, the Sussex seat of Sir James Horlick, and it was here I saw her at the end of November.

"The place is now only in the making," she explained, as we waited awhile in her office for a shower to give over; "for before Sir James Horlick bought it the house had been used as a hospital for a time, while the gardens had been allowed to go almost wild, and the glass was sadly out of repair. However, I have been given a free hand, with instructions to remodel the gardens, and bring them up to the highest possible state of excellence. I want to make a success of the place professionally, and leave it at its best, not only because I love the work, but for the sake of woman generally, and to show that, given the opportunity, she really can do good gardening."

"Is the work here done solely by women?"

"No; there are, besides four women, five men and four boys. When the gardens are fully made we shall want a staff of eighteen."

"The men, I presume, do the heavy work?"

"Generally; but Miss Carlyon, my outdoor forewoman, can do anything, even to digging and trenching, and she prefers to do most things herself."

"And do the men and women work together satisfactorily?"

"Oh, quite! I find men respect you if they see you know your work; and as for the boys, they are obedient and easy to manage, especially if they are kept apart. I give them lectures on gardening, which they seem to appreciate, and they are eager to learn, and try to get on."

WHERE SOME WOMEN FAIL.

"What do you think of the prospects of women gardeners?"

"A great deal depends on the woman. It is against women gardeners that so many of them are unsuited for the work, both temperamentally and physically. Some of them lack physique; some lack brains. Often they do not start normally healthy; and they come to gardening thinking it is light work. But gardening is not 'all beer and skittles.' If a girl is healthy when she starts she should be able to do any work that comes along. We have to remember that the owner judges by results; and if he finds the paths not kept properly, or the hedges untidy, or the fruit trees neglected, or anything else going wrong, he naturally concludes that the woman is not up to her work, and replaces her by a man."

THE QUESTION OF TRAINING.

"Do you think the training they undergo is sufficient?"

"Many women unfortunately make the mistake of thinking that gardening can be learned in a few weeks, and that a superior education will enable them to grasp things quickly that others need a long period of training to acquire. They imagine that a six-weeks' course will equip them sufficiently. Well, it may be sufficient to learn, say, the cultivation of Tomatoes or Mushrooms, but that is all. Everything must be learned by experience, and this entails time and hard work. You cannot train a healthy girl too hard. After all, the average male gardener begins at fourteen or fifteen, and goes through all the drudgery, acquiring knowledge as he gets on, and passing through the stages of improver and journeyman before he becomes a foreman, while he seldom becomes a head gardener before he is thirty. But, as I say, many a woman has taken a short course, and gone out into the world as a gardener, only to be found wanting. Then, perhaps, after a few weeks in one place she leaves for another, the gardener giving her a good reference to get rid of her. There the same trouble is repeated, until people begin to think that women gardeners are no good."

"But is not this type of woman gardener amenable to teaching?"

"Too frequently she is not. She will not study the plants under her charge. Even potting and watering require care and thought, and often she will not try to grasp that fact. I have known cases where valuable fruit trees under glass have been spoilt for a season at least through the lack of skill of a woman who claimed to understand their management. But given a normally strong girl, who is willing to learn, and not imbued with the idea that she can grasp every detail in a short time, I know of no reason why she should not be able to hold her own with men gardeners, while there is certainly no healthier life. All gardening is study, and is never completed. I have been a practical gardener for twenty-three years, and am learning something fresh every day."

"Your present staff of girls does not come in the category you have just referred to?"

"Oh, no; those I have now are all my own pupils. Some had been with me before, and all are thoroughly in earnest. Both they and the boys are what I may call very promising material, taking much interest in the work."

By this time the weather had cleared up, and we started to go through the houses.

NEW GREENHOUSES.

"I have been greatly handicapped by the difficulty of getting the houses built," said Miss Crooke. "As I told you, when I came here the houses were in a bad state, and it was decided to rebuild most of them, and to increase the area of glass. But the builders were unable to get on with the job, owing to the war, and I could not grow a lot of stuff that was wanted. For the first six or nine months the work was altogether stopped. Then, when they came to erect the new houses, they first had to take down some of the old ones. One was a plant house, with a stock of Geraniums and Heliotropes worth fifty or sixty pounds—all of which had to go."

"The houses are not yet finished?"

"Not yet. When they are completed there will be two Peach houses, two Vineries, one Fig house, three Carnation houses, two plant houses, a stove, three forcing houses, and four cool Orchid houses, all connected by wide, glass-covered corridors. The Orchid houses have not been commenced."

"What is the reason for having corridors like these?"

DECORATIVE CORRIDORS.

"They serve instead of a conservatory, and, as you will see, they are kept filled with flowers."

These corridors are of a uniform width of about twelve feet, and are twenty feet or so high, with a paved path along the middle, and staging on each side. In the main corridor the eye was at once attracted by a beautiful display of Single Chrysanthemums, tastefully arranged. Further on, one could see fine examples of Decoratives and large-flowering Japanese. But Singles predominated, these being favourites with Lady Horlick, who has quantities of cut flowers sent to London when she is in town.

The first house we entered is intended to be a forcing house when completed, but at present it is used to winter bedding stuff. There is a fine lot of the bronzy-leaved Coleus Verschaffeltii, and a still finer collection of Helio-

THE GARDEN STAFF AND OTHER HELPERS AT KIDBROOKE PARK, FOREST ROW.
Miss Crooke is in the middle of the front row; on her right is her forewoman, Miss Carlyon.

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tropes, concerning which Miss Crooke remarked:

"These include most of the best varieties in cultivation, such as The Speaker, Rosine, Angus, Mdlle. M. André, and La Favorita—all from the King's Acre Nurseries."

The next house—also a forcing house—contains Perpetual Carnations, and batches of Roman Hyacinths and Paper-white Narcissi for Christmas blooming; and in the third house Cyclamens are the principal subject at present.

Then we went into another plant house, whose most attractive features were a big lot of a pretty pink variety of Primula stellata named Miss Irene, and Coleus thyrsoideus. These are all intended for decorating the corridors, and for this purpose large quantities of one colour are preferred.

GOOD PERPETUAL CARNATIONS.

The bulk of the Perpetual Carnations were seen in the adjoining house, a large and lofty structure. One variety, Malcolm, was pointed out for special praise.

"There is nothing to beat this," said Miss Crooke, "for freedom in flowering, for lasting when cut, or for decoration. The colour, salmon-cerise, is very bright under artificial light, and it has a strong calyx, and also a nice fragrance. This was one I had from the Misses Price and Fyfe, who, I believe, raised it; but most of the others I have obtained from Mr. Allwood. His Bishton Wonder is a lovely thing, of a shade I find it difficult to describe, though perhaps lilac with a deep pink shading comes near it. It has a delicious scent, and is a good grower. Mikado is another that is greatly liked here, and so is May Day; while I cannot say too much in favour of Mary Allwood."

Across the corridor we came to a range of three smaller houses, the first containing more Carnations; the next—not quite finished, but intended also for Carnations—at present filled with miscellaneous plants to go out in the spring; and the third, a cool house, now occupied with Malmaison Carnations.

Retracing our steps, and passing again through banks of Chrysanthemums in the corridors, we entered the Vineries, each of which is eighteen feet wide, twenty feet long, and twenty feet high, with an admirable system of ventilation.

"Of course, you started these Vineries?" I said.

"Yes; not only these, but I started everything else in the houses. I made the borders and planted the Vines. This house is the Muscat house. I did not know so much about Vines then as I do now, or I would not have got Foster's Seedling."

"What is your objection to it?"

"I consider it is too poor in flavour, and if you are going to the trouble of growing Vines you might as well grow the best. True, Foster's is easy to grow, and very prolific; but if you want a good white Grape have Muscat of Alexandria—there is none better for flavour. I am doing away with Foster's Seedling next year."

DWARF FIGS IN POTS.

In the second Vinery is Foster's Seedling again, also Black Hamburgh, and many canes in pots on the back wall—these will be planted out now as opportunity permits. Then, coming out into another corridor, the first thing noticed was a number of Fig trees in tubs.

"These were obtained last spring," explained Miss Crooke, "and are still in the pots they came in. We could not repot them then, so for the present they are plunged in soil in these big tubs, and they have made splendid roots above the pots. They have fruited well, and I hope we shall get two crops next season."

"They look extremely healthy," I remarked, "and some of the second crop is nearly full size now. What are the varieties?"

"There are three—Brown Turkey, Negro Largo, and Violette Sepor."

"And when were the Peaches planted?" I inquired, as, crossing the corridor, we entered the early Peach house.

"Not until last May. Of course, we had no fruit the first season, but the trees have made good growth, and I think you will agree that the wood is well ripened, and that they look very promising. The varieties are Dymond and Nectarine Pine Apple."

"Obviously, you had to make up the borders here, as the houses are new. Did you do the pruning yourself?"

"Yes; I rather fancy myself on fruit pruning. When I was in the Midlands I used to go out to different gardens superintending pruning—also of Roses and other trees—and made a fair income. There is room for a good fruit grower, and you must have one in a large garden, for it is useless to have a girl who cannot be left, as she may spoil the trees."

"Are you training any of your girls to the toes last season?"

"Yes; by arrangement with my employer I have two pupils, who live with me, and are under my entire charge. They will receive a thorough training in all branches."

This completed our inspection of the new houses, and we now made our way towards the kitchen gardens, where a couple of the old houses still remain. Whether they will come down is not yet decided; but at present they are filled with plants that will be wanted for bedding next summer. Among these are quantities of Heliotropes, standard Ivy-leaf Geraniums, two thousand Paul Crampel Geraniums, and a similar number of King of Denmark. Alongside this house is a glass cover, without sides, sheltering Peaches in pots, which will be taken in after February.

"The varieties," said Miss Crooke, "are some of the best; in fact, everything throughout is of the best and from the best nurseries. If you want a good garden you must have good plants. Peregrine is one that is especially good, and so is Nectarine Milton. Early Rivers and Pitmaston Orange are two other very fine Nectarines. In the old Peach case are four varieties that were here when I came. Elruge is one of them, and I think it is a splendid maincrop. These old trees were root-pruned and cleaned of scale, and have since borne well."

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

"You have a large area under vegetables. What is the extent of the kitchen garden?"

"The old kitchen garden within the walls is two acres, and there is another acre outside. It is a splendid soil for vegetables. All the walls are planted with up-to-date varieties of Peaches, Plums, Pears, and Cherries; and outside in the open we are at the present time planting espalier Apples, late varieties. We have just planted Gooseberries and Red Currants on one north wall, and on another Morello Cherries."

"Who is in charge of this garden?"

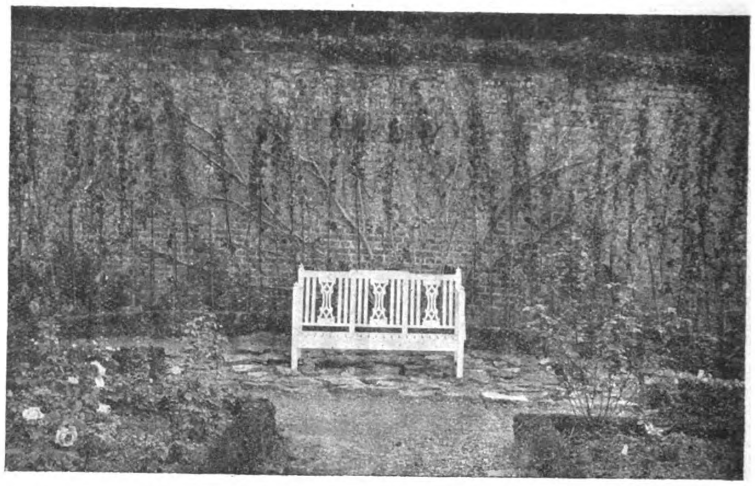
"One of my pupils is forewoman. We grow large quantities of vegetables, and have two thousand greens for winter. We also go in largely for intensive culture. This is a subject that I have specialised in; indeed, I was one of the first to practise French gardening in England, and had the second garden in England on that principle. When I was at Reading and Studley I used to exhibit vegetables at the Temple Show."

"Did you grow any extra quantities of Potatoes last season?"

"All told we had three acres of them. For the early we had Sharpe's Express; and for maincrops Arran Chief, King Edward, and Golden Wonder. Concerning Golden Wonder, I must say it is the best Potato I have ever had, and I agree with what Mr. Cuthbertson said at the Mansion House, 'it is food for the gods.'"

A GOOD LATE-FLOWERING ROSE.

"You have still plenty of Roses in bloom," I observed, looking at the borders on each side of the principal path in the kitchen garden.



IN THE GARDENS AT KIDBROOKE PARK —A BACKGROUND OF ROSE HOLLYHOCKS.

"Yes; though it is close on December we could cut a good few blooms. There are six hundred plants in these two borders, all General McArthur. I wish you could have come earlier in the season, to see the herbaceous borders when they were in their glory. They are three hundred and seventy-three feet long and eighteen feet wide, and I planted them to work out a gradation of pink colour, with groupings of Hollyhocks at the back. That was for summer. In autumn yellows predominate. One of the loveliest things I had this year was Helianthus sparsifolius, which was a blaze of colour, a wonderful, rich yellow, as though it had caught its glow from the sun. It wants protecting with bracken in winter, but it is well worth the trouble. Another plant that gave wonderful results was Dianthus Allwoodii, the new perpetual Pink. I put in some plants last year, and they were in bloom all the season."

At right angles to these borders, down another side of the garden, runs a border of similar length, and twelve feet wide, planted solely with Michaelmas Daisies of all species and varieties, dwarf and tall. The flowers were all over, but, labour being scarce, the stems still bore witness to the fine effect produced by this massing of one subject.

But this does not exhaust the list of herba-

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ceous borders, for the principal one is outside the kitchen garden, backed by its wall, and so placed that it will be fully visible from the dining-room of the mansion when an old Yew hedge is removed, as it is to be shortly. This hedge, which has been kept in good order, is on the top of a gently sloping bank, where Miss Crooke hopes to have another herbaceous border.

"When completed," she remarked, "the features of these gardens will be the herbaceous borders, the houses, and the fruit, of which we are now planting a lot. Plenty of flowers are wanted for cutting for the house and for London. Later on, too, we shall do much bedding. Last summer, in one of the long beds on the lawn we had Paul Crampel Geraniums edged with Ageratum; another had standard Fuchsias, dot plants of Maize, blue Salvias, Marguerites, and an edging of Cerastium tomentosum; and a third had standard Heliotropes, with a groundwork of pegged-down Heliotropes, a two-foot border of pink Ivy-leaf Geraniums, and an edging of Cineraria maritima. They made three very effective beds. The four beds with the old sundial between them have only two varieties of Rose, Lady Ashdown and Lady Hillingdon."

WALLFLOWERS FOR SPRING.

"You will have a good show of Wallflowers for spring in these beds on the west lawn."

"Each of those beds has three hundred and sixty Wallflowers Sutton's Fire King, and a yellow Tulip. Rabbits give a lot of trouble, and I have wired all round the south lawn to keep them out. A few days ago I found they had got to these beds, so I put tarred string round them, and since then the pests have not come back."

"The lawns have not been neglected?"

"Not those round the house. The farther lawn on this side was ploughed and sown with barley last season, but that will revert to grass next year. Then beyond that is a big field where we grew a lot of Potatoes, and that is going to be made into a lawn as well. When it is finished it will open up a long view through the park. I have made a big lawn for croquet and tennis."

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

"What other alterations and improvements do you contemplate making?"

"I am anxious to make a water garden, for there is fine scope for it on the banks of the stream that flows through the park. Then I shall take up more Orchids when the houses are finished, and I can get more labour. At present they are mostly Cypripediums."

"Do your women gardeners work the same hours as the men?"

"Oh. yes! In summer they start at seven in the morning and finish at half-past five, with an hour for lunch. Sunday duty is taken once every three weeks, a forewoman and a boy coming down, and often they are here all day."

"Do you think you will be able to get a sufficiency of male labour?"

"There will, I think, be plenty of men, but when gardens get in working order again wages will certainly have to be on a more generous scale than they used to be. They have never been what they should. I am paying thirty-five shillings a week for male labour now. One other thing I should like to say before you go: I have had much kindness from other head gardeners, and have always found them ready with help and advice. There is absolutely no trace of professional jealousy, either locally or among the gardeners I meet at the Royal Horticultural Society's shows in London."

W. J. CHITTENDEN.

Next week: A Successful Grower and Exhibitor of Vegetables. Interview with Mr. H. E. Wallis, Drayton Manor gardens, Sherfield-on-Loddon.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

RASPBERRIES AND NERINES.

DEAR KATE,—I think we do not grow nearly enough Raspberries, although they are amongst the most wholesome and delicious of fruits; and as for Raspberry jam, there is never too much of it. This is the time to start Raspberry canes, and you might well put in some, even if you can only grow a few; whilst those who can should spare a good piece of ground, in a moist position, if possible, for all the Rubi love plenty of water.

Do not be deterred by the old idea that you must put in posts and wires to support the canes. This is a quite unnecessary expense, and really the plants bring a better crop without any stakes, if you bend the canes over towards the next stool, and tie them together in arches. Everyone who has tried this plan agrees that it distributes the sap more evenly, so that instead of bearing fruit only on the upper sprays, those sprays which are produced all along the bent cane are fruitful. One sees the same thing in dealing with climbing Roses. If you want flowers all along the stem, you must not allow it to grow upright, but arch it over.

RASPBERRIES EARLY AND LATE.

We grow yellow Antwerp Raspberries as well as the fine red Superlatives, and the first-named has this advantage—that the birds do not touch them, so that they need not be netted. They are also extremely floriferous, and of very fine flavour, though not so large as the red varieties. We also have Raspberries of the red kind in October and November, and this year they have been quite plentiful during the late autumn. For this late crop we cut the canes down to within six inches of the soil in February. This makes them throw up a number of short canes in the spring, which produce their fruit very late, when they are scarce and valuable. Baumforth's Seedling and Fastolf are useful for autumn crops. They are both red, and of good size and flavour.

PREPARING THE SOIL.

The soil should be deeply dug and in good condition, but it is not advisable to bury a quantity of animal manure in it, which tends to breed insects and to cause sourness. Raspberries depend greatly on their surface roots, which are only a few inches below the soil, and top-dressing is the best way to feed them. But dig in all the humus (decaying vegetable matter) and burnt garden rubbish you can get, and in the spring you can add a good sprinkling of lime, which is useful both to destroy grubs and to fertilise the soil.

Get young canes, each with a good mat of rootlets, which must be spread horizontally about six inches under the surface all round the cane, not dropped into a hole. They will extend in a year or two to six feet from the stem, so that you must give them plenty of room—six feet every way is none too much. If the roots are dry from travelling, dip them into a bucket of mud and water before planting, and tread them in firmly.

In February these canes should be cut down nearly to the ground, which will make the plants throw up new growths.

THE FIRST YEAR'S WORK.

The object of your cultivation during the first year must be to strengthen these young growths, so that they may produce strong canes the following season. They cannot do this until they have broad surface roots, and for this reason it is necessary to sacrifice the original canes after they are planted. But the young canes which will appear in July yearly after the first season are only to be thinned out (if too numerous) to six of the strongest, which will bear fruit the following year. Directly the crop is over the old canes (*i.e.*, those which have fruited) should be cut down to the ground, so as to give all the sap to the young growths. They should not be tied in arches until their leaves are off in winter. All weeds must be kept down while small, but the Raspberry bed must never be dug with a spade, only hoed as often as you can. The least injury to the surface roots from a cut or bruise will result in the starting of a sucker, which will proceed to throw out its own circle of roots, and so starve the mother plant. Too often one sees a forest of suckers between the plants, the result of the ignorant use of a spade between them; and there is then nothing to be done but to make a fresh plantation at once.

In the spring, just as the plants start into growth, give them a top-dressing of old hotbed stuff, leaf-mould, burnt rubbish, or a mixture of fresh soil, soot, lime, and poultry manure. Their roots will then grow strongly, and about the middle of June they will enjoy a covering of cut grass, straw, or leaves, to keep them moist and cool during the time when their fruit is swelling. This should be laid down after hoeing the surface, and during a wet time; in a drought you should drench the soil between the rows with water before top-dressing it.

HOW TO GROW NERINES.

In the scarcity of fuel, many plants which are almost hardy have come into their own. But Nerines, which are amongst the most beautiful of autumn flowers, are seldom seen in good bloom, for they need special cultivation, although they are so nearly hardy that they do not require fire heat under glass. Being Amaryllids from South Africa, they should be kept absolutely dry, in the full sunshine, close under the glass roof, from the middle of May until the end of August, when one soaking of tepid water should be given, but no more until the soil is very dry again. Before long the points of the flower stem, crimson-brown in colour, will appear, and from that time they must have plenty of water. The leaves do not start till the blooms are over, but the exquisite flowers look their best when arranged with Maidenhair Ferns as greenery. Every shade of carmine, pink, and red is found amongst them, and some (such as N. corusca major) seem to sparkle with silver.

After flowering, the plants must still be kept fairly moist throughout the winter, for this is their growing season; and even when the tips of the leaves begin to turn yellow in the spring they must not be hurried, but kept slightly damp until the foliage has ripened off completely. Then comes their baking time, when we have to do our best to make them imagine that they are under an African sun during the rainless time of the veld. Without this dry heat the blooms will not start, and it must not be omitted.

SMALL POTS BEST.

Nerines do best in small pots, well drained, with a mixture of good loam and charcoal dust. They should not be potted every season, as they blossom best when very tight in their pots, and seldom flower the first year after repotting. They are, I believe, grown in the open air at Kew, close to the warm south wall of a greenhouse, in the same way as the Belladonna Lilies (Amaryllis Belladonna) and the Fairy Lilies (Pancratium illyricum and P. maritimum), which flourish in such a position. But in cold districts Nerines are safer in pots, and their dainty flowers are so valuable in the conservatory in autumn that it seems a pity to expose them to the winds and storm of our climate. Everyone who has a cold greenhouse should grow them.—Your friend, I. L. R.

A New Year's Resolution: To introduce GARDEN LIFE to all your gardening friends, to induce them to become readers. Our thanks in advance, and theirs when they see the paper.

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ORCHIDS FOR AMATEURS.

Interview with Mr. A. W. Cross, at The Gardens, Achnacone, Colchester.

THE gardens of Mr. A. G. Mumford, at Achnacone, near Colchester, to which, by the courtesy of the owner, I paid a visit in April, have many features of interest. These will not be neglected, but the head gardener at Achnacone, Mr. Cross, has so successfully devoted his attention to Orchids which may be grown by amateurs, that I asked him to give me the benefit of his experiences and views on that subject in particular.

We spent a considerable time in exploring the pleasure grounds, which, situated on high ground, surround the residence, and are approached on both sides by a drive through an avenue of Elms, beautified by numerous varieties of flowering and foliage shrubs. In April, the naturalised Daffodils were just coming on, and later clumps of Lilies are a feature. Passing on to the lawn—where Abies in variety (feathered to the ground), Wellingtonia gigantea, Araucarias, with other specimen trees, notable in many cases for the charming growth of Ivy underneath, claimed attention—I noticed the vigorous appearance of a large bed of Rhododendrons.

"The variety," said Mr. Cross, "is Cunningham's White, but several of the beds are mixed. They were only planted three years ago, and I attribute their thriving condition partly to the fact that in planting them we made a hole three feet deep, and three feet square, and filled it up with good peat. Also, each year we have given them a mulching of cow manure and peat."

The Destruction of Daisies.

"How do you treat the lawn itself, to get it into such perfect condition, with Daisies banished?"

"We always dress with well-rotted, sifted manure in the early spring, taking care to well brush it in with a good, stiff broom. A Daisy killer is used twice a year in spring and autumn. The two beds of Cupressus Lawsoniana and Aucubas, now filled in with Wallflowers (Blood-red in front, and Cloth of Gold behind), edged by Myosotis, will presently contain Geraniums (Vesuvius), and Marguerites, edged with Lobelias, the colour combination being red, white, and blue. Just here I am trying Roses in the shade. Last year I planted and flowered them. The varieties are Alberic Barbier and Dorothy Perkins in combination in one place, and Alberic Barbier and Crimson Rambler in another. We have to make our Rose soil. The natural soil is dug three feet deep, and a quantity of rotten manure put in the bottom."

Roses in Pairs.

Noticing, further on, a pretty rustic bridge and some tastefully arranged rockwork, we approached the spacious tennis and croquet lawn. Along half its length are Roses in pairs, not chained, but linked together by a coil of wire.

"I should be glad to know how you mate the Roses?"

"The first couple consists of white Dorothy Perkins and Wedding Bells. The others are Lady Gay and Claire Jacquier, Crimson Rambler and Electra, Hiawatha and Madame Berard, Dorothy Perkins and Electra, Dorothy Perkins and Thalia, Minnehaha and The Garland, Crimson Rambler and Aglaia, Dorothy Perkins and Aimee Vibert, and Jersey Beauty and Lady Gay. The trees were planted two years ago, in holes three feet deep, and the Fir poles are about nine feet high. The hedge on one side of the Rose-Companionships is composed of Apples (Ribston Pippin and Cox's Orange), and Pears, Marie Louise and Calebasse."

The Pergola and Rose Garden.

"You have more Roses on the wall?"

"Yes; Marechal Niel, W. A. Richardson, and Climbing Devoniensis. In the beds in front we have Maman Cochet, White Maman Cochet, Frau Karl Druschki, Dean Hole, Mrs. Grant, and A. K. Williams, as half standards; while the dwarfs, of which there are half, include Augustine Guinoisseau, Viscountess Folkestone, Lady Roberts, Madame Lambard, Madame Abel Chatenay, and Marie van Houtte. The Rose pergola, on the other side of the lawn, is from ten to fifteen years old, and the varieties are Dorothy Perkins, Dundee Rambler, Alberic Barbier, and Reve d'Or. The Rose garden proper, with standards in the centre, and four round beds of bushes, all edged with Box, contains some of the varieties already named, as well as Hugh Dickson, Abel Carriere, Boadicea, Mrs. John Laing, Bessie Brown, Killarney, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Fisher Holmes, Margaret Dickson, Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Miss B. Cant, and Ben Cant."

MR. A. W. CROSS.

"The last two names suggest that the soil has something to do with the fine growth and flourishing appearance of your Roses."

"Yes, the natural soil at Braiswick is just what Roses like. It also suits Hollies, as you can judge from the handsome specimens of the golden variety, which we have just clipped into shape near the house."

"Are there any special creepers on the house?"

"The Wistaria sinensis, nearly covering the west side, is notable. We get flower sprays three feet long."

Eupatoriums and Dielytras.

"Do you always manage to keep the conservatory as bright as it is to-day?"

"Sometimes it is brighter. Much, of course, depends upon the season. The permanent features include the Geraniums on the wall, which flower profusely. Then there are the Plumbago, Bougainvillea, and Streptosolen. Tree Ferns are also planted in beds. The rest of the contents vary. Just now there are pots of Eupatorium Fraserii, which, by the way, is quite a plant for an amateur to grow. It is easily struck from cuttings, is useful for decoration, and lasts nearly six weeks in flower. The same remark applies to Dielytra spectabilis, also in flower. The vital point with Dielytras is to let them get dry in their pots."

"What is the variety of the handsome Fuchsia dotted about the building?"

"Scarcity. I can strongly recommend it. I grow from cuttings in the autumn, and the next year the plants run up five feet high. If flowers are wanted at a given date, they should be pinched six weeks before the time. Cinerarias of the stellata type, a few Cattleyas Trianæ, Coleus thyrsoideus, Azaleas mollis and indica, Deutzias, Clivias, and several fine plants of Asparagus Sprengeri, which we use as pyramids for decoration, make up the rest."

The Cultivation of Hydrangeas.

Pursuing our way outside, Mr. Cross pointed out the only piece of formal bedding, the combinations in spring being Wallflowers, Arabis, Tulips, and Myosotis; in summer, Geraniums (Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Mrs. Pollock, and Flower of Spring), Heliotropes, blue Lobelias, and Golden Feather Pyrethrum. Under the windows of the billiard-room are a couple of beds with Golden Gem Calceolarias, edged by Purple Bedder Violas, to be succeeded by Mrs. Patrick Campbell Geraniums. The glasshouses being all in the pleasure grounds, we next entered them, beginning with the Vineries.

"In spite of the aspect being west, the Grapes do well," said Mr. Cross, "and I do not think that the question of aspect need trouble anyone. We make up the wide inside border every year, using bonemeal, mortar rubble, and cow manure, but not giving too much. The Vines in both houses are Gros Colmar, Black Hamburgh, Foster's Seedling, and Muscat. Here we have some of our Hydrangeas, which flower the whole of the summer and into November. They are very easy to grow. I start from cuttings in the spring, which is better than the autumn, and feed with cow manure. Hydrangea Hortensis is, in fact, one of the easiest and least expensive plants to grow."

"When was the range put up?"

"Twenty years ago. The Peach houses contain several varieties, and both Peaches and Fig trees grow good crops. I give the Peaches plenty of lime, mortar-rubble, and cow-manure, relying on these rather than on fertilisers. Perhaps, as the plant houses include the Orchids, you would like first to glance round the kitchen garden."

Fruit and Vegetables.

"And its environs," I rejoined, as we walked through a garden devoted entirely to annuals and herbaceous plants, all grown for cutting, with Currants trained on the walls, and an orchard planted with healthy standard fruit trees."

"Yes, the environs are very useful, and enable us to reserve the kitchen garden entirely for wall and bush fruit, and vegetables."

"You appear to have a representative collection of each?"

"Peaches, Nectarines, Pears, Plums, Cherries, Raspberries, and Gooseberries are largely grown. We get rid of the Black Currant mite by the simple expedient of destroying infested trees. Waterloo, Royal Sovereign, and Givon's Late Prolific are our Strawberries, and we only keep the runners until the third year. Rhubarb is protected with wooden or earthenware boxes, and, later on, with litter from the stable; and we cut from the latter end of October until the Gooseberry season begins."

"I should like to have a few particulars about the principal vegetables."

"There is a great call for Artichokes, of which we have a large plantation. I have just started cutting Asparagus, which will last until Peas are ready. The Asparagus beds are salted every year, and, after cutting, a dressing of some kind of fertiliser is applied. We start Peas with Sutton's Pioneer, and go on to Early Giant, Gradus, Exhibition, Centenary, Autocrat, and Gladstone. Last year, for the first time, I grew Midlothian Early Potato, and I can strongly recommend it. For the main crop, Factor and Up-to-Date are the best. The Seakale beds were planted two years ago, three in a clump, and I did not cut any until the second year. I cover over with pots, and use litter and leaves for gentle warmth, beginning to cut in the middle of January. All the varieties of Onions are autumn sown. Last year I had bulbs of Ailsa Craig weighing two pounds each. It is a mistake to sow too early. Most of our Tomatoes, Carters' Sunrise and Sutton's Perfection, are grown in 'The Bath.'"

Orchids for Amateurs.

Having inspected that remarkable structure, which was built by a previous owner of Achnacone, we returned to the plant houses. Here the Orchids in flower, or coming into flower, were Cœlogyne cristata, Odontoglossum Crispum, Oncidium tigrinum and varicosum (with flower-spikes three feet long), Cypripediums insigne and barbatum, Lælia purpurata, Calanthes Veitchii, and a number of Dendrobiums (nobile).

"These," observed Mr. Cross, "are some of the most useful kinds, all of easy cultivation, and there is no reason why any intelligent professional gardener, or amateur, with ordinary means at his disposal, need hestitate to grow Orchids of this class. The culture of them is really not more formidable than that of Chrysanthemums. I should like you to understand that here we do not attempt to go in for the more expensive varieties, and that I merely practise what I preach."

Imported Plants.

"To begin with, then, you do not consider that it is necessary to build special houses in order to cultivate Orchids?"

"By no means. Of course, houses are necessary, but anyone who wishes to go in for Orchid culture need not be deterred by considerations of aspect. If, on the other hand, it is a question of building, say, three houses for Orchids, I would not advise that all three should be built together, because they need bottom ventilation more than they do air at the top. A great many persons are deterred from growing Orchids because of the expense, but that is almost imaginary. Owing to the immense consignments from foreign countries, a couple of pounds will suffice to purchase a few nice varieties, which are easy to cultivate. Beginners obtaining newly-imported plants should, however, ascertain the country from which they came, and the elevation in which they were found growing, because Orchids from very high elevations require much less warmth than those from the lowlands. This is notably the case with Odontoglossums."

The Importance of Shading.

"Perhaps you will now say a few words on the treatment of imported plants on arrival?"

"They should all be unpacked as soon as possible, but some varieties need a different treatment from others. For instance, most of the Odontoglossums reach England devoid of their leaves, and it is rather trying to this class of plant that it has to come from its home in the high mountains through tropical countries. The consequence is that plants often arrive in a rather shrivelled condition, but with proper care they soon revive. In order to revive them, and this applies to plants from all parts of the world, they should be placed in a moderately dry, hot atmosphere, and given little or no water for a few days. My own practice with Odontoglossums is to suspend them head downwards, and syringe them twice daily until the foliage has assumed the natural colour. While this is being done, they should, of course, be shaded. Some of the Cattleyas, Lælias, and Cœlogynes require to be set on a gravel or other bench, and as soon as they revive they can be repotted or re-basketed."

Cypripedium Insigne.

"But," continued Mr. Cross, "I would advise amateurs to purchase established plants, because, so far as my own experience goes, I have found them much more satisfactory in the long run. A great many can be bought at 3s. 6d. a plant. With regard to species that may be described as strictly amateurs' Orchids, one of the most easy to cultivate is certainly Cypripedium insigne, with its various varieties. They are for the most part cool-house Orchids, although some need a stronger heat than others. Several, such as Cypripedium Argus, Hoveril, and barbatum, are well worth growing as foliage plants alone. With a few exceptions, Cypripediums do well potted in equal parts of a mixture of rough fibre, peat, loam, and sphagnum moss, and some broken crocks mixed with them. The drainage should be free, and it is advisable to half fill the pots with the pieces of broken crocks. The plants need not be raised above the pots, but as the roots grow very vigorously, ample provision should be made for their development. After repotting, they want very careful watering, just enough to keep the moss alive. Orchids of this class also need shading from very strong sunshine, especially if they have variegated foliage. The best time to repot them is about a fortnight after they pass out of flower. The great recommendation of this section is that you can gather flowers nearly all the year round, and that they remain in good condition for several weeks. I have had several Cypripedium insigne in flower for two months, but I do not recommend that period, because it weakens the constitution of the plants."

"Perhaps you could mention some other varieties of Cypripediums which will flourish with similar treatment?"

"C. Leeanum, C. Charlesworthii, and C. villosum will do in a temperature of about forty to fifty degrees, but C. barbatum requires a little higher temperature. Referring to another section, Calanthes, especially Veitchii, are very useful to grow, but they need a little care in management, and a different compost. The compost I use is one half good fibrous loam, one-fourth good leaf-soil, and one-fourth sphagnum moss, chopped fine, with a sprinkling of coarse, sharp sand, a little dried cow manure, and a few broken potsherds, well mixed together. The mixture should be placed in a 6-in. pot, about a quarter full of crocks for drainage, and the base of the bulb should be just about an inch below the rim of the pot. After the bulbs have been repotted, they should be kept somewhat on the dry side, syringed once or twice a day for a few days, placed in rather a warm corner of the house, and then, when the plants are in full growth, they should receive a little weak cow manure-water. As the bulbs approach maturity, the leaves begin to turn a little yellow, and the water supply must be reduced. Calanthe Victoria Regina is not so free-flowering as Vetchii, but I think that Calanthes, for people who can command a good heat, respond satis-

ACHNACONE, COLCHESTER.

factorily to the extra attention bestowed on them. Perhaps, with regard to Cattleyas, you would rather I named two or three varieties that will do well in cooler houses. C. Trianæ and C. Mossiæ thrive in a mixture of peat and sphagnum moss, and will grow well in pots or pans. These are both winter-flowering varieties, and, although they are not the best for cutting, they supply lovely tints that are hardly to be found in any other class of Orchids. I think they are decidedly the two best Cattleyas for amateurs, but C. labiata is a very nice flower to grow, and C. Mendelli is also very attractive."

Cœlogyne Cristata.

"What about Cœlogyne cristata?"

"That is certainly one of the most suitable for amateurs, as it is also one of the most popular Orchids grown. It does well in pans or teak-wood baskets, and will grow in a mixture of sphagnum moss and peat, with a good sprinkling of sharp sand. The flowering time is from the middle of January to the end of February, and the best time to re-pan or re-basket is as soon after flowering as possible. C. cristata must be well supplied with water whilst it is growing, and a humid atmosphere must be retained. When the growth is finished, it requires a period of rest, but it must not be dried off too severely. Then there is the large and popular family of Dendrobiums."

The Amateur's Dendrobium.

"Which of its varieties do you recommend for amateurs?"

"D. nobile is quite an amateur's Orchid, and one that almost always gives a very good account of itself. It is very regular in flower, anyone having a plant or two can soon get a good stock, and it only needs a period of rest after it has made its growth, to get it well ripened. Re-potting should be only done once in three years. Dendrobium speciosum is another variety that may be cultivated by amateurs."

The Most Popular Cool Orchid.

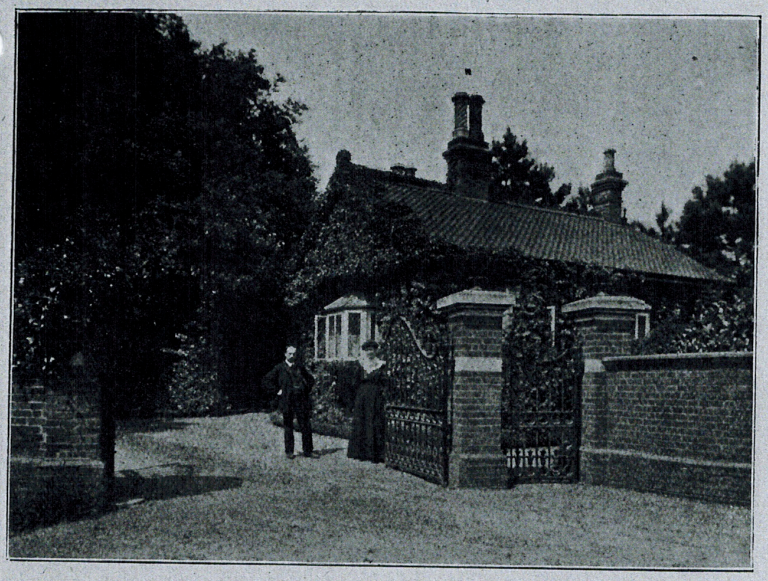
"Do you recommend any of the Oncidiums?"

"I think Oncidiums have been rather neglected as a class, and that for lightness and beauty they will compare favourably with any. But there are only two or three that are particularly suitable for amateurs. I mean O. macranthum (whose flower-spikes are usually very fine), O. varicosum, and O. concolor. These will grow in a mixture of sphagnum and peat, and should be slightly raised above the rims of the pots. But the most popular family of all amongst cool-house Orchids is Odontoglossum Crispum and its numerous varieties. The treatment which I have mentioned for other varieties will suit them perfectly well. O. Crispum itself takes the palm, but O. gloriosum and O. grande are also good varieties. Few plants are more beautiful at flowering time, or have a more distinct appearance. Here I may mention, for the benefit of amateurs, that it is important to tie up all the flower-spikes, a precaution which should be adopted in the case of every variety of Orchid."

The Beauty of Lælia-Cattleyas.

"Do these exhaust the varieties which you consider may readily and inexpensively be grown by amateurs?"

"I should like to add the Lælia family, especially Lælia purpurata, because of its great beauty. It requires a good deal of attention, but it is not difficult to grow, so long as the atmosphere in which it is placed is not close and stuffy. It must have plenty of air, and the treatment generally should be the same as that I have recommended for Cattleyas."



THE LODGE, ACHNACONE.

Hints on Fern Cultivation.

"I notice that in your houses you have also a singularly attractive collection of Ferns."

"We use a great many for table work. With a proper selection of varieties, and a little extra care bestowed upon their treatment, there should be no difficulty in keeping Ferns in a healthy condition. They do not require to have their roots always standing in stagnant water. I myself only give my Ferns a good soaking of water when, after testing the pots with my knuckles, they give a clear ring. Another mistake in the spring is to stand Ferns in a window or some other place where a burst of sunshine may at any time succeed sharp-cutting winds on the young fronds, and cripple the plants for the remainder of the season. It is also quite a blunder to place Ferns outside when there is a heavy downpour of rain. It is far better to use a water-pot with the rose on, taking care also to use tepid water. For nourishment when the Ferns are in an active state of growth, I use weak soot-water, which gives a nice dark green to the foliage, and helps to build up a robust constitution. Yet another word of caution—people who are constantly picking fronds from their Ferns must not expect to have good plants. It is wiser to keep one or two plants for the purpose of cutting. The best varieties for house work are Pteris Wimsettii, P. major, P. tremula, Cyrtomium falcatum, Asplenium bulbiferum, Nephrolepis Piersonii, and Adiantum cuneatum."

Stocks and Single Chrysanthemums.

"Do you make a speciality of any other plants?"

"We grow a fair number of Malmaison and winter-flowering Carnations, force a few Rhododendrons, and make rather a feature of Stocks in pots. The variety is Sutton's Winter White. They are potted in ordinary soil, with a little loam, leaf and sand. As soon as they begin to show flower, I feed them with a little cow manure. The plants you see are in 'forty-eight' pots, and if bigger specimens are wanted, they should be put in 'twenty-fours.' They last six weeks in flower, and furnish a mass of bloom. Then we grow a quantity of Chrysanthemums, including some new varieties of Japanese and Incurves, the latter including Buttercup, Clara Wells, Calypso, T. H. Hambledon, Eileen, Mrs. J. Wynn, Gem, and Mrs. Cora Stoop. I also find Single Chrysanthemums very useful, because they lend themselves to decorative purposes."

"Where did you begin your gardening career, Mr. Cross?"

"At Park House, Reigate, and afterwards I went to Mainbridge Hall Romsey. I was then at The Grove, Exening, going next to Merton House, Exening, as head gardener, and before I came here I was at Blacklands Hall, Cavendish, Suffolk, for nearly five years. Since I came here as head gardener, two and a half years ago, I have done a good deal of showing, and have taken a number of first prizes for groups of foliage plants, fruit and Sweet Peas. I have lectured in Colchester and Ipswich on Carnations, Ferns, and Orchids."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week's interview is with Mr. S. Stewart, at The Gardens, Connington Castle, Huntingdonshire.

Perpetual-Flowering Carnations.

VII.—HYBRIDISING.

NO work connected with the cultivation of flowers has more charm than hybridising. To be successful, the grower should have an object in view in regard to the varieties he intends to cross. To go haphazard from one flower to another, with the idea that perhaps something may come good, is a waste of material and time.

The Fertilising Organs.

I may explain that fertilisation is the fusion of the male and female organs, which are readily observed in the flower of a well-developed Carnation. The female organs, or pistils, are two or more hornlike bodies protruding from the centre of the flower. They are furnished with the stigmas at the apex, and are attached to the ovary or seed vessel, which is at the base of the flower. The stamens or male organs differ from the pistils in that they are more minute, and are found generally amongst the petals of the bloom. Their tips are furnished with the anthers containing the pollen. Having decided on the flower you intend shall be the seed bearer, the operation of emasculation must then take place. With a small pair of tweezers, carefully remove the anthers, which must be done before the pollen becomes ready. The reason for this is that you should have a perfectly clear cross.

The next item of importance is that the

William J. Cross

Gardeners' Chronicle 1877, n.s. 8

In the pretty little village of Whitechurch, on the banks of the Thames near Reading, the subject of our present memoir was born, September 10, 1832. His father, a poor but honest tradesman, strove hard to bring up a large family respectably, and to give them all the best education the neighbourhood, afforded. "My own, however," writes Mr. Cross, "was poor indeed; for in the National School, to which I was sent, there was no grammar, geography, history—in short, nothing taught but the common rules of arithmetic, reading and writing. Our only two books were the New Testament and the five books of Moses, excepting a "Dialogue" between William Walker and Thomas Brown on the subject of getting a boy christened—the one asking the favour of the other to stand godfather. A better school was looked out for me, but one morning, when on my way to read this silly story in my fourteenth year, I met a man looking for boys to hold up little forest-trees for the planters. I went, and, having spent a season at that work, my master and father made arrangements for me to go into the gardens of S. W. Gardiner, Esq., Coomb Lodge, in the same parish. A premium was paid, and my wages were to start at 2s. per week. The gardener, Mr. J. Piggott, was what is known as a good old-fashioned gardener, and the gardens, although small, were under his management productive. Good Pines, Melons, Cucumbers, excellent Grapes, and plenty of forced and common vegetables, formed the usual supply to the house. He used hot dung properly prepared with good effect, and, I believe, sent away all his young men ignorant of thrips and mealy-bug. My scanty income was in due time raised to 4s. per week, and, having the apprentice's privilege—that of killing the rats of the place at 1d. each—I began to lay out plans for myself. My fancy for gardening soon grew into an intense love for it, and my duties by night and day gave me the greatest pleasure. A sharp frosty night compelled one or the other to remain on duty nearly or quite all night, but my lodging a mile from the gardens made this duty hard and wearying, so that it can hardly be wondered at, that on one cold November night I found myself floundering about in an open tank in the centre of the gardens, containing several feet deep of water, having walked in asleep on my way to the Pine-house fire.

"My first spark of garden literature, in the shape of McIntosh's *Practical Gardener* I bought with my rat-tail pence. A description in the *Floricultural Cabinet* of some wonderful Fuchsia or other plant, and an occasional peep into the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, increased my strong desire to progress. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. Piggott, a very ladylike person, and sister to Mr. T. Webster the artist; her many kindnesses and advice to me at a time when my troubles ran high, will ever be remembered and appreciated by me.

“Having spent one season weeding and several in the stokehole and houses, and in serving the kitchen and kitchen gardening, I was considered a fit subject for a London nursery. Accordingly in the spring of 1851 I was placed in the Pine-apple Nursery under that best of all propagators, the good old Mr. Fancourt— a man hardly to be equalled in the art of increasing hard-wooded plants. One day I asked him to what did he consider his great success mostly due? He replied, "close observation.' 'Observation,' he continued, ‘will enable a man to propagate and grow any plant living.' Although his work lay principally under bell-glasses, yet for the principles of plant-growing there is no man to whom I owe so much as to him. My wages at that time being but 8s. per week I could not do much in what I so much desired—self-improvement. My handwriting being considered suitable for seed-packets I was ordered, with four or five others, to write each evening till 8 o'clock, but no extra pay was allowed for it. Being already a member of a Mechanics’ Institute, I begged off on certain evenings weekly to attend it, and this was readily granted. From one department to another I went with a small increase of wages, till I was made foreman of the soft-wooded propagating department, including choice hardy shrubs and Tea Roses, with the assistance of one little boy, and pay 15s. per week. My staff soon increased to six or eight men. This position enabled me to satisfy myself as to the value of large pots for soft-wooded specimen plants applied in

the early stages of growth—what is known as the one-shift system — which I am convinced is the true principle for the production of handsome plants. My evenings now were my own, and were devoted to education — practical geometry and music forming part. I attended all the lectures possible on a variety of subjects. Before leaving London I must have heard some hundreds by clever men, but, I regret to say, not one did I hear, or hear of, on botany or any branch of it. My lessons on geometry were taken in a class; then at my lodgings, when all the inmates of the house had gone to bed, I worked out the problems, and copied them, with definitions, into a large book, and carefully lettered and described all through the course, in the hope my book would be a useful one some day. This work generally brought me into the small hours of the morning. I may mention that the tens of thousands of plants I had to produce were obtained principally by means of well-prepared hot-beds, which for speed, and for securing health and strength, I think cannot be equalled by any other kind of heat. In search of further information I decided to leave London for the country, and was engaged to serve Mr. Scott at Leigh Paik, Havant, Hants, in the houses, leaving one guinea a-week, with the promise of a rapid advance, to accept I4s. This engagement did not turn out a happy one, for in a month or two I was discharged at a moment's notice — to leave the place the same night—for stopping a few Calceolarias, some of which were being stopped daily as they grew long enough. This sudden change drove me to lodge at a dirty public-house till it could be settled what my next step was to be. But for the kindness of Mr. Arthur Henderson my gardening career might have been sadly interrupted, and perhaps, as is the case with many young men, cut short. I think head gardeners have a duty to perform, and a responsibility in the management of young men, which should be seriously felt. I do not believe in the degeneracy of the rising generation of gardeners, but I think there is evidence enough to prove that even better results will be obtained by them when the present head gardeners have passed away. Suppose only one young man in ten is promising; is he not sufficient to carry away one's best practice, and add that to the practice of the other good men? What are the best head gardeners of the present day but the finished foremen of a few years back, who needed all the assistance and encouragement their masters could give them? Every one of such will remember with pleasure the man who gave him valuable instruction and encouragement as contrasted with those who practised a tyrannical authority discharging men by the dozen on the simplest fault, or with no fault at all, regardless of consequences.

“It was soon settled for me to go to Kinmel Park, North Wales, as foreman to the late Mr. Mountford, gr. to H. R. Hughes, Esq., where I remained two years. Soon after arriving there I found, to my great sorrow, my bock of practical geometry was missing, never to be recovered. I hoped a letter to my last place would recover it, but it did not. At this place I grew a dozen tree Mignonettes 4 feet 6 inches high, with heads as much through; the leaves had almost the substance of Cabbage leaves all up the stem. Some plants were very graceful, and bore flower-spikes 13 inches in length. I had some little difficulty to convince Mr. Mountford that they were from an ordinary packet of seed. Mr. Barron had some men at Kinmel Park lifting large trees, and his simple method of lifting a heavy ball with the tree perfectly upright was I thought worth remembering.

"During my stay here I began to form my little library, and learnt the art of entertaining myself in the long winter evenings. My duties at other seasons were hard, as often, while the Vines required so much attention, we worked from 4 in the morning till 9 at night. In fact the work went with but one change-—from work to sleep, and from sleep to work. In the spring of 1858 I left Kinmel for London, to seek a situation as head gardener, and the following summer was sent by Mr. Arthur Henderson to manage a small garden for Mr. Nicholl, Cowley Grove, near Uxbridge, Middlesex. This gentleman was an ardent lover of his garden, and I spent two very pleasant years with him. While there I wished to try an experiment with some plants of free growth, to test the principle of raising the temperature about mid-day to the highest degree possible by sun-heat. Accordingly I

selected some young Fuchsias struck the previous autumn, and by this time in 6-inch pots. I shifted them into 16 or 18-inch pots, using rough rich soil and free drainage, and placed them on a bed of warm tan some time in March. Ventilation was given as usual in the morning when the temperature rose high enough, but at about half-past 12 o'clock I shut all up as tight as possible, and syringed away pot after pot of warm water all over plants, pots, glass, walls, and all surfaces till the house in the full blaze of the sun rose to 120º or more, and was charged with all the vapour possible, I locked it up to make sure no one could open the door by any chance. At about 6 o'clock I gave an inch of top air to every sash, and during the evening increased it so that the temperature would stand through the night at about 60º. This treatment was followed up for two or three months, when the plants were taken out for conservatory decoration. Their growth was remarkable for thickness of wood and leaves. The leafstalks on the main stem were much shortened by the wood burying them in; they broke at every joint, these being extremely short, and branched again and again till without stopping a shoot they became a thick pyramid, and during the summer and autumn flowered abundantly at every point. When carried out of the conservatory to let in Chrysanthemums they measured from 6 to 14 feet high according to habit. I was much pleased with the result. "

In the year 1860 I went again to Messrs. A. Henderson & Co.'s nursery to wait a better situation, and in the autumn of the same year was engaged as head gardener to A. J. R. Stewart, Esq., Ards, Co. Donegal, Ireland. Here I had a good staff of excellent men and a good garden, and was much pleased with the wildness and natural beauty of the place. Five or six vineries were still holding their crops, but not one bunch of Grapes was fit for table. The roots of the Vines ran outside. The next season, having all ready for a good start, I loaded the borders with 18 or 20 inches of stable dung, which was well attended during the season, and the inside properly cared for as to ventilation, &c. The result was five houses of good black Grapes and one of Muscats. The next season the bunches came much larger, without disturbing a root. This garden was remarkable; for a very fine collection of Pears planted by Mr. McLachlan, a good gardener, once at Ards. The climate of the North of Ireland seems most suitable to a clean healthy growth and large well-finished fruit.

“In 1862 I left Ards for London once more, and was destined the same autumn to come to Melchet, being engaged by the late Lord and present Louisa Lady Ashburton. Besides the management of the garden much more important duties fell to me about the new mansion, which was begun the following spring by H. Glutton, Esq., architect. Under him I carried out extensive ground-works during several years, such as the terraces, carriage road, &c. Having a love for trees, and a dislike to destroy any, Lady Louisa ordered me to transplant. Now the recollection of Mr. Barron and his excellent plan became of use to me. I was allowed to purchase one of his machines, and transplanted many trees weighing from 1 to 6 tons without a single death; they are all, in fact, at this time more vigorous than ever. I found some little difficulty in removing smaller trees and shrubs of from 10 to 15 cwt.; and consequently for this purpose I had a truck made which when attached to the ball, the young tree is lifted by the horse pulling down the shaft, causing the tree to swing up on to the bed of the truck in a perpendicular, position. When drawn to its destination, the operation of lifting is reversed with much ease and speed, the tree being readily planted without the slightest risk. About this time the valuable and interesting collection of plants was began to be formed, and many soon grew into size. Among the plants I have raised may be mentioned Actiniopteris radiata from spores, for which the Royal Horticultural Society awarded me the Silver Flora Medal; hybrid Cypripedium Ashburtonae and Crossionum, also Harrisianum, but in this last Mr. Dominy was before me. Good Grape and other fruit growing was not lost sight of.

"In 1869 I left Melchet and was engaged as gardener to the Rev. S. Phillpotts, Porthgwidden, Cornwall, a gentleman possessing much horticultural knowledge, and a

profound lover of his garden, in which there is a great deal of glass, a nice collection of plants, and good fruits. Here I applied my usual remedy to exhausted Vines, namely, a heavy coat of stable dung and due attention to the inside of the house, with excellent effect. On the walls are two Pear trees remarkable for their large size—Glou Morceau and Beurre Rance. The estate is exceedingly pretty, and situated on the banks of Falmouth harbour. I remained at this place very comfortably for two years, when arrangements were made for me to return to Melchet to my former post. Here I found most of the garden buildings swept away and new ones erected, besides a new kitchen garden formed. During my absence the big Lily and Phalaenopsis had been awarded each the Lindley Medal when exhibited at South Kensington.

"Through the kindness of lady Louisa I have exhibited plants and fruits successfully. The last time I exhibited plants I won at Southampton the cup I prize more than all I ever was awarded, inasmuch as we carried off the laurels, beating a large collection brought from Leigh Park, the only place (I must own it) I ever owed a grudge to."

Cut flowers shown in bunches are always a feature at York, tender exotics and hardy outdoor kinds being alike forthcoming in quantity and in faultless condition. With twelve bunches of stove and greenhouse sorts Mr. McIndoe was easily 1st, showing a grand lot, consisting of Orchids of various kinds, Ixoras, Anthuriums, Dipladenias, Stephanotis, and the singular Callistemon rigidus; 2d, Mr. Black, gr. to the Misses Pease, Darlington.

Six varieties.—With these also Mr. McIndoe had 1st, and Mr. Black 2d.

Twelve bunches hardy flowers. — Here again Mr. McIndoe had 1st with a fine collection; 2d, Mr. Craig, gr. to T. Hutchinson, Esq.

FRUIT

was present in large quantities, with less of an inferior character than is often to be seen where much is brought together at this time of the year. In the class for three bunches of black Hamburgh Grapes there were some nine competitors, several of whom ran a close race—Muscats, as might be supposed, taking the time of year into account, were deficient in colour. The collections of fruit shown in the different classes were with few exceptions in good condition. For eight dishes Mr. Miles, gr. to Lord Carington, Wycombe Abbey, took 1st, with an even collection consisting of Black Hamburgh and Forster's Seedling Grapes, a good Queen Pine, Elruge Nectarines, Hale's Early Peaches, Negro Largo Figs, Hero of Lockinge Melon, and Black Circassian Cherries; 2d, Mr. McIndoe, whose best dishes were Black Hamburgh Grapes, a Queen Pine, Bellegarde Peaches and Pitmaston Orange Nectarines; 3d, Mr. Westcott, gr. to the Duke of Cleveland, Raby. Six dishes.—1st, Mr. McIndoe, with a good collection, the best examples being Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling Grapes, Best of All Melon, and a Queen Pine. Mr. Dawes, gr. to the Hon. Mrs. Meynell-Ingram, Temple-Newsome, was a close 2d, having, amongst others, Muscat of Alexandria and Madresfield Court Grapes, the latter very large in berry: Royal George Peaches, and Lord Napier Nectarines. 3d, Mr. Westcott. In the class for four dishes of fruit Mr. Clayton, gr. to J. Fielden, Esq., Grimston Park, took the lead, with Black Hamburgh Grapes, Abec Peaches, Elruge Nectarines, and a Melon—all in excellent condition; 2d, Mr. Leadbetter, gr. to A. Wilson, Esq., Hull. Three bunches of Black Hamburgh Grapes.—Mr. Allsop, gr. to Lord Hotham, Dalton Hall, Hull, was 1st, with medium-sized bunches, even in berry, quite black, and covered with thick bloom; 2d, Mr. Wallis, gr. to Sir H. Meysey-Thompson, Kirkby Hall, York, showing nicely finished bunches; 3d, Mr. H. Gill. Three bunches of Muscats.—1st, Mr. Sleightholme, gr. to T. W. Dymond, Esq., Barnsley. Three bunches any other varieties of white Grapes.—With these Mr. Allsop was easily 1st, staging Buckland Sweetwater in beautiful condition; Mr. Miles, who was 2d, had the same variety.

Six Peaches.—1st, Mr. Dawes; 2d, Mr. Black. Six Nectarines.—1st, Mr. Muller, gr. to W. H. Long, Esq., Trowbridge, with an excellent dish of Elruge; 2d, Mr. Sunley.

Scarlet-flesh Melon.—1st, Mr. Hare, gr. to R. H. C. Neville, Esq., Grantham; Mr. Clayton, 2d. Green-flesh Melon.—1st, Mr. McIndoe; 2d, Mr. Short, gr. to A. Pease, Esq., Darlington. Dish of Figs.—1st, Mr. McIndoe, with good Brown Turkey; 2d, Mr. Short.

Messrs. Harkness & Sons, Bedale, exhibited a good collection of show and fancy Pansies, for which they received a Certificate of Merit.

Mr. House had a First-class Certificate for a new hybrid perpetual Rose named Miss House. It is delicate flesh in colour, very full, and promising in appearance.

Obituary.

MR. JAMES WELSH, of Messrs. James Dickson & Son, nurserymen, Edinburgh, died somewhat unexpectedly at Erickstane, near Moffat, on the 18th inst., whither he had gone to recruit his health. The third son of the late Mr. James Welsh, of Earlshaugh, the deceased came of an old agricultural family, several members of which were among the best known sheep farmers of the Western Border country. Mr. Welsh, however, after a liberal education at the Moffat Academy, chose a mercantile career, and as a partner in the well-known firm of nurserymen and seedsmen with which he has for many years been identified, found scope there for his admirable business habits and ability. He was well known to many farmers and foresters, horticulturists and landed proprietors, in every county in Scotland; and his death, in the prime of his powers, will be regretted by a wide circle of friends, who greatly appreciated his many business and social virtues.

MR. J. W. CROSS.

It is with much regret that we record the untimely death of Mr. J. W. Cross (of the firm of Cross & Steer, nurserymen, seedsmen, and florists, at Ford and at Salisbury), which took place under painful circumstances on Monday last. When driving into Salisbury, accompanied by two of his children, the deceased was suddenly taken with a fit, fell from the trap on to the road and expired. The painful occurrence has cast a gloom over the residents of Salisbury and surrounding districts, by whom the late Mr. Cross was well known and respected, and great sympathy is felt on all sides for his widow and young family. Those of our readers to whom the deceased was personally known will read this notice of his death with sorrow, as they will recognise in it the loss of a well-trained, courteous, and unassuming gardener of high ability. The deceased was for many years gardener to Louise Lady Ashburton, at Melchet Court, Romsey, where, as is well known to readers of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, he established a good collection of Orchids, some of which found their way to Stevens' Rooms, and thence to the now famous collection at Burford Lodge. Cypripedium Ashburtonæ and C. Crossianum were, as the names imply, raised by the late Mr. Cross while in the service of Lady Ashburton for the second time as head gardener. Though plant-culture was our lamented friend's forte, he was also a good fruit grower, and good all-round gardener. When he left Melchet Court the second time it was to embark in business as a nurseryman, &c., at Ford, a couple of miles from Salisbury, where, at 8, The Canal, he carried on the seed and cut flower business, taking Mr. Steer into partnership a few years since. It will be remembered that within the last few years The Governor and Louise Ashburton Carnations were brought into commerce by the deceased, who, through straightforward business-like habits and practical industry had at the time of his death succeeded in establishing a good sound business connection.

The Weather.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1885.

Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for 1 Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 30 years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 6th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 6th Edition. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
June	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
18	29.78	—0.01	74.5	43.2	31.3	58.3	— 1.2	48.6	70	S.W.	0.00
19	29.63	—0.16	71.5	52.5	19.0	60.1	+ 0.4	58.0	93	S.W.	0.02
20	29.38	—0.41	68.0	56.0	12.0	58.6	— 1.3	48.0	68	S.W.	0.17
21	29.84	+0.05	63.5	41.2	22.3	52.3	— 7.8	38.0	58	N. N.W.	0.03
22	29.95	+0.14	73.5	47.0	26.5	56.0	— 4.4	50.8	83	S.W.	0.00
23	29.80	+0.09	67.8	54.8	13.0	59.3	— 1.4	55.0	85	S.W.	0.00
24	29.70	—0.12	86.0	55.0	31.0	69.5	+ 8.6	53.1	56	E. : E.S.E.	0.00
Mean	29.74	—0.06	72.1	50.0	22.1	59.2	— 1.0	50.2	73	S.W.	0.19

June 18.—Very fine.
— 19.—Fine, dull, rain in morning.
— 20.—Fine and bright at times, strong wind, rain in evening.
— 21.—Fine day, strong wind.
— 22.—Fine day, strong wind.
— 23.—Fine day and night.
— 24.—Very fine day, overcast at night.

LONDON: *Atmospheric Pressure.* — During the week ending June 20, the reading of the barometer at the level of the sea decreased from 30.15 inches at the beginning of the week to 30.05 inches by 5 P.M. on the 14th, increased to 30.11 inches by 9 A.M., and decreased to 30.04 inches by 5 P.M. on the 15th, decreased to 29.84 inches by 9 A.M. on the 17, increased to 30 inches by 9 A.M. on the 18th, decreased to 29.53 inches by 1 P.M. on the 20th, and was 29.56 inches by the end of the week.

The mean reading of the barometer for the week was 29.91 inches, being 0.25 inch lower than last week, and 0.05 inch below the average of the week.

Temperature.—The highest temperature in the shade in the week was 84°, on the 14th; on the 17th the highest temperature was 64°. The mean of the seven high day temperatures was 71°.9.

The lowest temperature was 43°.2, on the 18th; on the 20th the lowest temperature was 56°. The mean of the seven low night temperatures was 50°.9.

The greatest range of temperature in one day was 33°.6, on the 14th; on the 20th the smallest was 12°. The mean of the seven daily ranges was 21°.

The mean temperatures were—on the 14th, 65°.1; on the 15th, 58°.5; on the 16th, 55°.2; on the 17th, 54°.9; on the 18th, 58°.3; on the 19th, 60°.1, and on the 20th, 58°.6; of these the 14th and 19th were above their averages by 6°.2 and 0°.4; the rest were below by 0°.5, 3°.9, 4°.4, 1°.2, and 1°.3 respectively.

The mean temperature of the week was 58°.7, being 1°.7 higher than last week, and 0°.7 below the average of the week.

The highest reading of a thermometer with blackened bulb in vacuo placed in the full rays of the sun was 152°, on the 14th. The mean of the seven readings was 122°.2.

Rain.—Rain fell on three days, to the amount of 0.27 inch.

ENGLAND: *Temperature.*—During the week ending June 20, the highest temperatures were 84°, at Blackheath, 82° at Cambridge, 79° at Truro; the highest at Liverpool and Newcastle was 65°, at Hull and Sunderland 68°. The general mean was 73°.7.

The lowest temperatures were 37° at Cambridge, 40° at Hull, 43°.2 at Blackheath; the lowest at Preston and Newcastle was 50°, at Liverpool 49°.7. The general mean was 45°.7.

The greatest ranges were 45°, at Cambridge, 40°.8 at Blackheath, 34° at Truro; the smallest ranges were 15°, at Newcastle, 15°.3 at Liverpool, 22° at Sunderland and Preston. The general mean was 28°.

The mean of the seven high day temperatures was highest at Blackheath, 71°.9, at Cambridge 69°.4, at Plymouth 68°.2; and was lowest at Liverpool, 61°.3, at Sunderland 61°.7, at Bolton 62°.5. The general mean was 65°.9.

The mean of the seven low night temperatures was highest at Plymouth, 53°.5, at Preston 52°.9, at Brighton 52°.7; and was lowest at Hull, 47°, at Cambridge 48°.6, at Wolverhampton 49°.6. The general mean was 51°.

The mean daily range was greatest at Blackheath, 21°, at Cambridge 20°.8, at Wolverhampton 16°.6; and was least at Liverpool, 10°, at Newcastle 11°, at Sunderland 12°. The general mean was 14°.9.

The mean temperature was highest at Plymouth, 59°.1, at Blackheath 58°.7, at Brighton 58°.2; and was lowest at Hull, 53°.2, at Sunderland 53°.9, and at Bolton 54°.3. The general mean was 56°.5.

Rain.—The largest falls were 1.30 inch at Bolton, 0.53 inch at Preston, 0.38 inch at Plymouth; the smallest falls were 0.08 inch at Hull, 0.10 inch at Newcastle, 0.11 inch at Nottingham The general mean was 0.31 inch.

SCOTLAND: *Temperature.*—During the week ending June 20, the highest temperature was 71°, at Perth; at Aberdeen the highest was 64°.7. The general mean was 67°.2.

The lowest temperature in the week was 40°, at Glasgow and Leith; the lowest temperature was 48°.5. The general mean was 45°.2.

The mean temperature was highest at Perth, 55°.9; and lowest at Greenock, 54°.2. The general mean was 55°.2.

Rain.—The largest fall was 0.87 inch, at Greenock; the smallest fall was 0.09 inch, at Edinburh. The general mean fall was 0.40 inch.

JAMES GLAISHER F.R.S.

PLANTING IN CENTRAL ASIA. — Here (Kitale) was one of the plantations mentioned by General Korolkoff, which the Russians place in the mountains to keep the soil from washing down. The surplus trees raised for this purpose are given to the natives, who readily undertake their culture. The year I was in Samarkand they had distributed 1,000,000, and in the following spring expected thus to give from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 of saplings. Of the various trees and shrubs cultivated by the Russians the General mentioned to me a variety of Poplar (P. alba pyramidalis, also called P. Bolleana), almost unknown in Europe, but common in Central Asia, where it attains, in from fifteen to twenty years, proportions fit for building, and is sold from 10*s.* to 16*s.* the tree. Elm is used for making *arbas*, as also sometimes is Almond wood, but not often that of the wild Nut. They have introduced also several kinds of Conifers, among them Thuia orientalis, which does not grow so large as in Europe, though it attains to 70 feet. To these may be added the white and black Mulberry (M. alba and nigra), especially the former for silk culture, and many attain only moderate perfection as cultivated by the Sarts, and Raspberries, which I understood the natives do not cultivate at all. More than 12,000 fruit trees were grafted the year of my visit, and were to be given to the natives. "*Russian Central Asia,*" *by Henry Lansdell, D.D.*

Cross of 1 Church Walk Winchester-road in the City of Oxford Gentleman and Thomas Cross of Middle Claydon in the said County Farmer the Nephews the Executors.

CROSS Robert.

Personal Estate £122 3s. 7d.

1 June. The Will of Robert Cross late of Leyland in the County of **Lancaster** Labourer who died 7 May 1885 at Leyland was proved at **Lancaster** by Thomas Moss Shuttleworth of Preston in the said County Gentleman and Gilbert Hindle of Moss Side Leyland Labourer the Executors.

CROSS Sarah.

Personal Estate £2,805 16s. 8d.

25 March. The Will of Sarah Cross late of Harwood House New Parks Falsgrave in the Parish of Scarborough in the County of **York** Widow who died 14 February 1885 at Harwood House was proved at **York** by Joshua Rowntree Gentleman John Janson Jeweller and Walter Garbutt Gentleman all of Scarborough the Executors.

CROSS Sarah.

Personal Estate £4 10s.

5 June. The Will of Sarah Cross late of 22 Victoria-street in the Borough of **Cambridge** Widow who died 15 February 1885 at Cambridge was proved at the **Principal Registry** by William Beckett Cross of Market-place in the said Borough Grocer the sole Executor.

CROSS Walter.

Personal Estate £400.

22 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of Walter Cross late of Lisbon in **Portugal** Telegraph Clerk a Widower who died 6 October 1884 at Lisbon was granted at the **Principal Registry** under the usual Limitations to Mary Ann Cross of 22 Linton-street Islington in the County of Middlesex Widow the Grandmother and Guardian of Walter Cross a Minor the Son and only Next of Kin.

CROSS William.

Personal Estate £150 0s. 9d.

6 June. Administration of the Personal Estate of William Cross late of 67 Page-street Westminster in the County of **Middlesex** who died 22 May 1885 at the Infirmary St. George's Union Fulham-road in the said County was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Martha Cross of 67 Page-street Widow the Relict.

CROSS William.

Personal Estate £4,290 19s. 11d.

8 August. The Will with a Codicil of William Cross late of Mourina Cottage in the Parish of River in the County of **Kent** Gentleman who died 10 July 1885 at Mourina Cottage was proved at **Canterbury** by Mary Jane Cross of Mourina Cottage Widow the Relict and Henry Giles Pain of 9 Eastbrook-place Dover in the said County Registrar of Births and Deaths the Executors.

CROSS William John.

Personal Estate £347 13s.

21 August. Administration of the Personal Estate of William John Cross late of Ford near Salisbury in the County of **Wilts** Nurseryman and Seedsman who died 22 June 1885 at Laverstock in the said County was granted at **Salisbury** to Elizabeth Cross of Ford Widow the Relict.

CROSSDALE James.

Personal Estate £224.

31 August. Administration of the Personal Estate of James Crossdale late of 9 Manchester-road-East Little Hulton in the County of **Lancaster** Auctioneer who died

ORCHID NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

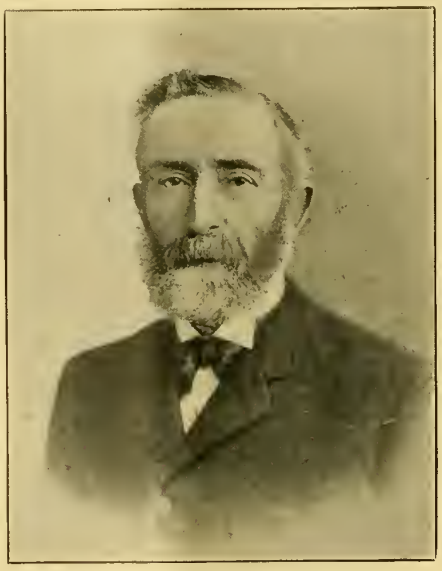
CYPRIPEDIUM × HAYNALDO-BELLATULUM (HAYNALDIANUM ♀; BELLATULUM).

A VERY singular, new, and pretty hybrid, possessing the desirable feature of being distinct from any other. The scape bears but one flower, though it is almost certain to bear more when thoroughly matured and strong. The flower-stem is covered with soft purple hairs; the bract, which is two-thirds of the length of the ovary, is green, spotted with purple; the ovary greenish, white with purplish down on the prominent ridges. The upper sepal, which is 2¼ inches long, and 2 inches broad, is yellowish-green over the basal two-thirds of its area, the upper and marginal third being pure white; the whole surface, with the exception of a narrow white margin, bearing irregularly dotted purple lines. The petals, which have a peculiar wave or twist in them, suggestive of the influence of C. Haynaldianum, are 1 inch broad and 3 inches long, distinctly decurved, creamy-white, with a striking purple reticulation in spots and lines over their whole surface. The lower sepal is half the size of the upper one, greenish-white, with purple-dotted lines. The lip, which has a peculiar lateral compression, has the side-lobes folded one over the other, both being closely shielded by the large staminode, which is yellow, with a few purplish lines towards the base. The colour of the lip is very pale yellow, the face being delicately tinged and dotted with rose. The leaf resembles that of C. Haynaldianum, but bears an obscure dark green reticulation. It flowered for the first time with Walter C. Clark, Esq., Orleans House, Sefton Park, Liverpool, who kindly furnished the material to enable the writer to describe it. *James O'Brien.*

MADRESFIELD COURT GARDENS.

IT is interesting to find that, under the control of the present Earl Beauchamp and his gardener, Mr. Crump (whose portrait is given herewith), this fine old place, near Great Malvern, has not only continued to worthily occupy its old position amongst British gardens, but it has greatly advanced. Lord Beauchamp is a great lover of flowers, and for that reason has had large masses of many descriptions of hardy things planted in all sorts of places, hence in all directions there crop up big climbing, bulbous, and ordinary perennials, beneath trees, amidst long grass, in semi-woodlands—indeed, wherever it is possible to find space, with some show of adaptability or fitness. There are, too, the usual mixed hardy borders, also gardens solely of Roses and of annuals, beautiful flowering or foliage shrubs and trees in all directions, a considerable range of rockwork, not the least prominent feature on which is constituted by Cyclamens in their season; whilst on grass there is a broad serpentine rivulet of Colchicums in variety, the large C. maximum being very prominent. In all directions hardy bulbs have been planted, and the grounds in the spring may be said to be full of Daffodils of all descriptions, Squills, and other bulbs. A very quaint feature of the large flower-gardens fronting the mansion is its coloration, which consists exclusively of orange, yellow, and lemon shades. These allied hues are furnished by all descriptions of plants that have adaptability for the purpose. Such a flower garden is so widely dissimilar to what is commonly seen in similar positions, that it is difficult to criticise it, yet there is, in spite of the oddity, a softness, and harmony in the whole that renders it far from unpleasing. Of course, it would entail immense labour were it resolved to vary the colours to buff, brown, blue, red, white, &c., from year to year. There seems, however, to be no such intention, and Mr. Crump is still on the look-out for yellow-flowered plants that will suit Earl Beauchamp's tastes, although as it is, he seems to have almost everything yellow, or of allied shades. In a new garden where mixed colours rule, there was a small mass of the most perfect single-flowered bedding Begonia I have ever seen. It is there known as the French Worthiana, and though of the same height, it is much stiffer or erect in habit than is the common Worthiana, and the flowers are of double the size, of a rich orange-scarlet, and borne boldly in great profusion. Every one who uses Begonias for bedding should have this beautiful one. They would not then plant the ungainly, large-flowered ones again.

Conifers are very abundant here, especially in the neighbourhood of the fine rockery, which is one of Pulham's best productions. This is well furnished, and the garishness so characteristic of new rockwork has entirely disappeared. The entire construction now looks quite natural. There are intersecting the grounds two very fine avenues of Conifers, each some quarter of a mile in length. The trees composing these are now in the very prime of life. One is of Abies nobilis glauca, the trees averaging 50 feet in height, and perfectly furnished throughout; the habit is somewhat stiff,



MR. W. CRUMP
(The Gardener at Madresfield Court.)
See p. 51.)

but the colour of the foliage, here almost blue, gives to the trees a very marked aspect. Each tree has lately received a top-dressing in the shape of a couple of cartloads of marl, which they seem to like greatly, previous dressings having done great good. At one end of this avenue there runs at right angles another of a more elegant Conifer, Cedrus atlantica glauca. Some of these trees have the true blue or glaucous tint of the variety richly displayed, others less so, but the avenue is one of great beauty, and commands warm admiration. At its extremity, towards the kitchen gardens is a yet rather new semi-rock garden, which is fast becoming furnished, and will soon become of exceeding interest. Here plants are fully exposed to sunlight, and many thrive that would hardly do so in the comparative shade of the rockery previously mentioned.

Hardy Fruit is at Madresfield a very prominent feature. It is evident that the reputation the gardens enjoyed in the days of Mr. Cox has not suffered in any way in the hands of his successor. Fruit-trees are not only found in remarkable abundance, but are wonderfully well done, and generally carried capital crops. The walls within and without the gardens are well clothed, and all ordinary trees are in perfect condition. Pears are specially good, and such varieties as Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenné du Comice (see fig. 16, p. 51), Beurré Boussoch, Beurré Clairgeau, Beurré Superfin, Beurré Diel, Williams' Bon Chrétien, Josephine de Malines, here regarded as the best late Pear, and keeping well till February, were, with many others, finely cropped, having noble fruits. A long series of cordon Pears, planted on either side of the central garden-walk, have had three shoots or branches run off laterally on either side, and these are trained along wires strained tightly overhead, so that the path becomes literally a Pear-bower some 400 feet long. Between each of these side cordons there is a large pyramid or bush-tree. From this walk very fine crops are obtained. Some old espalier Apple-trees merit notice, notably several Ribston Pippins. These are about 4½ feet in height, are in superb health, and were carrying wonderfully fine fruits. There is an espalier of Lord Derby, 4½ feet high, with four horizontal branches on either side, and the entire tree is 42 feet long (see fig. 18, p. 53). This was carrying a grand crop of superb fruits, and indicates in a marked way the value of espalier training in Apple culture. These are, however, only the few out of many. Cox's Orange Pippin was giving a splendid crop on double oblique cordons. These have been six years planted, each stem is about 9 feet long. There are some 30 feet run of these cordons, planted 2½ feet apart. The fruits were remarkably fine, quite perfect samples. These trees were originally budded on to seedling stocks obtained from pips of the cider fruits. Also similarly worked and fruiting well were Claygate Pearmain, Sturmer Pippin, Tyler's Kernel, and others. Apples, Pears, and Plums, are in great plenty in outer gardens and orchards, and there is in one place a large trial orchard, the trees being all of bush form, and planted rather close. Here varieties are tested for fitness for general estate as well as for home culture.

THE ESTATE NURSERY.

A remarkable feature is the fruit nursery. Lord Beauchamp, with thoughtfulness and regard for his tenants' interests, has had raised under the gardener's care yearly about 2000 trees; that is, at least, the number annually worked, chiefly by budding. The nursery, which is changed from one area to another every two or three years, vegetables alternating, has at the present moment several thousands of trees in it, all first-class stuff. The maiden growths on Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries would do credit to any nursery in the kingdom, as would also the appearance of the entire stock. Good trees are sent out to tenants yearly, on application, and under such conditions no farm or garden need be otherwise than well stocked. All the best varieties found suitable for the locality are grown. Mr. Crump raises his own stocks; and all seedlings when lifted after the first year for planting up in lines for budding later, have the long tap-root carefully preserved, not cut off or shortened, but bent horizontally, and in the process of planting always towards the front. The result is, he states, that this tap throws out numerous fibres, and these during the season form such mats of roots, that the trees when lifted from behind literally stand alone. That is very much more than can be said of fruit-trees generally when young.

Cordon Currants and Gooseberries are a very interesting feature in the kitchen-gardens; Gooseberries are trained as treble cordons on a single wire trellis, and as quadruple cordons on a double wire trellis. This latter is of the greater interest, as being the more novel. The bushes are planted 18 inches apart in one row; each bush has four stems. These are trained up in pairs on either side, so that, reaching a height of about 6 feet, they are at the top 20 inches apart, each side slanting outwards. Originally each stem was tied up to sticks. There are but three wires on either side, and the top ones are nearly 7 feet high, to carry the nets which

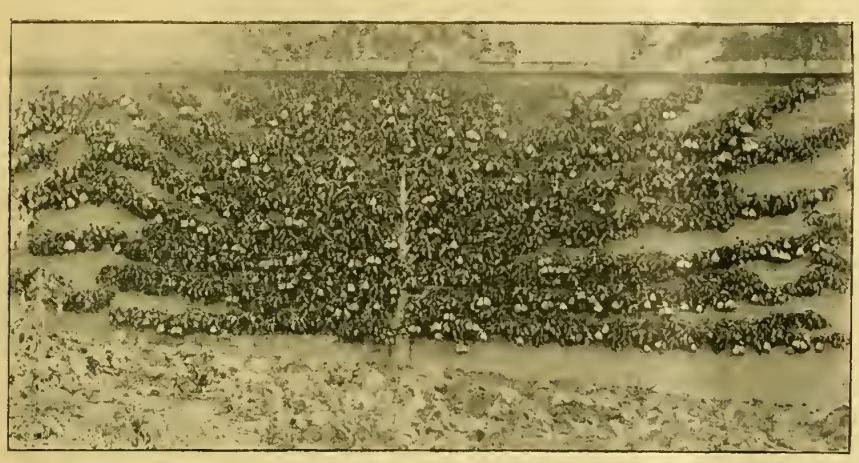


FIG. 16.—A FAN-TRAINED TREE OF DOYENNÉ DU COMICE PEAR, MADRESFIELD COURT.

(SEE P. 50.)

FIG. 17.—AN ARCADE OF PEARS MADRESFIELD COURT

(SEE P. 50.)

enclose all the quarter. This double cordon of Gooseberries includes dessert varieties only. The adjoining one that is single, is composed of the Lancashire show varieties. Next come wire trellis-trained Raspberries, one row being double-wired as for the Gooseberries. This latter row gives far more fruit from the same space than is given by single-wired trellises. Red and White Currants are trained as cordons by wire also. The former, planted 2½ feet apart, each have three stems, completely furnished with spurs, to the full height of 6 feet. The stems slant somewhat obliquely. The produce in fruit is enormous, and it is wonderfully fine and clean. Birds do not seem to trouble either whites or reds so grown.

There are, of course, large numbers of houses devoted to plant and fruit-culture, but these have for me little of interest compared with what is found outside in hardy fruit-culture at Madresfield Court. *September*, 1898.

WILLIAM CRUMP,

the highly esteemed gardener at Madresfield Court, was born at Pontesbury, Salop, in the year 1843. He must have been born a gardener (not bred), for not one of his friends or relations were ever engaged in matters horticultural. From earliest childhood he spent nearly all his time in his parents' small garden amongst the flowers, planting one day, and taking up the next "to see if they grew." One of his earliest experiences was the raising of a healthy sapling Oak from an Acorn, but owing to being planted too near an important window, it proved his first disappointment. After overcoming the objections of his friends, young Crump was duly apprenticed, and went through all the necessary probationship, until the year 1865, when he took charge of the glass department at Powis Castle, Welshpool, under the late Mr. G. Browo, a good all-round Scotch gardener of the old school. Carpet-bedding then became fashionable, and in his thirst for practical knowledge Crump took an unusual step, viz., an Irishman's rise, involving a reduction of wages, but which proved a very wise step. He took the general foreman's place, under the late Mr. Wildsmith, at Heckfield Place, Hants—a place from which have proceeded so many gardeners now holding leading positions. After staying there three years, he became head gardener to F. Harris, Esq., The Grange, Lamberhurst, Kent, a new place, which did not reach the anticipations formed of it. After four years' service there, he went to Blenheim Palace, Woodstock—a place that required much tact to sustain. Much exhibiting was done at the Royal Horticultural Society, South Kensington (then in its greatest prosperity), Crystal Palace, Royal Botanic, Manchester, Oxford, and other shews; Silver Cups and Medals being awarded, including the blue riband at the International Potato Show, Crystal Palace, and, what was most appreciated of all, Messrs. Webber's packing prize, twice in succession. Blenheim Orange Melon, which still holds its own, was raised, exhibited, and received First-class Certificate, R.H.S., during the seven years of his tenure of office as head gardener. In the year 1883 he removed to Madresfield Court gardens, in succession to the late Mr. W. Cox. The place is noted for its excellent soil for fruit growing, which always had a special attraction for Mr. Crump. Large numbers of trees are produced annually for tenants, and distributed gratuitously. There is also an interesting experimental plot, where some 250 varieties of Apples, 80 of Pears, and 50 of Plums are on trial. One of the Victorian Medals of Honour was awarded to Mr. Crump in 1897. Mr. Crump has done excellent service in working up an efficient auxiliary of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution at Worcester, and has been the means of adding many annual subscribers, and £300 in cash in three years. Oh, that gardeners in other counties would do likewise!—it only requires the will.

GLOXINIAS.

HAVING been unusually successful in the cultivation of these beautiful plants, it may prove of use to some of our readers if I describe my methods of cultivation. It is at this season that the foundation of a good summer display is laid. Some years ago the Gloxinia was con-

those which are included in the first division, of which some thirty-eight species are described and figured. The plates are mostly coloured lithographs, and are exceedingly good, the insects being shown of their natural size on their food plants, as well as magnified, often with dissections, some of the plates showing simply in outline the last joint of the body of the female, in which are certain important characters that distinguish one species from another. The descriptions are very full, but decidedly technical, and for the most part would not be understood by those who were not accustomed to entomological phraseology. However, it would be almost impossible to have given the descriptions in popular language. The difference between the sexes before alluded to in these insects is very extraordinary, the adult females in most cases are immovable, inanimate-looking creatures, very unlike other insects in every outward appearance, while the males are active two-winged little flies which anyone would at once recognise as insects; in some species the males are very common, in others they are very seldom met with, and in some they are unknown. The most interesting part of this work to horticulturists is no doubt the chapter on "Methods of Prevention and Remedies." The author goes very fully into the subject, but does not suggest anything but what is well known in the way of insecticides. Fumigating with hydrocyanic acid gas for the wholesale destruction of scale is strongly recommended, but it can only be used with specially-constructed fumigation chambers or some other form of air-tight covering over the plants. Kerosine emulsion of a strength suited to the plant operated on is mentioned as one of the best insecticides. This volume will be consulted by those who are to some extent interested in entomology as well as horticulture with much pleasure and profit, and to all entomologists who wish to study this group of insects it is almost indispensable. We look forward to the next volume with some impatience.

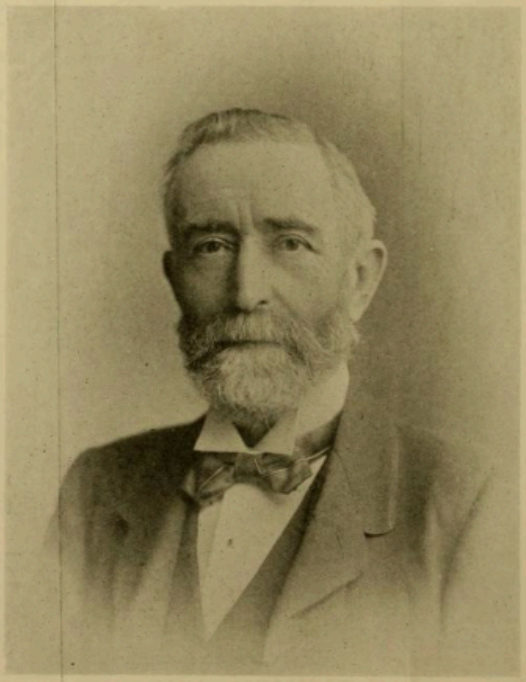
WORKERS AMONGST THE FLOWERS.

WILLIAM CRUMP, V.M.H.

THE subject of our illustration is a gardener who thoroughly loves his profession, and who by his perseverance and indomitable energy has raised himself to the front rank of horticulturists.

Mr. Crump was born in Shropshire in the year 1843. Throughout his school days it appears he spent most of his playtime hours amongst flowers and vegetables. After receiving a fairly good education for that period in the National school, various occupations were offered and strongly advised, but none was liked so well as gardening. For a considerable time every possible obstacle was placed in his way, but his parents ultimately gave way, and after a course of probation Mr. Crump was duly apprenticed in a moderately well managed garden. His first responsible charge was that of foreman of the glass department at Powis Castle, Welshpool, under the late Mr. G. Brown, a famous Scotch gardener of the old school. There was a good home nursery there at that time, also some splendid specimens and collections of choice coniferæ. The cultivation of Pine-apples was then a feature, and so were the terraces of herbaceous flowers. Mr. Crump then took an apparently downward step by accepting the appointment of general foreman under the late Mr. Wildsmith at Heckfield Place, Hants, a noted place from which so many good gardeners have proceeded and now hold good appointments. After staying here three years or so, he became head gardener to Mr. F. Harris, Lamberhurst, Kent, and from there went to Blenheim Palace, Woodstock.

In due course Mr. Crump exhibited successfully at the Royal Horticultural Society, South Kensington, Crystal Palace, Royal Botanic, Manchester, Oxford, and other shows, silver cups and gold medals being awarded, including the blue riband at the International Potato show, Crystal Palace, and what was the most appreciated of all awards was Messrs. Webber's £10 10s. prize for the best packed three boxes of fruit delivered by the railway companies at South Kensington intact, in the way of ordinary parcels, consigned and signed for as customary. This was twice competed for in succession, a first prize won each time against such competitors as Mr. Coleman of Eastnor, and other first-class fruit growers and fruit packers.



MR. W. CRUMP, V.M.H.

Blenheim Orange Melon, which still holds its own as one of the best scarlet flesh Melons, was raised by Mr. Crump, and exhibited successfully in open competition with upwards of thirty others, and obtained a first-class certificate of the Royal Horticultural Society the same year. In the year 1883 Mr. Crump removed to Madresfield Court, a place noted for its excellent soil for fruit growing. Large numbers of hardy fruit trees are worked up annually for tenants and distributed gratuitously. Many experiments in grafting and double grafting with a view to the fusing of new blood and the improvement of existing choice varieties have been made in the hope that the subtle influences of stock and scion would produce something worthy of the experiments.

Partial success at times rewarded Mr. Crump's efforts, but further trials proved disappointing, and were abandoned. There is an interesting experimental plot, where some 250 varieties of Apples, eighty of Pears, and fifty of Plums, all bush trees, are on trial; and when any new variety is found to suit the locality a stock is worked up. There are also a good many seedlings and local varieties added to the above Apples, a large number being annually discarded. Visitors to Madresfield Court gardens will have observed the encouragement given by their owner, and the additional improvements carried out from time to time with the object of making the gardens thoroughly interesting, especially in the naturalising of hardy shrubs and flowers. Mr. Crump has also been partly instrumental in working up for the county an auxiliary of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution, and through the generosity of his master, Earl Beauchamp, allowing the gardens to be open to the public once a year several hundred pounds have been added to that excellent institution. One of the Victoria Medals of Honour was awarded to Mr. Crump in 1897.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE following novelties appear in *Gartenflora*, February 1, 1902:—

New Pelargoniums.—A coloured plate illustrates five very fine forms raised by Max Bürger Halberstadt, one of which, Die Braut (The Bride), is an exceedingly fine pure white semi-double form, with large, frilly petals and a compact, handsome truss. The others, though very fine, are on more familiar lines of scarlet and rose-pink, more or less flamed with scarlet.

A Cultural Report of the Union for the Encouragement of Horticulture (Verein zur Beförderung des Gartenbanes) in Berlin gives an impartial report regarding numerous flowering plants and vegetables tested in their gardens, giving full descriptions—in many cases correcting those of the raisers—and opinions as to success or failure (a practical step worthy of adoption on this side). Amongst these is mentioned

Petunia hybr. grand. comp. fl.-pl. rosea perfecta (! ! !), which is highly recommended with the remark that the name is longer than the plant is high. It is, at any rate, a charming example of nomenclature.

Comet Asters.—Ernst Benary, Erfurt, describes and illustrates some novelties of this strain, amongst them Kaiserin Friedrich, a dwarf grower, with very large flowers like reflexed Chrysanthemums as much as 6 inches in diameter, pure white; and

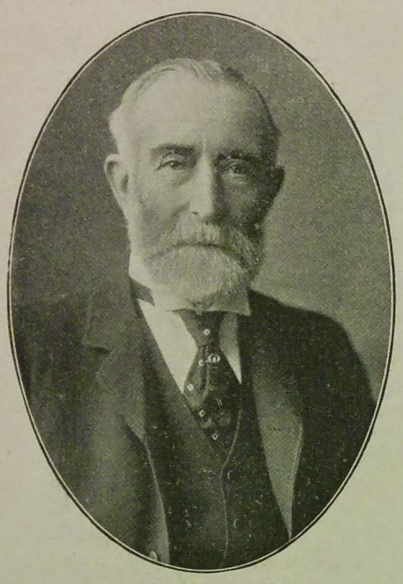
Darwin Asters (Lady Asters), light blue, pure white, innumerable narrow petals curving outwards, forming neat, almost hemispherical flowers of a huge double Daisy type.

Antirrhinum majus grandiflorum Queen Victoria.—A very bold, broad-tipped, pure white form; very long stalks to individual flowers, hence suitable for cutting.

Celosia spicata (argentea linearis).—This appears to be a truly handsome novelty introduced from the East Indies. It is an annual, forming tall, upright, pyramidal plants about 2½ feet high, bearing a great number of awnlike spikes of bloom, rosy red, which turn to a silvery white, the spikes thus becoming beautifully parti-coloured; suitable for pots or the open.

Phlox Drummondii cuspidata fol. albo-marginatis (Benary).—A beautiful variety with long, crisped, and caudate petals, sometimes fimbriate,

tion) is worthy of a place in every collection. It is of French origin, having been introduced by Pernet-Ducher in 1895. The buds are long, and the flowers, carmine in colour, with a shading of salmon. They are produced most freely and during a long period. It is suitable either for exhibition or for decorative purposes, and, being a vigorous grower, can be recommended for town gardens. For the Hybrid Teas, as



MR. W. CRUMP, V.M.H.

well as for the Teas, clay is not necessary. Indeed, they grow better in rather a gritty soil, provided only that it is made quite firm, and not allowed to get dry.

Hints on Strawberry Culture.

September 13th.—The Editor of the Royal Horticultural Society's journal gives some valuable hints about Strawberry culture. He points out that in most beds there are some barren plants, and, as these naturally produce the earliest and finest runners, these are apt to be chosen for new rows, the inevitable result being that they yield no fruit. He also emphasises the importance of change of stock. "Soils," he proceeds, "play a very important part in Strawberry culture, and, if light and sandy, it is almost useless to attempt growing such fine-flavoured varieties as British Queen, Dr. Hogg and others of that type, as they require a strong, loamy soil to do them justice. Such a soil will practically grow any variety; but on a light, sandy soil the choice of varieties that can be relied upon is limited. At the head of such we should, without hesitation, place Countess, an old first-rate-flavoured variety, nearly lost to cultivation a few years ago. Dumbarton Castle is a small-growing, free-bearing variety of good flavour; and, as a late variety, Givon's Late Prolific is excellent in every respect. Filbert Pine, Vicomtesse Hericart de Thury, and Eleanor are all reliable on light soils, and on heavier soils, except Countess, which does not ripen well at the points of the fruit, on heavier soils." As all these varieties, with the possible exception of Countess, belong to the late section, Noble might with advantage be substituted for one of them. I believe that Laxton's Reward also fruits well on a light soil, and it is said to be equal in flavour to British Queen. This season I have had an object-lesson in the disadvantage of planting too closely. The runners were put in two years ago, one foot apart in the rows, and it was intended to remove every alternate one after the first crop had been gathered. As the result of unfavourable weather, however, so little growth was made that it did not seem necessary to carry out this intention, and the plants were all allowed to remain. Then came the wet spring and summer of the present year; foliage was produced so thickly that it covered the bed, and under it lay great quantities of fruit on the sodden straw, only a small proportion of it able to colour and ripen, the rest moulding away. Again, gathering was very difficult. It was impossible to avoid treading on a good deal of the fruit spread out between the rows, and hidden between the rows. It may seem a waste of space to plant thinly, but in the long run it is a distinct gain. For, when fruit cannot be gathered in good condition, it is merely a drain on the plants.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 269.—MR. WILLIAM CRUMP, V.M.H., AT MADRESFIELD COURT, MALVERN.

THE gardens at Madresfield Court, which, by the courtesy of Earl Beauchamp, I visited in July, are exceptionally interesting for various reasons. The Court itself is a famous historic seat, or moated mansion, with a setting in all respects worthy of the noble mansion, and in recent years, since the present Earl succeeded, the natural beauties have been augmented by the introduction of several attractive features. Moreover, the head gardener, Mr. William Crump, is not only an all-round man of recognised ability, but one of the finest fruit-growers in the kingdom, and the possessor of the coveted Victorian Medal of Honour, which was awarded to him in 1897. Withal he remains as unassuming as he was when, nearly a quarter of a century ago, he entered upon his present responsible duties. While quite willing to tell me all about the gardens, he was very much disinclined to talk about himself. Mr. Crump's house is situated in the kitchen garden, and from there we started on our walk round.

Features of the Kitchen Garden.

In the kitchen garden a grand bed of Royal Sovereign and Bedford Champion Strawberries first met my eye, some extraordinarily fine fruit growing on prepared plants less than a year old. Some single fruit of the latter turned the scale at three ounces each.

MADRESFIELD COURT, MALVERN.

We then passed under an avenue of the new Loganberry, ten feet high, covered with canes that length, bristling with fully-developed fruit on all the lateral growth. On the margins of the walks were cordons of Gooseberries, Currants (white and red), Apples and Pears, grown on the single, double, treble, and four-branch system, and beautifully trained and fruited. The soil is a strong clay loam, deeply cultivated and enriched, and is able to produce heavy and constant crops in succession of succulent vegetables. There were rows of highly-developed William the First and Gradus Peas, with strong, healthy rows, in succession, of Glory of Devon and Autocrat.

Runner and Dwarf Beans, Onions, Carrots, Beet and other roots, all in the rudest health of skilful cultivation, and early Potatoes and Cauliflower, with an abundant supply in successional order of salading, were much in evidence.

The extent within the walls is about four acres, but there are other outside quarters for common vegetables. The walls are covered with healthy and well-trained specimens of Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, choice late Pears, Plums and Cherries.

The "Peacock Garden" is so called from some topiary-work where that bird figures. It is close to the kitchen garden, but, none the less, is a surprise, and I found, as we proceeded, that surprises are quite the feature of Madresfield. Somewhat of a Dutch pattern, the peacock garden contains fan-shaped beds of Box edging, planted with Polyantha and other Roses, alternating with beds of Border Carnations. I asked for the names of some of the varieties of these.

"The Roses," replied Mr. Crump, "include Perle d'Or, Anna Maria de Montravel, Souvenir de la Malmaison, and Hermosa, an improvement on the old pink. There are also a number of Monthly Roses, which keep in flower until January. I have decorated a table with

Rose buds on Christmas day. The beds of Carnations are Trojan, Raby Castle, Mrs. Leigh, Lady Audrey Campbell, Old Clove, Sundridge Park, and several others."

The Wild Garden.

"How large is the peacock garden?" I asked, as we made our way towards the wild garden.

"About fifty yards by twenty. Of Yew hedging, which helps so much to afford shelter, we have miles in the gardens. One of the characteristics of the wild garden, which we are now entering, is that there is no repetition. You see a clump of a particular plant, and all the other clumps are different. In fact, this principle is maintained throughout, and thus the interest is always kept from flagging. We hope before long to have a fresh flower for every day of the year."

"Your Michaelmas Daisies are very conspicuous?"

"Yes, the irregular beds of varying sizes in the grass, of Asters, and the large number of tall-growing plants, all naturalised, are, perhaps, the most attractive part of the gardens. The golden Yews here are exceptionally good."

"You have plants all along this path?"

"Yes, the idea is to step over a different kind of plant as you proceed. The varieties which love moisture and partial shade have been chosen. They are chiefly, but not all, short-growing, and there is a collection of water plants. On each side is a border of Ferns, and the banks are likewise planted with Ferns, and with Lilium giganteum."

"You might indicate some of the plants which do best here?"

"They include the newer Senecios, some of the Gunneras, Saxifraga peltata, Callas, Primulas capitata and japonica (the former one of the most beautiful), Giant Meadowsweet, some of the hardy Kingcups, Lythrum, and Lychnis. But the list would be too long for you if I exhausted it."

The next surprise was a lovely Lemon-scented Thyme walk, and then we reached the picturesque rocks. Here huge boulders of massive rock shelter numberless specimens of telling plants, around which were striking specimens of Bamboos, a Heath garden being just beyond.

"Which of the Bamboos thrive best on the rocks?"

THE ROCK GARDEN AT MADRESFIELD COURT.

"But so are many other things. Please tell me the names of some of the most striking now in flower?"

"Anchusas (red, white and blue), Rudbeckia Newmanni, Megasea cordifolium, Valeriana coccineum, Delphiniums (including the King of Delphiniums), Verbascum olympicum, Pæonies in variety, Papaver orientalis, Artemisias, Scotch Thistles, and others, all selected in order to supply bold groups of colour, in successional order."

"The contents of the wild garden must be considerable?"

"This part of the gardens should be seen in the bulb season, when millions of bulbs are set out in the boldest manner, and naturalised. Masses of Crocus (autumn and spring varieties), Daffodils, Tulips, Fritillarias, Colchicums, Anemones, etc., produce a grand effect, as will be seen in the pictures which Messrs. R. Smith and Co., of Worcester, are kindly lending you. The wild garden covers from four to five acres, including the little stream running through it, the rustic bridges, and the stepping-stone path, which has recently been added. Flamingoes and other water birds of gay plumage are quite at home here."

"Nigra, flavescens, mitis, viridi-glaucescens, metake and palmata. The specimen of Gum Cistus is considered exceptionally good."

Conifers and the Rose Garden.

"The rockwork, of course, is artificial?"

"Entirely, but it was exceedingly well done by Messrs. Pulham. From the summit you get an excellent bird's-eye view of the wild garden, and also of some of the most choice Conifers. The cream of these are Abies grandis, over a hundred feet high, beautifully furnished from top to bottom; two very fine specimens of A. orientalis, A. Douglassi, Picea pinsapo, and P. casiocarpa, Thuja Lobbii, and Juniperis chinensis fœmina variegata. I think you will agree with me as to the extreme loveliness of the Rose garden which we are entering. It is called Lady Susan's garden, and the beds are in scrolls of choice varieties of garden Roses. With respect to colour, we work from pink to red, one variety only being planted in each bed."

"How many beds are there altogether?"

"About thirty, the principal varieties being Papa Gontier, Grand Duc de Luxemburg, Madame Yvonne Cranier, La Tosca, Madame Pernet Ducher, Liberty, Bessie Brown, Madame Lambard, Souvenir de Catherine Guillot, Madame Barkley, and Gruss an Teplitz."

"Have you any idea of the circumference of the English Oak close to Lady Susan's garden?"

"It is sixteen feet in circumference at four feet from the ground. Here you might mention the grand clump of Japanese Maples, and the avenue of Picea nobilis glauca, nearly half a mile long, all of one colour."

"The effect certainly is very fine."

"Then there is the flowering shrub border, right and left of us, where dozens of the recently-introduced varieties have recently been planted. The herbaceous garden itself, with its tiled path, contains an up-to-date collection planted in bold masses, one clump consisting of one variety, and there is no repetition. In flower just now are Tree Lupins, Heuchera rosea and H. sanguinea, Campanula rhomboides and macrantha, Erigerons, Delphiniums, Scabiosa caucasica, Betonica grandiflora, and Pentstemons George Holmes. But we had better go into the annual garden, which is also known as Lady Mary's garden. This, too, is planted in bold, irregular blocks of colour. The varieties now in flower include Antirrhinums, Alonsoa Warscewiczi, Petunias, Stocks, Marigolds, Dianthus, Verbenas, Salpiglossis, Godetias, Mignonette, Asters, Cosmos, Helichrysums, Salvias, Love-in-a-Mist, Pentstemons, and Larkspurs."

Having spent a little time in these gardens, we proceeded through the Lavender walk and the Eglantine walk, to the maze.

"This," said Mr. Crump, "was planted by the present Earl in 1895 on his succession to the peerage, the feature from the horticultural point of view being the English Yew hedges, and the Penzance Sweet Briers. It is a very tricky maze, and people experience considerable difficulty in getting in and out of it."

The Moat Garden.

"I suppose the Court itself dates back a long way?"

"To a very remote period, indeed. As you see, it is an old moated mansion, and the moat garden is quite a distinctive feature. The paths are paved with very old flagstones, with small Alpine plants growing in the chinks or crevices between, while the beds are of Roses, Lavender, and Rosemary, bulbs being planted amongst them for spring flowering."

"What are the climbers on the Court?"

"Vines, Figs, and Pomegranates, with flowering plants of a half-hardy nature. In warm corners there are real blue Hydrangeas, Madonna Lilies, Clematis, etc. The sunk garden on the opposite side of the moat, the terraced walls of which are covered with climbing Roses and Clematis mixed, contains numerous vases filled with bright-coloured Geraniums, Verbenas, and Marguerites. There is a design in Yew hedges, with beds of Begonias, Heliotropes, Verbenas, Calceolarias, Abutilons, and Lobelias."

"And more huge masses of Lavender, Rosemary, and other sweet-smelling aromatic plants form the boundary on the top of a ha-ha or sunk fence, dividing, though a quite hidden fence, the garden from the park."

"They are, we consider, in keeping with the situation. In fact, everything round the Court is intended to harmonise with the surroundings of an ancient baronial mansion. The next feature is the bowling green, with statuary of the Cæsars let into niches cut in the massive Yew hedges. The bowling green avenue is planted with blue and white flowers, with Cedar trees on each side."

"Here is another surprise," I observed, as we came suddenly through a great Cedar avenue to another Rose garden.

"This is the old Rose garden, fan-shaped, and planted with one variety in a bed, of Hybrid Perpetuals, such as Alfred Colomb, General Jacqueminot, Mrs. J. Laing, Gustave Piganeau, Captain Hayward, La France, Frau Karl Druschki, and Cheshunt Hybrid."

"The pergola of semi-circular pattern is as beautiful as the garden itself."

"Yes, it is very much admired, consisting entirely of bleached Limes; it is about a hundred yards long. Close by is the Lily and Iris garden, with irregular beds planted in the grass, which a little earlier, as you may imagine, presented a glorious sight, especially when the Tulips (Gesneriana) were in flower. The best of the germanica section of Irises are here massed together with Madonna and other Lilies, planted so as to prolong the flowering period."

Flowering Shrubs.

"The border of flowering shrubs on the right is very effective, chiefly planted in bold, irregular groups, of large size."

"It was planted in great masses to harmonise, the more notable varieties being Spiræa ariæfolia, argentea, Van Houtteii and prunifolia, Lilacs in variety, Philadelphus grandiflorus, Ribes floribunda, Forsythia suspensa, Sea Buckthorn, Deutzias, Berberis in variety, Weigelas, Guelder Roses, and Viburnum plicatum. These, again, have large masses planted in the front, of Tritoma uvaria, Rudbeckias, and Lychnis. The next surprise is the spring garden."

"Yes, that was quite unexpected, and seems to contain a wealth of flowers."

"Annuals follow the spring bulbs, those now in flower including Gladioli The Bride, the Blushing Bride, Colvillei, Colvillei alba, Alstrœmerias, Triteleias, hardy Orchids, Ranunculus, Montbretias (Davidsonii and Prometheus), Ixias, Tuberoses, Codonopsis ovata (which flowers in June and July), and Eremurus, including a seedling self-sown, which takes seven years to flower."

"How high is the remarkable hedge of climbing Roses here?"

"More than ten feet, I think."

"The number of blooms must be enormous. Not less interesting is your great bed of Lilium candidum, coming into flower in the grass, under the partial shade of the Oak tree."

"We have grown Liliums there for three years, and they improve each year. Some of the plants have three or four stems, and the foliage remains good as long as the flowering season lasts. The soil is quite poor, but the Liliums, which like neither the full sun nor the entire shade, seem to revel in this position."

The Glasshouses.

Then, through pergolas of Clematis and Sweet Briers, we passed into the famous kitchen garden, where the hardy fruit trees form an object-lesson to non-pruning fanatics. But first of all we inspected the glasshouses.

"What are the features of the stove?" I enquired.

"It contains Gardenias, Eucharis, Pancratiums, Stephanotis, and Gloxinias, on the roof being a number of plants of the charming Ipomæa cœrulea trained on strings. Later on this will be taken down, and placed on balloon and ordinary trelliswork for house decoration."

"Then there are the greenhouse and the propagating houses?"

"The contents of the first include a collection of Fuchsias, Pelargoniums, Hydrangeas, Rehmannia angulare, and other like plants, for furnishing purposes. The propagating houses are full of winter and spring plants in various stages of preparation, the most conspicuous being batches of Begonias Gloire de Lorraine and others, Bouvardias, Poinsettias, Coleus thyrsoideus, Moschosmas, and Euphorbias."

"Was your Carnation house built specially for Tree Carnations?"

"It was, and we grow all the best varieties, such as Britannia, Robert Craig, Harlowarden, Enchantress, White Lawson, Mrs. Burnett, Nelson Fisher, and Flamingo. They are now in their permanent pots."

"And, judging by the appearance of the foliage, may be depended upon to give grand and sufficient blooms all through the winter."

In some low frames were large batches of healthy young Cyclamen, Cineraria, Primulas, Celosia, Campanulas, and other plants for winter supplies, while a large frame contained fruiting plants of French Beans, which Mr. Crump informed me were planted out after Potatoes.

"In a north house," he continued, "the huge specimens of Camellias, loosely trained to the back wall, produced, earlier in the season, big crops of flowers. This is an extremely useful house for retarding plants, or for shade-loving plants. Now we come to the fruit houses."

The Indoor Fruit.

"What is the variety grown in the Cucumber house?"

"Telegraph Improved. The house of young Melons next to it has just been replanted, following the ripening of the first crop. We call the adjoining house the Strawberry house, but, as you see, Strawberry forcing being over, it is utilised for Melon growing."

"I have never seen a finer house of Melons, every plant being apparently in the best of health, and free from insect."

"The system is to plant back and front in weekly small batches. There is a constant daily demand for Melons here, and we keep up the supply accordingly. The favourite varieties are Blenheim Orange and Penhryn Hero."

"Madresfield Court are, of course, the chief black Grapes you grow?"

"Not only the chief, but, we think, the best, and they have to be supplied for the longest possible season. In one of the two small Vineries, Black Hamburgh is grown for very early forcing, and in the other Madresfield Court. In the long range of Vineries, five in number, two are devoted entirely to Madresfield Court, one to Muscat of Alexandria, one to Lady Downe's, and the other to mixed varieties, such as Mrs. Pince, Appley Towers, Black Morocco, and Mrs. Pearson."

"Of how many houses does the Peach range consist?"

"Three. In the early house Alexander was ripe at the end of April; in the next we grow other Peaches and Nectarine Lord Napier; and in the later house Stirling Castle and Grosse Mignonne, with Rivers' Orange Nectarine, are grown."

"Your crop in the second house is very fine, and the foliage in the other strikes me as remarkable for its cleanness."

"The last range comprises Tomato, Melon and Fig houses, the Fig house being full of Brown Turkey fruit of good quality. Of Tomatoes, Carter's Sunrise is a great favourite, and for later work Winter Beauty."

"The most noteworthy features of the kitchen garden are your two Pear pergolas."

"Originally, only one pergola was planted with Pears, and the second was carried out by training lateral branches overhead from the pyramidal trees then in existence, and growing alongside the path. The pergolas run at right angles, and cross each other in the middle, the whole length and breadth of the garden. Not only is the effect considerably enhanced, but the Pears enjoy extensive growth. As to varieties, the best are Doyenné du Comice, Beurré Superfin, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, Beurré Diel, and Beurré Hardy. The six best Plums are Rivers' Early Prolific, Kirke's Victoria, Cox's Emperor, Czar, and Belle de Louvaine."

A Generous Landlord.

"What about Apples?"

"With regard to Apples, there are rows of double-branched diagonal cordons of Cox's Orange Pippin and other choice dessert varieties, as well as cordons of choice Pears. But Apples are a very great feature here. In the adjoining nursery of about four acres, fruit trees are raised in quantity, and distributed gratuitously to Lord Beauchamp's farm and cottage tenantry, in standard and bush form."

"Do you mean annually?"

Fruit Trials.

"About two thousand trees per annum are dealt with in this manner, and, though Apples predominate, Pears, Plums, Cherries, Apricots, and Currant and Gooseberry bushes are also distributed. A trial ground has been set apart to test the varieties suitable to the district before propagation, and there are no fewer than two hundred and fifty varieties of Apples, eighty varieties of Pears, and sixty of Plums on trial at the present time. Any tree that fails to realise three marks in nine years is at once discarded and replaced by a new one."

"The tenants, I suppose, appreciate Lord Beauchamp's generosity?"

"Unfortunately, it is not fully reciprocated by them, so far as careful cultivation goes. Otherwise, as the operation has been in force some twenty-five years, very much fruit and more successful orchards would be found. Still, there are exceptions, and there now exist on the estates several very valuable orchards."

"Which do you consider the best-paying Apples?"

"Worcester Pearmain, Cox's Orange Pippin, Allington Pippin, May Queen, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Pott's Seedling, and Gascoyne's Scarlet Seedling. As to wall fruit, the south walls are devoted to Peaches, Nectarines, and Apricots, the east to Plums and cordon Pears, and the west to late varieties of Pears which require assistance to ripen."

"Then, there are Strawberries."

"Large quantities of Royal Sovereign, Leader, President, Givon's Late Prolific, Latest of All, and Oxonian are grown. Of the newer kinds, Laxton's new Progress stands out as far away the best, owing to its good constitution. Gooseberries and Red and White Currants are grown on V-shaped cordons; each tree has four branches, or cordons, trained to iron wire and sticks vertically."

Mr. Crump's Career.

"Before you commenced your quarter of a century's experience at Madresfield Court, Mr. Crump, you must have enjoyed the best possible training."

'I cannot remember the time when I did not spend most of my hours in the garden. After the necessary apprenticeship, and considerable probationership, I took charge, in 1865, of the glass department at Powis Castle, Welshpool, and afterwards was foreman at Heckfield Place, Hampshire, then considered the best garden in Great Britain. My first position as head gardener was at Lamberhurst Grange, Kent, and at the expiration of four years I went in the same capacity to Blenheim Palace, where much exhibiting was done. I succeeded in winning a large number of prizes at the leading shows, including silver cups and medals; but I do not think I appreciated anything so much as the packing prize, given by Messrs. Webber, awarded to me twice in succession. During my seven years' tenure of office at Blenheim I raised the Blenheim Orange Melon. From Blenheim I came to Madresfield in 1883."

"You do not show here?"

"No, my time is fully occupied in fruit growing, lecturing on fruit and vegetable growing for Worcester County Council, in acting as judge at horticultural shows, including champion Grape class at Shrewsbury, and, above all, in doing my utmost to reach and maintain a high state of perfection in the gardens. In this object I have a constant help and encouragement from my employer, one of Nature's true noblemen, who, as well as Lady Beauchamp, leads and takes the keenest interest in all attempts to enrich and beautify the place."

ALFRED WILCOX.

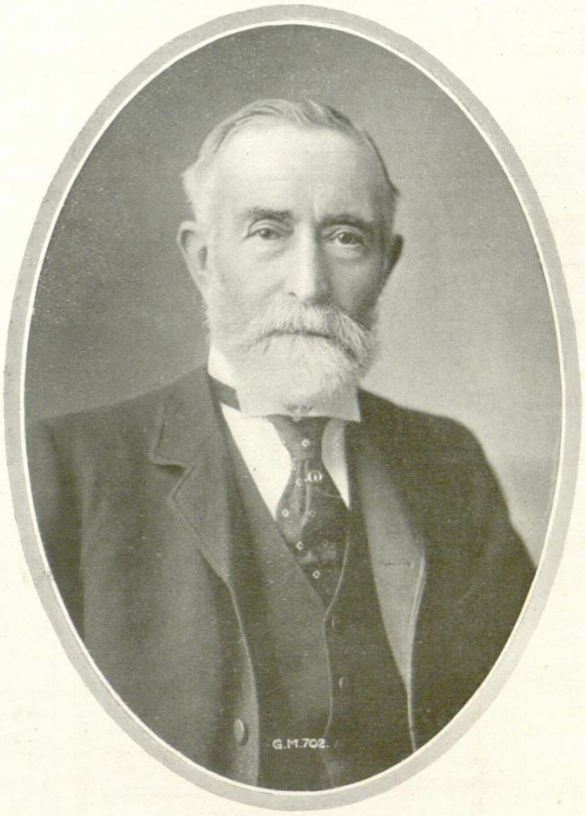
VOL. LII.—No. 2 894. SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1909.

THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Observation.

It is a remarkable thing, considering the two wonderful gifts we possess of seeing and hearing, that so little practical use is made of them by the majority of human beings, as compared, that is, with the use which might be made. We may obtain a pretty good proof of this if we are the happy owners of a garden which is frequently visited by friends, ladies and gentlemen. Except in such cases where the visitors are specially invited as recognised flower lovers and students, the majority will simply ramble about, conversing on extraneous social or political matters, some of the young ladies will ejaculate "How pretty," in the intervals of their gossip about "him," and the fashions; and in short, the innumerable wonders of Nature, which teem in every garden worthy the name, will be entirely ignored and unobserved. Probably if asked on their departure, in a casual tone, whether they had seen everything in the garden, the reply would be a cheery, "Oh, yes! it's very nice indeed," although, if cross-examined, it would transpire that they had really seen nothing at all in the sense of seeing and appreciating properly. The power of observation is, in point of fact, rare, and its possession involves a freemasonry of incalculable social value when natural study is the incentive. Every true gardener knows what a delight it is to anticipate and receive a visitor of the keenly observant kind, who can fully appreciate the merits of what he sees, and be very probably in a position to impart some fresh knowledge in the desired direction. There is no superficiality here, no "How pretty" and "How nice" distributed broadcast, but a close study of points pro and con, and an eventual verdict which, if favourable, constitutes in itself a reward for much previous study and trouble. In point of fact the measure of cultural success in horticulture is determined entirely, given of course fair facilities, by observation of results and intelligent adoption of the lessons they teach. Every failure has its underlying reason, and hence, like the successes, constitutes a stepping stone to further knowledge, if only the grower is determined to get at the bottom of it, and does not merely accept it as a misfortune, and let it go at that. Observation, however, should be accompanied by notes and records, and not merely committed to memory, since it is often by comparison of such records with other and subsequent ones that the true meaning of the phenomena observed becomes apparent, and something tangible is then elicited. The man who makes no notes may, by virtue of a retentive memory, acquire a great deal of useful knowledge in the course of his existence, but he is little likely to be a contributor to that mass of knowledge which forms the literature of horticulture, and through which man learns from man, and as a note-maker adds his quota to that accumulation of ascertained facts, by virtue of which each generation becomes wiser than its predecessor. That great factor in horticultural progress, the Horticultural Press, is the practical outcome of powers of keen observation, coupled with careful recording, and we have only to contrast that Press of to-day with that of less than a century ago, to see what an immense advance has been made, and is always being made in the acquisition of invaluable practical knowledge. In the old days, say of Gerard, to go back still farther, the general ignorance permitted the authoritative promulgation of the most ridiculous myths and fables, and although in the outside Press of to-day we still, from time to time, find examples of horticultural and botanical marvels of equally grotesque character put forward with all verisimilitude, knowledge is now so widespread that it is rare, indeed, that anyone is taken in by them. Superficial observation is no good at all, it is the man who is always about and closely examining the plants he cultivates who hits upon the "reason why," both of success and failure, and by experiment based upon such discoveries eventually enriches not merely himself, but his fellows, with additional items of knowledge. This close research begins in the laboratory of the botanist, who pokes and pries with his microscope into the abstruse mysteries of the fundamental cell formation, and it ends with the selective cultivator, who, by close study of the plant as a whole and its peculiarities, adds so much to our floral and agricultural wealth, as exemplified in our up-to-date exhibitions.



MR. WILLIAM CRUMP, V.M.H.

Mr. William Crump, V.M.H.—Few men are more widely known in horticultural circles than Mr. William Crump, head gardener to Earl Beauchamp, at Madresfield Court, whose portrait we present in this issue. His first charge was at Lamberhurst, and from thence he went to Blenheim Palace, where he became particularly successful as a fruit grower, twice winning the packing prize of £10, offered

by Mr. J. Webber, of Covent Garden, for the best three boxes of fruit sent by ordinary railway carriage, and delivered at South Kensington by the conveying company. From the Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal Botanic Society, Mr. Crump won gold medals for fruit while at Blenheim, and secured the blue riband of the old International Potato Society at the Crystal Palace. At Blenheim he raised the fine Blenheim Orange melon, and obtained a first class certificate for it at South Kensington, as well as first prize against thirty-one other entries. Rather more than a quarter of a century ago Mr. Crump took charge of the Madresfield Court Gardens, after the death of Mr. W. Cox, and ever since then his name has been intimately associated with the Madresfield estate as well as the gardens. The latter have been largely extended and greatly improved under his care, the massing of hardy flowering trees and shrubs, the bold grouping of herbaceous plants, and the naturalisation of bulbs in grass being a few of the innovations that have made Madresfield famous. But, as Mr. Crump is a famous fruit grower, it was only natural that he should develop hardy fruit culture at Madresfield, and this, with the generous support of his enthusiastic employer, he has done in a remarkable way. He has an experimental orchard, where all likely varieties of hardy fruits are tested, and all those that prove their worth are propagated extensively and distributed from the home nursery to the farmers, cottagers, and others on the various estates belonging to Earl Beauchamp. Mr. Crump has distributed in this way over 40,000 trees, thereby adding largely to the letting value of the property and the well-being of tenants. Mr. Crump is an old member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Fruit and Vegetable Committee, and he was one of the original recipients of the Victoria Medal of Honour in Horticulture.

Water Gardening will receive special attention in our issue of the 24th inst., and, with a view to afford our readers the fullest possible information on the work that must be done in the water garden during the next few weeks, the contents will include articles on formal and informal water gardens, water lilies, planting water margins, hardy aquatics other than nymphæas, and spiræas in the bog garden. The issue will be freely illustrated.

Fruits of Foreign Growth were less plentiful in British markets in March last than they were in the corresponding month of 1908, the aggregate decrease in value amounting to the substantial sum of £47,845. The increases and decreases were equal in number, and the more important of the former were those of nuts and oranges. As in the case of the first two months of the year, there was a big drop in the imports of apples, the aggregate having been 201,716 cwt., of the value of £129,888, as compared with 357,484 cwt., of the value of £208,401, in the corresponding month of last year. Apricots and peaches were, on the other hand, imported in larger quantities, the total imports amounting to 230 cwt., of the value of £1,547, or an increase in quantity of 168 cwt., and in value of £1,390. Of bananas the imports were 449,625 bunches, of the value of £127,959, or a decrease in number of 80,482 bunches, and in value of £13,180. Grapes were received in lessened quantities, the aggregate having been 3,213 cwt., of the value of £15,052, against 5,584 cwt., of the value of £24,138. The imports of pears were larger than they have been for several years, the total having been 2,898 cwt., of the value of £11,730, or an increase in quantity of 1,064 cwt., and in value of £6,785. The imports of plums aggregated 595 cwt., of the value of £2,831, as compared with 198 cwt., of the value of £429. Strawberries, of which a few were imported in the corresponding month of last year, have no place in the March returns. Of unenumerated fruits, the imports were 8,724 cwt., of the value of £12,674, the figures representing an increase both in quantity and in value of nearly 100 per cent. The value of the fruit imports for the month was £818,403, bringing the total value for the first quarter of the year up to £2,380,615.

Orchids at the Temple Show.—An important notice has been issued by the Royal Horticultural Society concerning the orchid classes at the forthcoming Temple Show. It appears that attention has been drawn to the possibility of misunderstanding arising from the use of the word, "unrestricted" in Classes 1, A. and B. It cannot, therefore, be too clearly and fully understood that the word is governed by Rule 4, which gives 200 square feet as the maximum. In other words, Classes 1, A. and B., are unrestricted in size only so long as they do not exceed the 200 square feet permitted by the rule.

A New Primula—P. Forresti.—We understand that at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society on April 20, Messrs. Bees', Lim., of Liverpool, will show a new Chinese primula. The newcomer owes its name—P. Forresti—to the fact that it was secured by Messrs. Bees' intrepid collector, Mr. George Forrest. Our readers will remember that on one of Mr. Forrest's collecting expeditions, he was hunted among the mountains by a band of insurrectionary Lamas, who murdered the French missionaries with whom he had been staying. Mr. Forrest escaped, but was eight days barefooted among the mountains, and during this period he touched no food. Primula Forresti is a native of limestone cliffs among the Yunnan Alps, at an altitude of 9,000-11,000 feet. It has been kept unprotected during the past winter at Sealand, near Chester, and has proved quite hardy. The leaves are strong and of a dark shining green. The flower spikes are from 10-12 inches high, carrying loose spreading heads of from 10-15 blooms. The individual plants vary in colour from light yellow to a fine rich orange. Perhaps the most notable feature, however, is the fragrance, which is quite unlike that of any other primula. It is not confined to the flowers, but is also present in the leaves, and is deliciously suggestive of ripe fruit. The whole effect of the plant is sturdy and vigorous, very different from the delicate beauty of the firm's previous introduction, the graceful P. malacoides.

Imports of Foreign Vegetables last month were much smaller than in March, 1908, the most noteworthy decrease being in potatoes. Of these tubers the imports were 85,017 cwt., of the value of £35,648, against 606,727 cwt., of the value of £129,625. The imports of onions amounted to 450,495 bushels, of the value of £110,165, these figures representing a decrease in quantity of 108,830 bushels, and an increase in value of £46,246. The imports of tomatoes dropped from 86,928 cwt., of the value of £69,722, in March, 1908, to 66,249 cwt., of the value of £51,712 last month. Unenumerated fruits, on the other hand, show an increase in value of £21,970, the total having been £59,700.

The Easter Holidays, although marred by the break in the weather, which occurred on Monday, were held under favourable climatic conditions, and there was a large exodus from London and the principal provincial towns to the country and the seaside during the week previous. Residents in London and its suburbs who remained at home, were careful to take full advantage of the opportunity they had for visiting the public parks and gardens within the Metropolitan area or not far distant from London. Enormous numbers visited such popular resorts as Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath, Hampton Court, and the Royal Gardens, Kew. According to the official return, there were 41,000 visitors to Kew on Easter Monday, against 56,000 last year. To the heavy rains which fell from noon onwards may be attributed the decrease, for the visitors came in such large numbers in the forenoon as to suggest a record attendance for Easter Monday. The daffodils on the Cumberland mound are now producing a glorious display of colour, and in other parts of the gardens these flowers are making such rapid progress as to suggest that the later varieties in other parts of the gardens will be equally attractive within the next few days.

The Journal of the Kew Guild for 1908 has just reached us, and, though it is dated for Christmas, and comes with the daffodils, it is not less interesting because belated. The frontispiece is an excellent portrait of Mr. George Massee, F.L.S., V.M.H., and is followed by a biographical sketch of this famous cryptogamist. The annual report and accounts show that the Guild's balance on current account almost doubled itself during the year, and consists of £20 9s. 2d. in cash. In addition, there are invested funds to the total of £320, yielding a trifle less than £10 10s. per annum. Old Kewites will read with interest of the doings of the "Kew Mutual," and the results of the courses of lectures, and will think of the days of the years that are gone. "The Kew Training" is an article that should make present Kewites think hard. We fear that an objection by students to be regarded as such, and an endeavour to belittle the educational advantages of a sojourn at Kew, on the part of Kewites of recent years, is answerable for some measure of reduction in appointments from Kew. Mr. F. J. Cole's plea for an Institute of Gardeners is particularly good, and the idea will appeal to many who desire to see the profession placed on a higher level. The "Notes from Old Kewites" are numerous and entertaining, but there is a lack of descriptive accounts of travels this year.

The Lasting Qualities of Dahlia Flowers.—A Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, writing from Wiesbaden, draws attention to a point of considerable interest in connection with dahlias. He found that some varieties would, on being cut for decorative purposes, last much longer than others kept under the same conditions. Herr Emil Becker, also of Wiesbaden, states that he finds those varieties with narrower foliage possess more lasting qualities than those with broad flat leaves. He considers that plants which have been heavily manured with stable manure are less lasting than those which have been grown without its aid, and finds that if the foliage be removed immediately after the flowers have been cut, they last much better in water than they do in the ordinary way. The matter is one well worthy the attention of growers and raisers of these brilliant decorative flowers, and observations upon the subject would be welcomed.

MR. WILLIAM CRUMP, V.M.H.

IN the *Gard. Chron.*, April 19, 1919, p. 192, we made the announcement that Mr. William Crump was relinquishing his care of the gardens at Madresfield Court, Malvern, after a period of about 40 years' service in that famous establishment. His retirement has now taken effect and readers will be interested in the following account of the career of this distinguished horticulturist. He was born in Shropshire on June 27, 1843, and, as a youth, exhibited a strong inclination for gardening. After receiving the usual education of the village lad, at the local National School, he determined to make gardening his career, but his parents put every possible obstacle in his way, and endeavoured to persuade him to adopt some other occupation. Various posts were offered him, but he was so determined to adopt gardening as his profession that finally his parents consented, and, after a course of probation, he was duly apprenticed in a garden. His first responsible charge was that of foreman of the glass department at Powis Castle, Welshpool, under the late Mr. G. Brown, a famous Scotch gardener of the old school. Powis Castle gardens included a good home nursery at that time, also splendid specimens of trees and shrubs and collections of choice and rare Conifers. The cultivation of the Pineapple was a feature of the place, which also included fine wall trees of Peaches and Nectarines and terraces of hardy, herbaceous flowers. After four years' service, he accepted the office of general foreman at Heckfield Place, Hampshire, under the late Mr. Wildsmith. It was for the experience to be gained from a place where so many famous gardeners had received their early training, rather than for the wages, which were lower than those he had received previously, that Mr. Crump accepted this appointment. After staying there for three years, where fruit and flowers were specialities and so grandly cultivated, he obtained a position as gardener to Mr. F. Harris, Lamberhurst, Kent. The place did not realise his expectations and, after four years, he was appointed to Blenheim Palace gardens, an office demanding much ability and general all-round knowledge. At this time Mr. Crump commenced exhibiting extensively and was successful at the R.H.S. shows at South Kensington, at the Crystal Palace, Royal Botanic Gardens, Manchester, and at other provincial shows. He won several silver cups and gold medals, including the Blue Ribband at the International Potato Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. Most appreciated of all was Messrs. Webbers' packing prize of ten guineas, awarded for the three best packed boxes of fruit, delivered by the railway company at South Kensington intact. This prize was twice competed for against such exhibitors as the late Mr. Coleman, of Eastnor, Mr. Austin of Witley Court and others, and Mr. Crump won the first prize each time. Blenheim Orange, which still holds its own as a scarlet-fleshed Melon, was raised and successfully exhibited in open competition with about thirty others and obtained the R.H.S. First-Class Certificate the same year. After seven years' service at Blenheim Palace, Mr. Crump was appointed to Madresfield Court, where, as stated above, he was gardener for nearly forty years. At Madresfield large numbers of hardy fruit trees are raised annually for both cottage and farm tenantry, and distributed gratuitously. Mr. Crump made many experiments in grafting and double grafting, with a view to the improvement in flavour of choice varieties of fruits. Partial success, at times, seemed hopeful, but further trials proved disappointing, and were abandoned. At Madresfield there is an interesting experimental plot where about 250 varieties of Apples, 80 varieties of Pears and 40 varieties of Plums—all bush trees—are on trial. In addition, there are numbers of seedlings and local varieties of these fruits.

There are many flourishing young orchards on the estate, the result of a scheme introduced some twelve or fifteen years ago, whereby the landowners' and tenants' interests are identical and mutual. A tenant requiring a new orchard makes application for trees, and if the site and soil are considered suitable for fruit growing, the landlord undertakes to find the trees (which are always of the very best and home raised), the stakes, fencing and a skilled man to plant them. He also undertakes the pruning, spraying and other attention for five years, gratis to the tenant. The latter undertakes to find a labourer to assist with planting, and one barrowfull of soil for mulching each tree. At the expiration of five years, the tenant pays an annual rent of 6d. per tree so long as it is in good health. The landlord continues the pruning and the tenant takes all the fruit. The property value is, thereby, very much enhanced, as recently proved.

Mr. Crump was among the first sixty horticulturists selected to receive the Victoria Medal of Honour of Horticulture. He is one of the examiners for the park employees, cottage gardens and allotments, and school teachers' examinations of the Royal Horticultural Society. For twenty-one years he has officiated as a churchwarden of Madresfield Church, has served as a manager of the local schools for seventeen years, and has been secretary for thirty-five years, and corresponding manager for twelve years, of the Madresfield Horticultural Society. He has acted as judge at many important exhibitions, including Shrewsbury. Mr. Crump has received many gifts from friends and neighbours on the occasion of his retirement, including one from the Countess Beauchamp and younger members of the family at Madresfield Court.

Mr. Crump is succeeded by Mr. W. H. Lambert, who was his foreman some 14 years ago and who has since been with Earl Grey at Hawick.

Our best wishes go with Mr. Crump, and we feel sure that, after a record of so many years useful service, he will not fail to find happiness in his retirement and well-earned rest.

MR. WILLIAM CRUMP, V.M.H.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL.

JULY 15.—There was a capital exhibition at Westminster on this date, and during the afternoon there was a large attendance, many of the visitors coming from considerable distances to see the National Carnation and Picotee Society's display.

In addition to Carnations, hardy flowers, stove plants and Orchids were prominent features, but the outstanding display was a group of vegetables from Aldenham House, Elstree. Delphiniums and Sweet Peas provided the greater number of novelties.

Floral Committee.

Present.—Messrs. H. B. May (in the chair), E. A. Bowles, George Paul, J. W. Barr, H. Cowley, John Dickson, C. Dixon, John Green, John Heal, Andrew Ireland, E. H. Jenkins, H. J. Jones, J. F. McLeod, W. P. Thomson, Charles Pearson, Thos. Stevenson, Wm. Cuthbertson, S. Morris, C. R. Fielder, Arthur Turner, G. Reuthe, E. F. Hazelton, W. Howe, J. Jennings, and Jas. Hudson.

AWARDS OF MERIT.

Delphinium Sir Douglas Haig.—A remarkable variety, with large, semi-double flowers carried in dense spikes of extraordinary size. The colour is deep purplish blue.

Delphinium Millicent Blackmore. — This beautiful variety has semi-double flowers of large size, of a clear, bright mauve blue shade that is very pleasing. The deep brown centre adds to the attractiveness of the flowers that are of regular form and each nearly 3 inches in diameter.

Both the foregoing were shown by Messrs. BLACKMORE AND LANGDON.

Delphinium F. W. Smith.—A most attractive variety with rounded, semi-double flowers of large size, long-stalked and daintily set on tall spikes. The colour is bright rich blue, with white centre. Shown by G. FERGUSSON, Esq. (gr. Mr. F. W. Smith), Weybridge.

Delphinium Joan.—A single variety of large size and good form. The colour is soft medium blue with brown centre. Shown by Mr. W. WELLS, Jun.

Sweet Pea Gladys.—A charming variety that bears some resemblance to R. F. Felton, but is of soft lavender blue or light mauve colour and more refined in form than the older variety.

Sweet Pea Doris.—A very attractive Sweet Pea of very waved form and good size. The colour is a very bright shade of cerise pink.

These two varieties were shown by Messrs. E. W. KING AND CO., Coggeshall.

Sweet Pea Mascott's Scarlet. — A handsome Sweet Pea of fine size and good form and bearing four blooms on every spike shown. The colour is very dense and of a rather deeper shade than one usually understands by scarlet.

Sweet Pea Annie Ireland (see Fig. 22).—A dainty variety with white wings and a blush standard which has a flushed edging of bright pink. The flowers are of exceptionally good form and size.

These two Sweet Peas were shown by Messrs. IRELAND AND HITCHCOCK, Mark's Tey.

Rose Sea Foam.—This Rose is a seedling from Rosa bracteata. It bears its double, full blooms in bracteate clusters on stout growths furnished with deep green, neat, shining foliage. The flowers are slightly scented and the petals curve prettily at the margins. Shown by Messrs. WM. PAUL AND SON.

GROUPS.

J. OSBORNE, Esq., Walton-on-Thames (gr. Mr. G. Cook), exhibited fine flowers of Nymphaea chromatella, N. Marliacea albida, N. M. carnea; and fruiting sprays of Eleagnus longipes; these fruits are said to be useful for preserving. The elongated, ground group contributed by the Alder River Nursery, contained very freely-flowered branches of Plagianthus Lyallii, and fine specimens of Lilium regale, L. pardalinum, Hypericum patalum Henryi, and Coriaria japonica (Silver Banksian Medal).

Stove plants were again well shown by Mr. L. R. RUSSELL (Silver Flora Medal).—Messrs. H. B. MAY AND SONS arranged standard Fuchsias over Ferns, Verbenas, Hydrangeas and Heliotropes (Silver Banksian Medal).—Messrs. BLACKMORE AND LANGDON are as expert in Gloxinia culture as in Begonias, and they showed a dozen fine specimens representing a good strain.

Messrs. B. R. CANT AND SONS showed a handsome group of cut Roses and displayed the varieties Mrs. Alfred Tate, Iona Herdman, Lyon Rose, Lady Hillingdon, Cupid, Emily Gray and Christine in fine form (Silver Flora Medal). The Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, sent flowering branches of the pink Kew Rambler Rose (see *Gard. Chron.*, July 27, 1918, Fig. 12), obtained by crossing Hiawatha with Rosa Soulieana.

Paul's Scarlet Climber Rose was well shown by Messrs. WM. PAUL AND SON, who also displayed the single, light yellow Mermaid in excellent condition, as well as their new Seafoam (Silver Banksian Medal). The Rev. J. H. PEMBERTON showed Roses in variety, including Havering Rambler (pink) and many other varieties of his own raising (Silver Banksian Medal).

Some wonderfully well grown spikes of Delphiniums were shown in big vases by Messrs. BLACKMORE AND LANGDON; the spikes of Sir Douglas Haig, Statuaire Rude, Sergeant

CRUMBIE Robert of 10 Front-street Shotton Colliery county **Durham** died 5 October 1933 Probate **Durham** 13 November to Susan Greener (wife of Thomas Greener) and Charles Cornforth Gott colliery clerk. Effects £409 1s. 2d.

CRUMP Ada Jane of 19 Litchfield-gardens Willesden Green **Middlesex** (wife of Laurence William Crump) died 24 January 1933 at University College Hospital St. Pancras Middlesex Administration **London** 2 May to the said Laurence William Crump organ builder. Effects £461 3s. 3d.

CRUMP Albert John of 22 Grosvenor-court-mansions Marble Arch **Middlesex** died 5 November 1933 at 42 Talbot-road Hornsey Middlesex Probate **London** 21 December to Gladys Mary Crump widow and Frederick Cecil Ellerton bank official. Effects £4421 13s. 6d.

CRUMP Alfred Edgar of 926 Marguerite-street Portland Multomah Oregan **U.S.A.** died 10 December 1932 at Portland Sanatorium Portland Administration **London** 10 April to Isabel Crump widow. Effects £274 5s.

CRUMP Ann of 81 Hughenden-road High Wycombe **Buckinghamshire** widow died 9 February 1933 Probate **Oxford** 7 March to Eliza Annie Croxford (wife of James Leonard Croxford). Effects £250 3s. 5d.

CRUMP Annie Sophia of 18 Yew-street Fartown **Huddersfield** spinster died 26 January 1933 at Royal Infirmary Huddersfield Probate **London** 6 April to James Drake secretary. Effects £570 12s. 11d.

CRUMP Charles William of Grasmere Coronation-road Rodborough **Gloucestershire** died 9 April 1933 Probate **London** 12 May to Annie Crump widow. Effects £1083 11s. 8d.

CRUMP Elizabeth of Hagley Gate Cottage Lugwardine **Herefordshire** spinster died 15 April 1933 Probate **Oxford** 4 October to National Provincial Bank Limited. Effects £2428 4s. 11d.

CRUMP Emma Maria of 68 Hawstead-road Catford Lewisham **Kent** widow died 25 July 1933 Administration **London** 16 September to Lilian Kate Crump spinster. Effects £272 3s. 3d.

CRUMP George Arthur of 124 High-road Leyton **Essex** died 29 January 1933 Probate **London** 10 March to Amelia Osborne Overett (wife of John Overett). Effects £329 5s. 11d.

CRUMP George William of 122 Underhill-road East Dulwich **Surrey** died 18 March 1933 Probate **London** 26 April to Susannah Crump widow. Effects £327.

CRUMP George William of 57 Windsor-avenue Hillingdon **Middlesex** died 22 April 1933 Probate **London** 1 June to Donald Fulton civil servant and Francis Rowley commercial traveller. Effects £493 12s. 11d.

CRUMP Herbert of 26 Archway-road Highgate **Middlesex** died 7 January 1933 at Royal Northern Hospital Holloway-road Middlesex Probate **London** 8 March to Alice Lucretia Mary Crump widow. Effects £3804 2s. 9d.

CRUMP Herbert John of 27 Cambridge-street **Aylesbury** died 2 March 1933 at The Royal Buckingham Hospital Aylesbury Probate **Oxford** 13 April to Frances West Crump widow. Effects £1050 8s. 5d.

CRUMP James of 68 Hawstead-road Catford Lewisham **Kent** died 19 January 1933 at Lewisham Hospital High-street Lewisham Administration **London** 12 October to Lilian Kate Crump spinster. Effects £251.

CRUMP John of Dunval House near Bridgnorth **Shropshire** died 31 January 1933 Probate **Shrewsbury** 7 June to Vincent Corbet Cook architect and George Edward Smith insurance manager. Effects £19862 2s. 11d.

CRUMP Joseph of Hazelton Hall-road Leckhampton **Gloucestershire** died 25 May 1933 Probate **Gloucester** 22 June to Sarah Hannah Crump widow and Percy Charles Lloyd solicitor. Effects £1139 11s. 3d. Resworn £1262 16s. 3d.

CRUMP Nellie Rachel of 79 Forburg-road Stoke Newington **Middlesex** spinster died 11 March 1933 Administration **London** 25 April to Frederick Arthur Crump accountant. Effects £169 11s. 7d.

CRUMP Percy George of Porters Arms Duke-street High Wycombe **Buckinghamshire** died 15 March 1933 Administration **Oxford** 21 April to Charles William Crump licensed victualler. Effects £642 12s. 11d.

CRUMP Thomas otherwise Charles of The Bungalow Bradley **Cheshire** died 12 December 1932 Probate **London** 26 January to Thomas Lievesley and James Chesters farmers. Effects £771 18s. 4d.

CRUMP William of Oakridge Richmond-road Malvern Link **Worcestershire** died 30 December 1932 Probate **London** 15 February to Charles Foster Crump gardener and John Bernard Watson Lambert solicitor. Effects £5271 6s. 2d. Resworn £5171 6s. 2d.

CRUMPLER Charles Robert of Lytchett Matravers **Dorsetshire** died 5 January 1918 Probate **Blandford** 10 January to Ellis Crumpler gardener. Effects £160 10s.
Former Grant D.R. **Blandford** 21 October 1918.

CRUMPLIN Sylvia Jane of Ivy Holme Crondall **Hampshire** widow died 25 March 1933 Probate **London** 5 May to Aaron Edward Cooper postman. Effects £1481 4s. 5d.

CRUSE Charles of Marsh-lane Rowde Devizes **Wiltshire** died 30 January 1933 at 7 Commercial-road Devizes Administration **Bristol** 11 April to Ronald James Cruse carter and Cyril Charles Cruse lorry driver. Effects £333 9s. 11d.

CRUSE Florence Fanny of 24 Wimbledon Park-road **Surrey** widow died 31 March 1933 Probate **London** 19 September to Walter George Smith agent and Eric Bache Politzer solicitor. Effects £3984 18s. 6d.

CRUSE Jacob of Belmont Redhill-drive Ensbury Park **Bournemouth** died 4 September 1933 Probate **London** 7 October to Percy Simpkins cabinet maker. Effects £4000 9s. 6d.

CRUSE Louisa Maria of 70 Palmer-avenue London-road North Cheam **Surrey** widow died 11 February 1933 at 103 South Side Clapham Common Surrey Probate **London** 24 April to Herbert Jack Wrench manager and Roy Vincent Cruse newspaper distributor. Effects £1289 5s. 1d.

CRUSE Minnie of 8 Melbourne-avenue Palmers Green **Middlesex** (wife of Bertram Joseph Cruse) died 28 February 1933 Probate **London** 16 October to William Merrall mason. Effects £458 2s. 26/3/36 14

CRUSE Rose Adelaide of 5 Comber House Comber-grove Camberwell **Surrey** (wife of Henry Albert Cruse) died 7 July 1933 at 5 Brunswick-square Camberwell Administration **London** 7 September to the said Henry Albert Cruse cob washer. Effects £134.

CRUSHER Beatrice of 64 Harlow Moor-drive **Harrogate** (wife of Robert Barker Crusher) died 18 May 1933 Administration **London** 3 August to the said Robert Barker Crusher civil servant. Effects £1119 17s. 11d.

CRUST Arthur Laurence of School House Burnt Fen **Cambridgeshire** died 17 March 1933 Probate **Peterborough** 15 June to Fanny Elizabeth Crust widow. Effects £1046 17s. 2d.

CRUST Fanny Laurence of 14 Westbere-road Cricklewood **Middlesex** spinster died 26 July 1933 at St. Mary Abbots Hospital Kensington Middlesex Probate **London** 27 September to Ernest Long baker and Nellie Laurence Long (wife of the said Ernest Long). Effects £717 9s. 3d.

overworked. This may be due to one of three causes. Either they are carry- abnormally heavy crop, or they have ent food, or they are in such a posi- they cannot take full advantage of it, in consequence of their having gone to the subsoil. In the first case, the remedy is to reduce the crop at once; cond, to water the border heavily and , adding some artificial fertiliser once a week, but, of course, diminishing

MR. F. CUBBERLEY.

y as soon as ripening commences; in to lift the roots in autumn, and care- lay them nearer the surface, adding sh, rich soil at the same time. As the berries actually affected, nothing one to save them. It is therefore best away at once all that lie beyond the and withering portions of the stalk, to divert all the sap into those which in sound.

bbage-fly.

16th.—A friend has tried to grow kinds of Cabbages in part of his , and has failed. They looked all right e weeks after they were planted, and after the other began to droop. When e pulled up, the stems were found to ed with holes made by little white hich swarmed in them. They were the the Cabbage-fly (Anthomyia brassicæ). cts are, unfortunately, common enough, ve never seen so many of them. They y turn into small, grey flies, not unlike es, but not quite so large. A strong ion of lime-water is often recom- , but I doubt its being effectual where k is as bad as it was in this case. e best thing to do is to take up the and burn them, so as to destroy the A dressing of lime may then be applied ground, but for some time to come it not be used for any of the Cabbage

17th.—I have learned here the dis- e of what gardeners call a "hungry In bygone ages all the ground around s must have been the bed of a very ver, which first brought down gravel n laid a thick deposit of mud on top. thus formed, though it contains little of such an extremely porous nature rain runs through it as through a sieve. e heavy downfall at the end of June was a day or two, and with it, of course, vast quantity of the soluble plant-foods in the upper layers. That is why the hungry"; it has to be fed so often.

18th.—Those who are fortunate to possess extensive grounds are able to arrange many delightfully cool retreats, such as the one shown in the illustration, for the hot weather of summer, but even in a small garden this important point should not be neglected, even if no more is done than to plant a shade-tree.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 243.—MR. F. CUBBERLEY, AT THE GARDENS, FAIRLAWN, TONBRIDGE.

EVEN in the "garden of England" there are few seats equal in beauty of surroundings to Fairlawn Park, the residence of Mr. W. M. Cazalet, between four and five miles from Tonbridge. A striking feature of the gardens, in which Mr. Cazalet takes a great interest, is that they are in three tiers, rising one above the other. On the last of these the gardener's lodge is situated, and here I found Mr. Cubberley, on the occasion of my visit towards the end of June. At his suggestion we started with the new Rosery, made about four years ago, of which Rambler varieties are the feature.

A Great Show of Foxgloves.

Here, too, is a striking herbaceous border, with a Yew hedge in front, and, behind, a Nut plantation. My attention was arrested at the entrance by a wonderful display of Foxgloves.

"How long have they been in flower?" I inquired.

"For three weeks, and they will last in flower for four weeks longer, if we get showery weather. They are Sutton's seedlings, and this is the second year."

"Do they want much attention?"

"We allow the seed to drop on the ground, put the hoe through, and then keep what we want. For the rest, they go on just as they like, but the ground is always kept damp."

"What is the height of the spikes?"

"Some of them are quite six feet high, and, as you see, they go right along the border, which is two hundred feet long, the colours being white, dark pink, and light pink."

"Do you grow many varieties of Ramblers?"

"No, only Dorothy Perkins and Crimson Rambler. The Roses along the borders, both standard and dwarf varieties, are Hybrid Perpetuals, and those nearer the north wall are Hybrid Teas, which do better where it is cooler. On the wall itself, Morella Cherries flourish."

"And underneath that wall you have a fine show of London Pride. How long has it been in flower?"

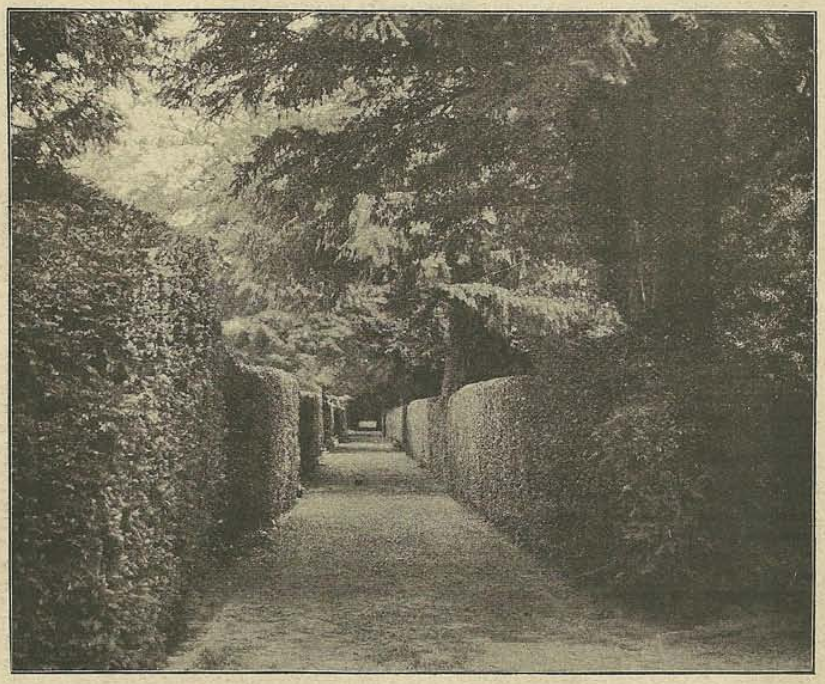
"Between five and six weeks, and it will last some time longer. London Pride should always be under a north wall, where it can obtain plenty of moisture."

The American Walk.

"Perhaps the great feature of our gardens," continued Mr. Cubberley, "is the beautiful walks. The one we are now entering is the American Walk, in which the Rhododendrons and Azaleas are conspicuous. The Rhododendrons grow bigger every year; they are nearly all hybrids, largely of the Himalayan tribe. A few of the best varieties are Lady Eleanor Cathcart, John Waterer, and Dolly Varden. The stems of some are as big as a man's body, and the height of many from twenty to thirty feet. I have had Rhododendrons in flower ever since Christmas, and I showed twenty-four varieties in London in April."

"Azaleas appear to do almost equally well."

"Both the Ghent and indica varieties like this soil, the former being especially good. With the Kalmias just coming out, and the Magnolias in bloom, the variety of colours presents a very pleasing appearance in the American Walk, which is over two hundred yards long."



THE HAUNTED WALK AT FAIRLAWN PARK.

We next strolled into the Wilderness, which is another delightful part of the gardens, con-

taining some of the finest Yews in the country. The Beeches are also a great feature. Leading out of the Wilderness are many beautiful walks, from which fine views of the surrounding country may be obtained. One of the most notable is called the Haunted Walk, which, with its clipped hedge and overhanging trees, forms a most lovely retreat. The splendid mansion, which is covered with creepers, including variegated Ivies, Viriginian Creeper, and Crimson Ramblers, has adjacent to it no fewer than three lawns, on one of which are three trees, planted by three of the younger members of the family. The square lawn in front of the mansion has shrubs on both sides, and a little Rosery, containing Teas and Hybrid Teas, with arches of Dorothy Perkins and Crimson Rambler. Here, too, is a fine specimen of Philadelphus grandiflora in flower, under some noble Turkey Oaks, close to which are remarkable specimens of Rhododendron Thompsonii, from fifteen to twenty feet wide.

The Bedding Combinations.

"With regard to bedding," said Mr. Cubberley, "the beds have just been replanted, but they have been in flower all the spring, with Violas as a great feature."

"They are still looking extremely well."

"We grow about twenty varieties, it being a principle to mass our flowers with Violas, and to let Geraniums come up through them. The best varieties of the former are R. P. Ripling, The Mearns (mauve, with white borders), Kitty Bell, Skylark, Blue King, Devonshire Cream, General Baden Powell (yellow), and Woodcock (yellow)."

"I should like to have some of the leading combinations in the beds."

"There are four beds of Violas (The Mearns) and Flower of Spring Geraniums; four of Verbena Miss Willmott, coming through variegated Grass, edged with Lobelias; four of Viola Kitty Bell, with Geranium Crystal Palace Gem coming through, edged with Princess Beatrice Begonias; four with Ageratums (a new variety from Carter's), carpeted with pink Antirrhinums and Cineraria maritima; two of Mr. Cannell Geraniums, coming up through dark Heliotropes, edged with Princess Beatrice Begonias. Other beds consist of J. P. Ripling Violas, and Flower of Spring Geraniums coming through them; Devonshire Cream Violas and Tricolour Geraniums (Mrs. Cox); Kitty Bell Violas and Weltoniensis Begonias, with a deep edging of Alyssum maritima; Geranium Souvenir de Charles Turner in centre, with a deep edging of Alyssum and Coleus Verschaffeldtii; two Rose beds carpeted with yellow Antirrhinum, intermixed with Lobelia cardinalis, and edged with Ivy-leaved Geranium (Souvenir de Charles Turner), and two carpet beds of Alternanthera."

Violas and Wallflowers.

"You must plant an enormous number of Violas."

"This year, beside the old ones, I put out about five thousand. I get a number of new varieties each year. For instance, next year I shall start five or six. By the way, The Mearns Viola may be specially recommended; it is purple, with a yellow centre, and deep white edge."

"Then your Wallflowers are a great feature?"

"Yes, we have a very large number during the season; in fact, they come next to Violas. The best variety, I think, is Eastern Queen, and others very good are Belvoir Yellow, Blood-red, Ruby Gem, Vulcan, and Primrose Dame."

"You have a nice quantity of Schizanthus in the conservatory."

"We have recently done away with Palms in the conservatory, and substituted flowers. In the rockwork, which was done by Messrs. Pulham, Begonia Rex, Asparagus Sprengerii, Tradescantias, and Osmunda Ferns are ornamental, and there are goldfish in the water. I have shown Asparagus Sprengerii at the local shows in baskets, nine feet long. The tubs which stand on the terrace are filled with Souvenir de Charles Turner and Madame Crousse Geraniums."

Behind a Laurel hedge is another long herbaceous border, and here, also, there is a Peach case two hundred and fifty feet long.

"Is any heat used for the Peaches?" I asked.

"None at all, and they grow splendidly without. The Nectarines are Rivers' Early and Rivers' Orange; the Peaches are Waterloo, Hale's Early, Stirling Castle, Dymond, Royal George, and Golden Eagle."

Favourite Sweet Peas.

"Which are your favourite Sweet Peas?"

"We use pink as much as possible for table decoration, intermixing it with Gypsophila elegans. The first batch includes [illegible] and Miss Willmott, which are two [illegible] Of the new varieties, we have the [illegible] Kenyon, Coccinea, Navy Blue, [illegible] Hamilton, Dorothy Eckford, Prince [illegible] Duke of Westminster, Black [illegible] Salopian King."

The Tunnel Walk.

"The main feature of your kitchen [illegible] of course, your Apple walk?"

"We call it the Tunnel Walk, [illegible] mainly of Apples. The walk was [illegible] twenty years ago, and extends the [illegible] of the garden, about a hundred [illegible] crops, as you can judge for yo[illegible] heavy. There are over fifty [illegible] side."

"Which varieties do best in the [illegible]

"Lord Derby, Stirling Castle, [illegible] Pippin, Peasgood's Nonsuch, [illegible] Beauty of Kent, Nanny, Lane's [illegible] Bismarck, Grenadier, New Hawthorn[illegible] Sudeley, Prince Arthur, Cox's [illegible] Warner's King. They look their b[illegible] tember. We have also a nice lot [illegible] bushes."

Pears and Strawberries.

"What about Pears?"

"They also do very well. Pears [illegible] is one of our surest. Our system [illegible] them as standards, and then pull [illegible] down again, training them right [illegible] sides of the garden. Other good [illegible] Marie Louise, Beurré Clairgeau, [illegible] of Jersey, and Beurré Diel. All [illegible] netted, even Pears, the birds be[illegible] plague. Brown Turkey Figs do [illegible] wall outside."

"How many varieties of Strawberries [illegible] grow?"

"Only a few—Royal Sovereign, [illegible] and Latest of All. The latter come [illegible] later, but it will only do planted [illegible] ordinary way, with rough frames [illegible] is of no use for pots. We use R[illegible] exclusively for that purpose."

"You seem to grow a large number [illegible]

"We grow about a dozen varieties [illegible] main crop I prefer Gradus, and [illegible] Ne Plus Ultra is the best. The [illegible] Potato is Sir John Llewellyn; [illegible] I like Ninetyfold, and Up-to-Date [illegible] But I grow quite a dozen varieties [illegible]

Carnations in the Vine Border.

"In the old Vine border," [illegible] Cubberley, "I am growing the best [illegible] Border Carnations. That is to say [illegible] away with Vines, except Muscats [illegible] buy Grapes anywhere. The Peach [illegible] three divisions, contains much the [illegible] ties as those in the case; and the [illegible] devoted to Figs in pots. In addition [illegible] Turkey, we grow White Marseilles [illegible] Sepor, both of which are good [illegible]

"Have you any preference in Malmaisons?"

"I think Princess of Wales and [illegible] much the best. Of winter-flowering [illegible] there are none better than Mrs. [illegible] and Enchantress."

"I see you grow Melons in one [illegible]

"Most of them are seedlings [illegible] also grow Gunton Park and Blenheim [illegible] but if we get a good seedling [illegible] Crotons, Calanthes, and Dracaenas [illegible] here, and we force Lilacs, Azaleas [illegible] drons—Pink Pearl and Cunningham[illegible] The only Orchids we go in for [illegible] and we are going to make another [illegible] ally for these."

"How many Chrysanthemums [illegible]

"About two hundred large b[illegible] hundred bush and singles. We [illegible] five hundred Princess Victoria, [illegible] Everyone has them in November [illegible] is to flower them as late as we [illegible] often have blooms in February."

The Head Gardener and his Staff at Fairlawn Park.

The Fruit Plantation.

With a glance at the fine fruit room, which will hold a thousand bushels, we proceeded to the fruit plantation, beyond which is a huge orchard, containing Apples and Plums, the varieties including Kentish Fillbasket, Irish Peach, Blenheim Orange, Yorkshire Beauty, and Wealthy. Of the last there is an exceptionally good crop. Before we returned to the gardener's lodge, we had a look at the two grand specimens of Catalpa bignonioides, in front of the mansion, which is approached through a fine avenue of Limes.

The Gardener's Garden.

"You have a pretty garden in front of your house," I remarked to Mr. Cubberley.

"In the border is Statice Suworowi coming up through white Violas; in the Rose beds are Spanish Irises in variety, the edging being yellow Violas; and the bed facing the Roses consists of Blue King and Kitty Bell Violas."

"Do you show much?"

"As a rule, only locally—at Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. If I show away, it is at the exhibitions of the Royal Horticultural Society. I have been awarded their silver medal several times. On the August Bank Holiday a flower show is held in these grounds, under the auspices of the Shipborne and Plaxton Society, which was started four years ago, and is one of the most prosperous."

"How long have you been at Fairlawn?"

"Five years. I was previously head gardener for five years at Leyswood, and prior to that I was for five years foreman at The Dell, Egham, and for three years foreman at Culford Hall, Bury St. Edmunds." ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 211.—BOG TUBS AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

DEAR KATE,—One of the advantages of being a gardener is this—that one really enjoys a wet day after a long dry time. Drought is so trying to the plants, and they look so sad for want of water, that it is delightful to feel, when the rain at last comes down, that their wants are being fully supplied. For an amount of watering will do half the good which the rain does, and even mulching their pots after a soaking (though much better than watering continually) is only a makeshift when compared to the value of a good day's rain.

Cannas for Tubs.

The plants in bog tubs have been the most fortunate this summer, which has been inordinately dry here, and I shall extend this plan

SOME FINE NEW CANNAS.

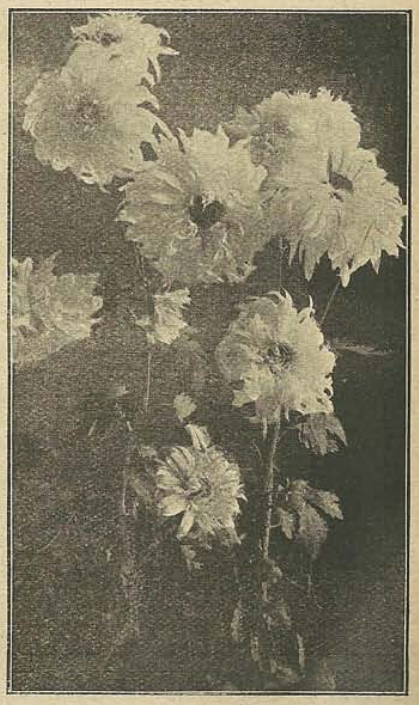
next season, as it is so useful in a light, warm and such as ours, with terraces lying to the southern sunshine. Cannas, which are often short of water in the borders (for they are exceedingly thirsty plants), do much better in a tub or half-cask (well charred out, if it has contained paraffin), as it is then easy to keep them thoroughly moist, even in a drought. The modern Cannas—dwarf and sturdy, with fine heads of bloom—are most effective plants, and, as they can be grown very easily, they should be in every garden; but they are not always a success, because they need so much nourishment and water, and do not always get enough of these. A common mistake in their cultivation is to dry them off too much in winter; they take months to recover, if they ever get over it, and as it is quite easy to have them in bloom from May till after Christmas if not dried off, it is a pity to try them in this way. We only rest our Cannas (in pots) for about six weeks from the beginning of the year, by keeping them in the cool Vinery just free from frost, when they need very occasional watering to prevent them from drooping. Then the roots are pulled to pieces, and the finest of them are selected for potting up with rich soil, and starting in heat; but we always have a quantity of second-sized roots left. These we plant rather thickly in a box of rich soil, and start them in warmth, too; they make excellent plants for a bog tub in May, where they look very handsome when in blossom.

A good plan for these tubs on a terrace is to cover the tub with wire netting, and this, with such creepers as Tropæolums, Canary Creeper, Convolvulus major (Morning Glories), making a narrow border round the tub with rich soil for these seeds. This year we have grown some very pretty turquoise-blue Peas in this way; their proper name is Lathyrus sativus azureus, and they are quite dwarf in growth, so that they just cover a tub nicely, if trained on the wires. One advantage of this kind of gardening is that it can be carried out in a city, on the leads, or in a balcony, as well as in the garden, if the surrounding climbers are sown in boxes, covering these with wire netting, too, to prevent the cats troubling them.

Scarlet Lobelias (fulgens, etc.) are just now very handsome in bog tubs; others contain the lovely fluffy blooms of Spiræas in rich pink (S. venusta and S. palmata). Azalea mollis, too, rejoices in a bog tub, and grows into a fine shrub. Japanese Irises (Kæmpferi) do far better here than in the borders, and the graceful North American flowering Fern, Osmunda gracilis, is quite at home in them, as well as our own native Osmunda regalis. Of course, you can lower your bog tubs into the soil if you prefer it, or let them stand half out of it surrounded by rockwork, which last plan looks very well at the edge of a carriage drive or a lawn, especially if you cover the rockery with Alpines.

The Chrysanthemums.

August is, perhaps, the most important month in the year with regard to the culture of Chrysanthemums, although they need attention and care throughout the year, if the result is to be good. The early-flowering kinds, both double and single, are already in bud, and these have been slightly disbudded, leaving from three to five blossoms on each spray, for the small side buds below those at the top are of little use, and only detract from the appearance of the spray and the size of the flowers. The mid-



SINGLE CHRYSANTHEMUM—MISS F. K. CHARLTON.

season large-flowered Chrysanthemums have to be more severely dealt with, if exhibition blooms are wanted, and it is impossible to remember, I find, whether their first-crown buds or their second-crown buds ought to be retained in the case of all varieties, unless one has the help of a good list of the plants, with this information added to the date in the spring at which the plants were pinched back. As a general rule, the second-crown bud is the best to secure, but I advise you to get a list from the horticulturist from whom you obtained the plants, as the best Chrysanthemum growers usually supply these particulars of the plants they send out.

For large blossoms, you should only leave from three to five buds on the plant, according to the number of its shoots and its vigour, and it is necessary to begin feeding these selected flowers as soon as they are secured. But here one has to exercise caution, for I doubt whether more plants do not die from over-feeding than from starvation, and many amateurs, not knowing the danger of using strong chemical manures too often, kill their plants with kindness.

"Feeding" the Plants.

The first meal we give to the plants, after the buds have formed, is a slight top-dressing of fine, rich compost of loam, old manure, and fertiliser mixed together, taking care not to fill the pots too full, as there should be at least half an inch of space for watering. The amount of artificial fertiliser for each pot should not exceed a teaspoonful, and the plants will not need more stimulants for a week or two after top-dressing. Then soot-water, alternated with clean water, may be given, but it must be in a fine, clear state, not thick or muddy; in fact, if you find the top soil in the pots looking

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OBITUARY.

We have to record with regret the death of Mr. David Cunningham, an event which took place at Moorpark, Hertfordshire, on the 17th inst., at the comparatively early age of fifty-seven. As a gardener he always held responsible situations, the duties of which he discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to his employers.

be worked by a valve, and only used when the ground thermometer indicated its necessity.

It may be asked, How about the bottom pipes in case of accidents? Now I do not see the use of burying so much money for the sake of gratifying a feeling of security against evils that may never came. Nor do I think it at all necessary or profitable to attempt to heat vineries except in the case of small houses for especial early purposes, and even then the advantage is only one of time. This has been my experience of bottom-heat—not that I have ever made it a point to select houses for Vines where I had bottom heat at command, but the force of circumstances has compelled me to have recourse thereto in order to fill up gaps which might otherwise occur while a process of renovation was being carried out. *W. Hinds.*

(*To be continued.*)

THE CHAMPION GRAPE GROWERS.

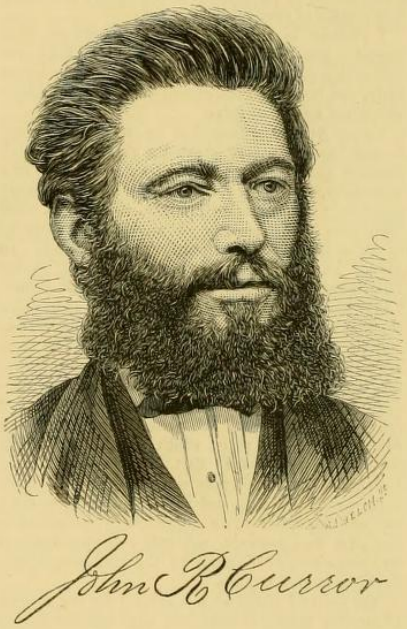
WE are glad to be able to lay before our readers the portraits of the two Vine growers whose successes at the International Fruit Show at Edinburgh last year, were so noteworthy. This year at Dundee, as will be seen in another column, they have well maintained their repute, for which reasons some account of their respective careers may be of unusual interest.

JOHN R. CURROR.

Mr. Curror served his apprenticeship in Fife, and then became gardener in a small place in East Lothian, from which he removed to his present situation, where he has been four years. He has two vineries, where the Vines were planted six years ago—the soil a strong yellow loam mixed with the dark sharp soil of the neighbourhood where they grow, with a large allowance of ground bones and some rotten dung. The early house produces splendid crops of Black Hamburghs and other early sorts; the late house grand examples of Black Alicante, Mrs. Pince, Lady Downe's, and, as all the world now knows, splendid bunches of Raisin d'Calabre. The Vine of this Grape that produced the largest and probably most handsome bunch of Grapes that was ever seen, produced last year besides it over 20 lb. of Grapes, showing that the monster had not swallowed all its neighbours, as is common in such cases. Mr. Curror makes no sacrifice of crop for the mere fame of producing great bunches, which makes his success the more creditable.

In his greenhouse are a number of very finely grown Heaths, as well as other greenhouse plants. His Orchid-house is filled with very healthy, well managed plants of that most interesting race. His cold and warm Fern-houses are also filled with well-grown Todeas, Dicksonias, Davallias, Adiantums, &c.

The whole place is in excellent order, and though not more than an acre in extent it well repays a visit at all times. Mr. Curror seems a gardener by intuition, and his skill is only equalled by his modesty; in fact he seems quite embarrassed when reference is made to his triumph as a Grape grower.



JAMES DICKSON.

I commenced my gardening career in 1853 (says Mr. Dickson), at the age of fourteen, under Mr. John Maclean, gr. to the late Wm. Forbes Mackenzie, Esq., of Portmore, Peeblesshire, under whom I served for three years, and during the greater part of that time I had charge of the houses. Mr. Maclean was famed as a first-class grower of Camellias; indeed, I have never seen a finer and more healthy collection of that favourite plant anywhere.

When leaving Portmore I engaged as an under gardener with Mr. James Baird, gr. to the late Captain Patterson, of Cunnoquhie, Monimail, Fifeshire, in which garden I had the privilege of assisting to renew the vineries, the Vines of which, Mr. Baird told me some time after, had turned out remarkably well. Few growers excel Mr. Baird as a grower of Pines and Grapes.

While at Cunnoquhie I was requested by Mr. John Pender, late gr. to David Anderson, Esq., of Moredun, Liberton, near Edinburgh, to come to him as a journeyman. Accordingly I engaged with him, and I had charge of a very extensive range of forcing-houses. I had good opportunities afforded me while there of improving myself.

After four and a half years' service at Moredun I came to Arkleton, my present situation, in the latter end of 1862. It is 5 miles north of Langholm, in the centre of Ewesdale, and surrounded by the finest hill scenery in the South of Scotland. It has for centuries been the property of the Elliots, an old and celebrated border family. The present proprietor, Wm. Scott Elliot, resides in Edinburgh. It is the residence of my present employer, John Jardine, Esq., of Thorlieshope, and has been the residence of his ancestors for upwards of a century. He is a retired country gentleman, who not only takes great pleasure in his own garden, but also patronises liberally the horticultural societies in the locality, and awards handsome prizes to the cottagers in the district for the best kept gardens and window plants—an example well worthy of imitation.

The house was erected in 1860, and occupies the site of the old Peel Tower of the Elliots of Ewesdale, and combines all the architectural features of the Border keep with the elegancies and conveniences of the modern mansion.

The gardens were planned in 1862 by the late Mr. Little, of the firm of Messrs. Little & Ballantyne, of Carlisle, and were laid out by me in 1863 and 1864. The ground occupied by the garden had evidently at one time been a watercourse, so that I had in a great measure to make the soil, but a deep stratum of gravel underlies it which makes an excellent drainage—a circumstance not without its advantages in a locality where the rainfall is so heavy.

The vineries consist of two houses (Shaw's patent), each 30 feet long, planted with the following Vines:—Black Hamburgh, Mill Hill Hamburgh, Golden Hamburgh, Duke of Buccleuch, White Frontignan, Black Frontignan, Black Prince, Alicante, Lady Downe's, Mrs. Pince's Muscat, Madresfield Court, Tyninghame Muscat, Archerfield Muscat, Gros Colman, and Syrian.

The Peach-houses are 180 feet long, in two divisions, each 90 feet long, with a drum trellis running along the front, and occupied both back and front with well-grown, healthy-looking and fruitful trees, principally Peaches and Nectarines, with the exception of a few Cherry and Plum trees.

Each of the Vine borders is 14½ feet wide inside and the same outside. In making the border I took out what soil there was, and gravel to the required depth, and in the bottom of the border I laid as a foundation a foot of stones, over the stones a slight covering of lime-rubbish, over this turf with the grassy side down, and then filled up the borders with the following compound:—The turf of a fine fibry loam taken from an old sheep pasture; to every twelve cartloads of this turf were added two cartloads of old lime-rubbish, one cartload of horse-droppings, one cartload of charcoal, and 5 cwt. of inch bones. The turf was fresh from the field, mixed with the other ingredients; and with this compound the borders were filled up to the required depth, 3½ feet deep inside, the same depth immediately in front of the houses, and 2½ feet next the walk.

In common with others similarly situated I was on the look-out for young Vines, so I heard from my old master (the late Mr. Pender) that Messrs. James Dickson & Sons, nurserymen, Edinburgh, had a superior stock. I therefore took train for Edinburgh, inspected them, and satisfied myself that they were really first-rate. I then ordered the number required, including one Syrian in the list. The number of bunches, with the weight this Syrian has carried, is seen by what follows:—

In the year 1865—3 bunches, 6½ to 8 lb. each
,, 1866—4 bunches, 6 to 8½ lb. ,,
,, 1867—3 bunches, 7, 8, and 9 lb. ,,
,, 1868—2 bunches, 8 and 8¾ lb. ,,
,, 1869—1 bunch, 16½ lb.
,, 1870—1 bunch, 19 lb. 5 oz.
,, 1871—1 bunch, 18 lb. 7 oz.
,, 1872—1 bunch, 19 lb. 6 oz.
,, 1873—1 bunch, 16 lb. 10 oz.
,, 1874—1 bunch, 12¾ lb.
,, 1875—2 bunches, 8 lb. 12 oz., and 12 lb. 10 oz.

The Vine that carried the bunch last year which weighed, when cut, 26 lb. 8 oz., is a young Vine grown from an eye taken from the above. The second year it was planted a bunch was cut from it that weighed 14 lb.; the third year, one of 16 lb. 6 oz. Another that I have of the same, growing on the back wall of one of the vineries, has carried some very big bunches, with which I have taken prizes at local shows. All the other Vines, with the exception of a few that I have added recently, were cropped the second year, each carrying seven or eight bunches.

I last year cut from a young Vine of Mrs. Pince's Muscat two bunches, each 5½ lb., one 6 lb., one 6½ lb., and one 8 lb. weight. From a young Vine of Alicante four bunches, which weighed 3 lb., 5 lb., 9 lb. 6 oz., and 10 lb. respectively, and Black Hamburgh bunches that weighed 6 lb., 7 lb., and 8 lb.

In the year 1869, at the Edinburgh International Show, I got 1st prize with a bunch weighing 16½ lb.; in 1870, at the Royal Caledonian Society's Show, with a bunch weighing 19 lb. 5 oz.; at the same place in 1871, 1st prize, with a bunch weighing 18 lb. 7 oz.; at the Glasgow International Show in 1872, I got 1st prize for the heaviest white, with a bunch 19 lb. 6 oz., and 1st for heaviest black, with a bunch of Hamburghs, 6¾ lb. In 1873, at the Manchester International, I was 1st for the heaviest white, with a bunch 16 lb. 6 oz.; and 2d for the heaviest black with a bunch of Black Prince, weighing 5 lb. 13 oz.; and in the same year, at the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's show in Edinburgh, I received the 1st prize for white, with a bunch weighing 16 lb. 10 oz. At the same Society's show in 1874 the 1st prize for white was awarded to me for a bunch weighing 12¾ lb.; and the 1st for black, for a bunch of Alicante weighing 8 lb.

In addition to the places named, I have been very successful as an exhibitor at local shows, where for fruits, flowers, and vegetables, I have taken over 400 prizes during the last twelve years. The bunches of Grapes shown for weight at the local shows have been of various weights—from 5 lb. to 16 lb.

Fruit trees thrive very well here; very few standards are grown, but the walls are covered with a very good selection of Pears, Apples, Plums, and Cherries, most of which bear annually fine crops of fruit. The following is a list of Pears that fruit remarkably well here:—Easter Bergamotte, Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Diel, Chaumontel, Crawford, Dunmore, Nélis d'Hiver, Green Chisel, Hessel, Jargonelle, Marie Louise, and Swan's Egg.

JOSEPH DALE.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death, on Tuesday last, of Mr. Joseph Dale, so long and so honourably known as gardener to the Hon. Society of the Middle Temple. He left his residence, Pompon Villa, Church Road, Leyton, Essex, intending, as usual, to proceed to his charge in the city, and was apparently in very good health; but on reaching Leyton Station he had to wait for a train, and was sitting and talking to a neighbour, when he suddenly fell over on to his friend's lap, and expired of heart disease, without a moan. Mr. Dale was born on the 29th of June, 1815, and was therefore in his sixty-fourth year—singularly enough, the same age as his old colleague, "Sam Broome," who died in January, 1870. A gardener from his youth, and wonderfully fond of his calling, Mr. Dale was appointed gardener to the Hon. Society of the Middle Temple in 1843, previous to which he was, we believe, employed in a nursery famous in those days, and familiarly known as "Groom's of Walworth." From first to last, during the thirty-five years he had charge of the Temple Gardens, he gained and held the esteem and affection of a very wide circle of friends. Soon after entering upon his charge—a more onerous post then than from encroachments and other causes it has been of late years—town gardening became his hobby, and it was his discovery in the Temple Gardens of the adaptability of the Chrysanthemum for culture in towns that induced him to pay so much attention to the cultivation of that flower, and some years ago to publish a small book on the same subject. So far back as 1857, at a Special Parliament of the Bench of the Middle Temple "it was ordered that a testimonial be presented to the gardener, Joseph Dale, as a token of the great satisfaction which his very successful show of Chrysanthemums has given to the Bench;" and it was only in February last when he was presented with a handsome timepiece and a purse of fifty guineas "by friends who esteem his worth and appreciate his labours in the cultivation of the Chrysanthemum."

Mr. Dale always took a lively interest in the improvement, by planting with trees and shrubs, of the squares and churchyards of London, and many a handsome "Plane" bears witness to his labour of love. It was a custom of his at one time to freely distribute plants and cuttings to the charity children connected with the churches in the neighbourhood of the Temple, and in this way induced them to tend and ultimately to exhibit the plants at shows held in the parish school-rooms. For many years past he has acted as judge at most of the leading Chrysanthemum shows in the kingdom; and, full of enthusiasm for his profession and all belonging to it, and of a most kindly and sociable disposition, he was, take him all in all, a fine specimen of the old-fashioned English gardener, and one of the most worthy of men.

His funeral will take place in the churchyard of the old parish church of Leyton, to-day, at 12 o'clock.

Home Correspondence.

Liriodendron tulipifera.—It is strange that we see so few of this tree about conserved grounds in any place. Seeing that it is such a very hardy tree, and most ornamental with its peculiar cut leaves and fine scented Lily-like flowers, one would think that it would be found oftener than it is in mostly all such places. That it will assume large dimensions in this country is amply verified from what we have seen in places here and there, notably one at The Hirsel, Coldstream, the Earl of Home's seat. Here is a very remarkable specimen, some 20 feet or more in circumference and apparently quite 200 years old. It stands in the middle of the kitchen garden, and forms a very beautiful object in summer. It is not high—not more than 30 feet or so, but to all appearance it has been much higher. The wood is valuable, close grained, and highly prized for carved work. I am inclined to think that it is (where it is planted) placed in a too hemmed-in situation, surrounded by trees, and consequently gets too little sun. It should be planted always on a south aspect, and on a dry bottom. *Chevalier.*

The Maréchal Niel Rose on the Borders.—I had intended sooner to have offered what I think is the real explanation of the statement, which I have not the least doubt is quite true, of the Maréchal Niel Rose flowering at high elevations in the southern counties of Scotland. It is, what was said to me years ago, "There are two Maréchals Niel." I had been wondering at a Rose from one of the best of the great Rose nurseries, which grew enormously, and had flowers with the deep form and large smooth petal of the Maréchal—like moderate-sized coffee-cups in fact; but the colouring approached to that of Gloire de Dijon, and was no more than that, the bright pure yellow of dead or frosted gold, which is the colour the Maréchal is supposed to be. I have since seen a Rose standing the winter in a situation not very different from those described, which was called Maréchal Niel, and which I was at first inclined to think was simply Gloire de Dijon, but I observed that it had not the perpetual habit at all, and seemed only to flower in summer, giving a fair succession of flower then, and that it attained to the tree-like growth of the Maréchal. The probability seems to be that one strain of Maréchal Niel—in fact a sort of sport at some time or other—has developed something of the colouring of what Reynolds Hole calls its hardier congener, Gloire de Dijon, and apparently something of the hardiness along with it. The facts are not without interest for botanists, as they certainly are of some importance to gardeners. I regret that the fine plant I mentioned before had not been planted out on a fruit-wall. Not being the yellow Rose wanted, it was not planted in the conservatory, and eventually died in a pot. The Roses mentioned as flowering in Roxburghshire at a considerable height near the sea were no doubt yellower than Gloire de Dijon. The foliage of the Maréchal is very distinctive. *J. M., December* 30.

The Weather at Kelso has been very severe and below zero on two nights since the 10th ult., and it has always been below 20° every night since till Wednesday, Christmas Day. I understand this winter to be more severe than that of 1860-61 in this part. The snow I anticipate to have been a great protection to many things, and in fact to everything that has more or less come within its fall. Roses especially, with perhaps the exception of standards, will have had a secure protection with the snow. It is to be hoped the storm will make its exit with less suddenness than it did its entry, and from all appearance it will do so. *H. K.*

The Pitcher-Plants of Borneo.—I have been pleased by your not relying on the correctness of a report of some paper on a lecturette given by me. It is rather alarming to read in the papers what one is made to say. I gave some general remarks on Borneo and Kini-Bala, stating that my knowledge was derived chiefly from Spenser St. John's *Life in the Forests of the Far East*, vol. i. (1862). Then I spoke of the Nepenthes, showing specimens, and explained their habitats at various altitudes from 9000—10,000 feet as far down as N. Veitchii and Rafflesiana. That was all, and I did not expect to see anything about it in the *Gardeners' Chronicle. H. G. Rchb. f.*

The Prizes for Market Gardens.—I am informed by a member of the Council that the *Gardeners' Chronicle* has twice, in commenting on the small entry of market gardens and garden farms, blamed the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society for this result, on account of the entries having been closed so soon, and also for making the offer of prizes so little known. It may be, of course, a matter of opinion whether the entries were closed too soon; but as regards making the prizes known, I wish to inform you that, in addition to issuing extensive advertisements, I sent forms of entry by post to over six hundred market gardeners in the district for which the prizes were offered. *H. M. Jenkins, Secretary.*

Salvia splendens.—Mr. Ravenhill condemns the planting-out system of growing this plant, and comes to the conclusion that the plants grown here must be similar to his own in grossness of growth and paucity of bloom. To ensure success by the planting-out method, the plants should be propagated in the latter end of April or the beginning of May, and planted out about the middle of July in poor soil, in a sunny position; give the plants a good watering, to settle the soil about the roots, and no more through the season, unless they show signs of flagging. About the end of August a sharp spade should be run round the roots to prepare the plants for removal into pots, which should be done a fortnight or three weeks after the operation. After potting, stand them in a cool house, shading them should the weather be sunny, and dew them over with the syringe three or four times daily till established, watering when necessary with tepid water only. By practising the above method the plants will at lifting time be studded with flowering shoots that will only require a little extra warmth to bring them out perfectly. There is nothing new in planting this Salvia out in summer, but it is new to me to hear of it producing black foliage, as it appears to have done with Mr. Ravenhill. I have seen and grown this plant successfully by planting out, and also in pots, and have seen many grown by the latter method that did not yield much return for the labour spent on them, being both shabby in foliage and thinly bloomed. *J. Roberts, Gunnersbury Park Gardens.*

The Rogiera gratissima.—This fine old plant is worthy of the high encomium you pass on it at p. 759. Is has often surprised me it is not more generally grown. Doubtless one reason for this is that the umbelliferous-like cluster of bloom, more like a Laurustinus than any other well-known plant, soon tumbles to pieces when cut. This very much lessens its value for bouquet and vase work, but is no valid reason against its cultivation as specimen plants in tubs or pots, or planted out as is the fine specimen you describe. The Rogiera also flowers freely running up loosely against a pillar, or grown against a wall. It would be interesting, as well as useful, to know the temperature of the cool-house in which the Rogiera did so well at York, as the plant has generally been grown in the stove or intermediate-house rather than the conservatory. Cuttings root readily, and strong shoots show terminal flowers almost as soon as rooted. The fragrance is remarkably delicate and almost unique among flowers, as is also the soft pink colour. *D. T. Fish.*

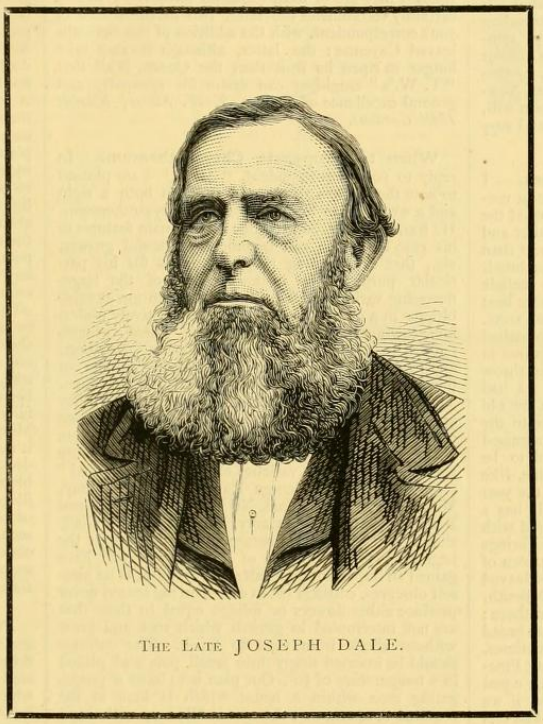
A Reading-Room in the Gardens.—With the permission of my employer we have a reading-room in the gardens, which I must say is not only a pleasure, but a great benefit to all who are employed in the gardens. My idea is that where young men are employed in gardens, no such place ought to be without something approaching a reading-room, because, as I have said before, it is not only a pleasure to pass away the dull evenings of the long winter months in reading such valuable papers and periodicals as we have now offered to us at trifling cost, but it is also a great benefit to know something of the doings of the outer world; young men will go away from home to get such news as can be obtained, but often to their own detriment, not only of mind, but pocket. The cost of a reading-room, with the help of one's employer, is but trifling. Mine has arranged with me in this way: that all illustrated papers and periodicals that he subscribes to (which are numerous) are sent into the reading-room at the end of the week of their publication, and then we subscribe together for our own gardeners' periodicals and local daily paper, which costs twopence per week each person; by that arrangement we have all we desire to pass away a pleasant hour. Many large gardens that have no reading-room might have one in like manner. I know there are many gardens that have a valuable library and reading-room, but they are few and far between compared with the great number of large gardens we have in the United Kingdom. *H. S., Ringwood Garden.*

Winter Dressing of Peaches and Vines.—Is the winter dressing of Peaches and Vines with a mixture made to the consistency of paint beneficial or otherwise? The practice of first washing the main branches of Peaches and Vines with a solution of soft-soap or other powerful insecticide, and afterwards painting them with a mixture of cow-dung, sulphur, soot, clay, or other similar ingredients, is carried out by a great many gardeners of the present day, and most of them agree as to the necessity of the washing, inasmuch as if a strong solution be used, and well rubbed in with a stiff brush, it cannot fail to penetrate any crevices which may exist in the bark, thereby destroying red-spider, scale, or any other insect life which may exist therein; and what is more, it will cleanse the bark of any dust or dirt which may have been deposited since the time the syringing was discontinued, and which must have a beneficial effect, inasmuch as the bark, like the epidermis or skin of animals, is furnished with cortical pores or breathing organs, the uninterrupted action of which must have a beneficial effect upon the health of the plant. But this after painting I cannot understand. Surely it is not done because it is likely to prove more destructive to animal life. This cannot be, inasmuch as it will not penetrate so readily the small crevices which may exist in the bark, but on the other hand it is more likely to partially cover over the entrance of these crevices, thereby forming capital breeding places for red-spider during the ensuing spring; and what is worse, this paint must have a tendency to stop the cortical pores, and thereby to a certain extent impair the health of the plant. Rather than paint, I would recommend a second washing as being the more likely way to effectually destroy insect life. I think indoor fruit trees with clean healthy shining bark are a credit to any gardener; but this painting, if not an absurdity, is most certainly very unsightly. Perhaps some of our pomological friends will kindly give their opinion upon this subject. *J. Hughes, Chadwick, Temple Balsall, Birmingham.*

Extraordinary Flowering of a European Orchid.—We have now in the greenhouse a Spiranthes autumnalis just beginning to flower. It has flowered several times with us at the normal times. This plant was imported from Southern Europe last winter. *H. G. Rchb. f., Hamburgh.*

The Culford Vine Sport.—Those who have seen, handled, and tasted this sport may be well content to rest the fact of its reality on your able leader of last year, especially as you took the trouble to test it on the spot instead of doubting it from a distance, and I should not further trouble you on this subject but for the following two sentences in Mr. Thomson's letter: "Trebbiano has this much in common with Golden Champion, that if it is subject to an irrational mode of treatment its skin gives way, and it gets spotted and rots. This may have been the experience *some of the advocates of the sport had of Golden Champion, and they concluded rather hastily that as the bunch on the Trebbiano rotted also it must be Golden Champion.*" I have ventured to put these words in italics, and would crave your permission to add that Mr. Thomson ought to be the last man to indulge in a style of criticism so unfair and unjust as to be unusual in the pages of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. There is the less excuse for this in full view of the unfortunate history and career of the Golden Champion Grape. It has caused sufficient trouble and annoyance to gardeners already without their being indirectly told, as in these sentences, that if it spots or rots these mishaps follow from irrational treatment. Then the Trebbiano does both at times under the most skilful treatment, but it has this advantage at least over the Golden Champion — that it spots after it is ripe; whereas the Golden Champion rots either before or abreast of maturity. Besides, the Trebbiano more frequently merely discolours than either spots or rots, and the writer has seen the examples of splendid bunches in this state in different gardens within a few weeks, where the treatment had been anything but irrational, and the Grapes were still fit for table. And thus any one reading the above extract would be led to the conclusion that the Culford sport had but one bunch—that that bunch rotted or spotted like the Golden Champion, and that, therefore—that is, on the spotting or rotting alone—the advocates of the sport rather hastily concluded that the sport was Golden Champion. Now no one knows better than Mr. Thomson how completely at variance such a statement and inference are with the facts of the case as recorded in the *Gardeners' Chronicle:* and as one of those concerned, not in advocating the sport as Mr. Thomson puts it—for there would be no motive nor room for anything like advocacy in such a case—but in recording and carefully testing an interesting natural phenomenon, I enter an earnest protest against such statements as advanced by Mr. Thomson. No little or unknown man would be permitted to make them in your paper, and neither should he whom most of us have long looked up to and loved as one of the leading gardeners in Scotland. The word "advocate" is twice used in the last paragraph, and if such terms are allowed in regard to the honest testimony of what competent witnesses saw and felt assured of at Culford, there cannot be a doubt that many cases of unusual development of growth will remain unrecorded, to the serious loss alike of horticultural science and practice. However painful, it seems almost necessary to add, that the knowledge of Grapes is really not wholly confined to the north of the Tweed, and that among the Culford witnesses to the fact that the sport of the Trebbiano Grape was indistinguishable in size, colour, flavour, form, and general character, from the Golden Champion, were men who know Grapes as well as Mr. Thomson, though they may perhaps neither grow them so well nor in such large quantities. As to the point that eyes from a shoot from the spur that bore the bunch of the Golden Champion the previous year, now show Grapes which are amazingly like, if not identical with Trebbiano—I have seen and tasted them. I agree with you that this is just what might have been expected, though the same spur, or at least one very near to it, if not the same, produced last year Golden Champion again; and such "facts are chiels that winna ding," and cannot be successfully disputed by such criticisms as those that have been brought against the chronicler of the facts anent the Culford sport. *D. T. Fish.*

The Best Season for Planting.—In the several articles I have already written on transplanting evergreens I thought I had given abundant reasons and stated sufficient facts to bear me out that spring is much the best time for the work. The old saying your correspondent, Mr. A. O. Walker, again quotes, of—"Plant a tree in the autumn and command it to grow, plant in the spring and entreat it to live," applies very well to deciduous subjects, but with evergreens the case is different, and the adage might well be reversed, as will be proved but too conclusively should we get a much longer continuance of the present weather, which will not only try those removed in the autumn, but will severely tax the enduring powers of old-established plants as well. I remember the sad havoc the winter of 1860-61 made among shrubs, and my experience always has been that those whose vitality is at the lowest ebb through being checked in removal are the first to succumb to the inclemency of the weather. I have during the last twenty years planted largely at both seasons, and have always met with by far the greatest success in the spring, especially among a certain class of evergreens, such as Hollies, Arbutus, Berberis, and Conifers, but all these should be taken just before growth commences, when, if handled carefully, they start away almost as if nothing had happened. In all vegetable life the greatest root-action takes place with the advent of young leaves, and plants bear removal best when they have few old ones to support, which is the case with evergreens in spring, as then they cast a considerable portion of their foliage to make room for the new. April, then, to them is something like autumn to deciduous trees, and points to that season as the proper one for transplanting. Few have any idea of the great evaporation there is going on from every pore of the leaves of evergreens during a dry day in the autumn, and with most of the feeders severed or disturbed that supply them it is simply impossible that the rapid drain can be kept up, and the plants in consequence go on from bad to worse till winter with its scathing winds is upon them and finishes them up. Your correspondent gives the rainfall for September and October, and shows that it is greater than that in April and May, and therefore tries to prove that it is against me and in favour of spring transplanting, but he apparently forgets that in the first-named months the earth, when rain comes, is generally parched by the summer heat, and then takes a long time before it becomes thoroughly wetted, whereas in spring it is soaked by what we get during the winter. Again in the autumn the ground is fast losing its heat, while every day in April and after it is rapidly gaining more warmth, besides which the atmospherical conditions are then so much more favourable, as that month is proverbial for sunshine and showers. *J. S.*



THE LATE JOSEPH DALE.

Plant Shading.—There are few subjects of greater importance to all concerned in gardening operations than this, and I am very pleased to see it again brought before the public, and trust it may be thoroughly discussed. I have read Dr. Wallace's remarks on the Bamboo shading, which seems to answer so well. I have no doubt as to its durability, but suppose there would not be a breadth of light of uninterrupted volume—I mean there would be lines of light and shade, from the fact of the Bamboo being opaque, which would to some extent diminish the light during the day; still, I have no doubt for many purposes the thing will answer well, but I do not think the Colchester plan is at all to compare with the plan we adopt here, as fully explained in former articles in this paper. I believe all outside shading is wrong. Rollers and their accompaniments are a nuisance which can be done without, and I do not hesitate to say that they will never be made use of again by any professional man after trying inside shading for a season; no outside shading can compare with it, and I am more than ever satisfied that inside shading has a most salutary effect on the atmosphere of the houses by retaining or economising the heat and humidity—two factors of the highest importance in the problem of developing and sustaining plant life, and which can only be produced efficiently and fully by shading inside. Tiffany is the best material I have yet found for this purpose; it is cheap, easily fixed by any handy man, is self-acting and suitable, it admits sufficient light to make solid and firm growth, and any amount of air can be given. A sweet and pure atmosphere may be continually kept without draught or current. We have no scorch, no weak growth, hardly any insects, such as thrips or red-spider, and an abundance of flower. I am alluding principally to Orchids so far. I attribute this satisfactory result to the favourable conditions in which the plants are placed during their growing season. While this method of shading will prove a boon to gardeners it will also be acceptable to amateurs, who will have their houses and plants safe from scorching, &c. Let air be given, and the floors be damped down in the morning; there will be little more to do during the day. We have this year used the shading more extensively than ever, and have grown greenhouse plants, both hard and soft-wooded kinds, most satisfactorily. Even such kinds as Calceolarias, Balsams, Begonias, &c., developed admirably, and kept strong and stocky and flowered abundantly. These are the results of our experience, without exaggeration. I trust this method will be thoroughly tested during the coming season. I have no fear of the results. *William Payne, The Gardens, Belmont, Taunton.*

The Oak at Boscobel.—I read the article by "H. E." on the above subject in your issue of December 14, which appears somewhat inconsistent, inasmuch as the combined evidence with which he begins certainly favours the idea of the original tree having disappeared; and yet the opinion, grounded on mere family tradition, which he afterwards produces, that the present tree is the identical Royal Oak, is made to override all. It certainly, however, is a very mysterious subject, and one which will most likely continue a matter of controversy for generations yet to come. I will not, therefore, attempt to offer an opinion of my own on this disputed point, but what I am writing for is to answer a question proposed by "H. E.," as to "what evidence there exists of the usual size of Oaks of 200 years old." To this, as no else has replied, I think I can give an answer which will be much to the point. There is now existing an Oak at the parsonage of Burton Overy in Leicestershire, which is known to have been raised from an acorn of the Royal Oak, in the year 1660, and under the following circumstances: During the inter-regnum, the then rector, the Rev. Theophilus Biddulph, being a staunch loyalist, was ejected, and one Thompson intruded; but at the Restoration in 1660 Biddulph was reinstated (as recorded in the parish register). In gratitude for this, and from feelings of loyalty, he then sowed an acorn of the Royal Oak, from which the tree in question was raised, and of which I had the following description

The Garden, 1879

OBITUARY.

JOSEPH DALE, for many years gardener at the Middle Temple, died suddenly on the 31st ult., aged 65. Mr. Dale, like the late Mr. Samnel Pro ome, was a most successful grower of Chrysanthemums, and was the author of a little book on their culture.

DALE Henry.

Personal Estate under £1,000.

9 October. The Will of Henry Dale late of Preston near North Shields and of North Shields both in the County of **Northumberland** Gentleman who died 30 June 1879 at Preston was proved at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** by Eleanor Dale of Preston Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DALE James.

Personal Estate under £100.

23 September. The Will of James Dale late of St. Agnes in the County of **Cornwall** Stamp's Grate Maker who died 7 March 1879 at St. Agnes was proved at **Bodmin** by Jane Dale of St. Agnes Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DALE John.

Personal Estate under £50.

11 August. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Dale late of St. Stephen's near St. Austell in the County of **Cornwall** Mine Agent who died 10 March 1863 at the City of London was granted at **Bodmin** to Mary Dale of Breage in the said County Widow the Relict.

DALE Joseph.

Personal Estate under £100.

22 January. The Will of Joseph Dale formerly of the Middle Temple in the City of London but late of Pompon Villa Vicarage-road Leyton in the County of **Essex** Gardener to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple who died 31 December 1878 at the Leyton Station of the Great Eastern Railway was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Maria Dale of Pompon Villa Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DALE Martha.

Personal Estate under £200.

23 July. Administration of the Personal Estate of Martha Dale late of Nantwich in the County of **Chester** Widow who died 22 May 1879 at Nantwich was granted at **Chester** to William Dale of Nantwich Tailor and Draper the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

DALE Mary.

Personal Estate under £600.

24 November. The Will of Mary Dale late of 236 Wandsworth-road in the County of **Surrey** Widow who died 7 February 1879 at 236 Wandsworth-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Thomas Cranch of 1 and 3 Lansdowne-road Stockwell in the said County Butcher the Brother one of the Executors.

DALE Thomas.

Personal Estate under £100.

5 December. The Will of Thomas Dale late of the Brighton-road Redhill in the Borough of Reigate in the County of **Surrey** Dustman who died 21 July 1879 at the Brighton-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Lavinia Ann Dale of the Brighton-road Widow the Relict one of the Executors.

DALE William.

Personal Estate under £100.

23 January. The Will of William Dale late of 4 Precentors-court in the City of **York** Labourer who died 29 September 1877 at 4 Precentors-court was proved at **York** by Ann Dale of 4 Precentors-court Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DALE William.

Personal Estate under £200.

27 August. The Will of William Dale late of Slater's-court in the City of **York** Tobacconist who died 27 July 1879 at Slater's-court was proved at **York** by Jane Dale of Slater's-court Widow the Relict and the Reverend George Henry Hewison of York Clerk the Executors.

as they shelter behind the leaves, not infrequently in cosy little nooks, caused, as in the Red Currant, by their depredations. I see that one authority recommends sprinkling the foliage with red pepper. Though an aphis is not capable of sneezing, I daresay it might like red pepper even less than tobacco. I wonder whether anybody has ever tried burning pepper.

MR. DANCY, AND THE FRUIT PERGOLA AT HOLBROOK.

I don't suppose the fumes would injure plants, and judging by their effects on human beings they ought to offer a strong inducement to insects to quit. The Rose Tortrix is another insect which starts work early—as soon as there are any leaves on the plants to attack. It sews them together, and hides inside, eating as much of them as it may require, and unless it is destroyed, turns its attention to the young buds and completely spoils them.

Seed Germination.

April 2nd.—It is a pity that seedsmen do not give in their catalogues some indication of the germinating powers of the seeds whch they offer. A word or two in each case would be quite sufficient, and would often save much trouble. For instance, it is not uncommon to sow half-a-dozen or more different kinds of seed in the same box. Too late the fact may be discovered that, while some germinate in a few days, others are very slow to do so, and as seeds and seedlings require very different treatment, one or other runs the risk of being spoilt. Even if that difficulty is overcome, there still remains the fact that the whole box must be kept and watered until the latest comers appear. This might be obviated by a brief intimation in the catalogue of the average time required for germination. The following note on the subject occurs in a book issued by Messrs. Sutton: "Portulaca is almost explosive in its energy, less than two hours being necessary to render the germs visible. All the Brassicas, and other seeds such as Peas, Beans, Asters, Stocks, and Sweet Peas, can be successfully germinated in from two to four days. Beet, Celery, Dianthus, Marigold, Seakale, Sweet William and Wallflower need a longer period. Parsley is proverbially slow under natural conditions, and can seldom be started artificially in less than twenty days." What is wanted is this information for all plants of which seed is offered, and it should be under their respective headings.

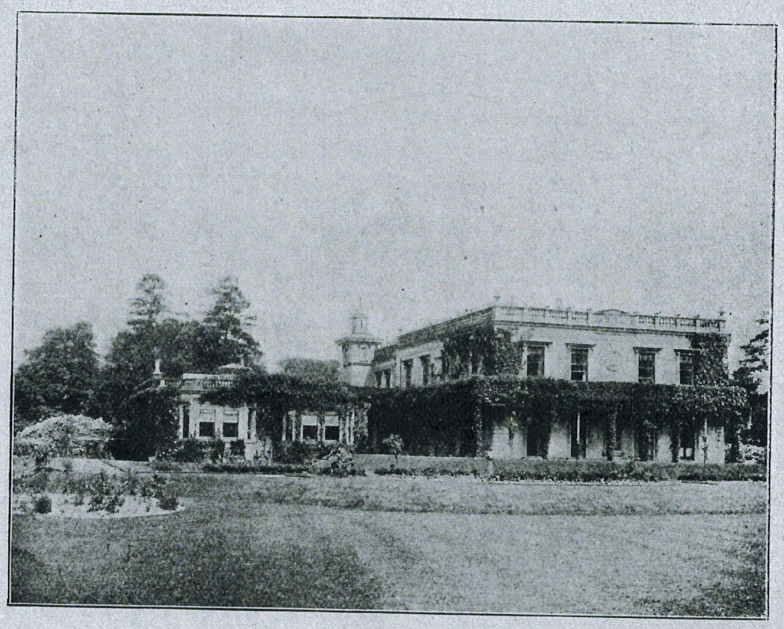
April 3rd.—Although the ordinary greenhouse Primulas are very beautiful, their compact habit of growth often renders it difficult to arrange them effectively. In this respect the newer Star Primulas have a distinct advantage. Their taller branching habit shows off the flowers admirably, and as pot plants, whether in the conservatory or in a room, they are charming. They are easily raised from seed, and if a good strain is obtained, they can be relied on to come true to name when any special colour is wanted.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Holbrook Park, Horsham, Sussex.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. THOMAS DANCY.

ALTHOUGH the number of beautiful gardens in the vicinity of Horsham is exceptionally large, Holbrook, the seat of Mr. H. Alan Scott, holds its own, and possesses several special features of interest. Visiting the gardens at the end of January, by the courtesy of the owner, I was struck by the tranquillity of the scene. Holbrook Park is not more than three miles distant from the busy Sussex centre, but it is in the heart of delightful country, under the shadow of a pleasant range of hills. The gardens are not large—about ten acres, but they are so arranged that they give the appearance of greater extent, and the surrounding park, of nearly a hundred acres, with its magnificent Oaks and Beeches, seems almost an extension of the pleasure grounds. The mansion is a fine stone building, erected some twenty years ago, on the site of the original house, which dated back several centuries. On the north side there are plenty of flourishing creepers—Ivies and Vitis in variety, Clematis montana, Bignonia radicans, Romneya Coulteri, and Aristolochia sipho.



HOLBROOK, SUSSEX.

"As to the bedding on this side," said Mr. Dancy, the head gardener, whose interest in the details of his work at once impressed me, "Wallflowers (golden and dark red), with an edging of Erysimum and Muscari Heavenly Blue, are used for spring. The marble sundial in the centre of these beds came from Italy a few years ago."

"And the summer bedding?"

"The great feature is the display of Begonias Benjamin Farrant, of which we use about a thousand. They do splendidly, but the soil is made for them."

The Cultivation of Bedding Begonias.

"What is your system of cultivation?"

"We start them in a cold frame, on a bed of ashes, with a layering of half-decayed leaves where the Violets have been growing. The dry bulbs are placed on the leaves, and just covered over with leaf-soil. When the time for bedding-out arrives, the first week in June, we take them off the ashes, and plant them out. Most of them are then in flower, and continue in bloom until the frost cuts them down. Then, probably

in November, we take them up with a little soil, and put them into the early Peach house until they are ready for packing in boxes. Here they are kept as dry as possible until we start them in April. The cultivation is quite easy. Begonias do not like heat, and they need plenty of moisture in the soil. For edging the scarlet Begonias, we use Alyssum Little Gem."

"Then you have other varieties than Farrant?"

"Yes, the two corner beds are filled with seedlings, crimson and white, edged with blue Lobelias; and the beds on the south side consist of yellow Begonias, edged with Geraniums Dandy. This last bed, and the corner ones, contain specimen plants of Brugmansia Knightii (from four to five feet high), and the large bed is dotted with standard Fuchsias—Rose of Castile."

Sub-tropical Combinations.

"How do you fill the two big beds to the left of the principal lawn in front of the mansion?"

"The centre of the beds is occupied by sub-tropical plants, including Eucalyptus, Humea elegans, Abutilons, Thompsonii and Savitzii, Ricinus in variety, Eulalias variegata, gracillima, and zebrina, and Acacias lophantha and dealbata. With these are introduced clumps of Montbretias, Gladiolus in variety, and about a dozen clumps of Commelina tuberosa (Spiderwort), with clumps of distinct varieties of Antirrhinums, Verbenas, Geraniums, and Nemesias (tall and dwarf)."

"Are the beds at the bottom of the croquet lawn, and on the west side, chiefly sub-tropical?"

"Yes, with the difference that they include Nicotianas affinis and sylvestris, also Brugmansia Knightii. Behind the beds are belts of shrubs, chiefly Rhododendrons—ponticum, and hybrids which were planted many years ago."

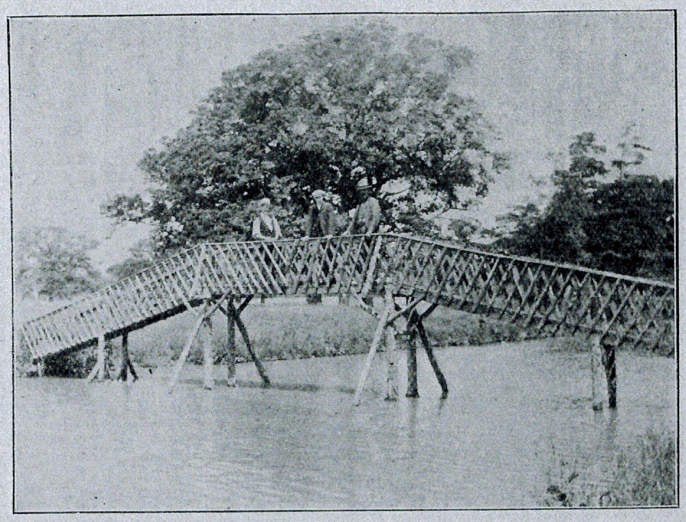
"Is there peat in the soil?"

"No, but there is plenty of iron in it, and Rhododendrons appreciate iron. The soil is strong loam at the top, and clay at the bottom."

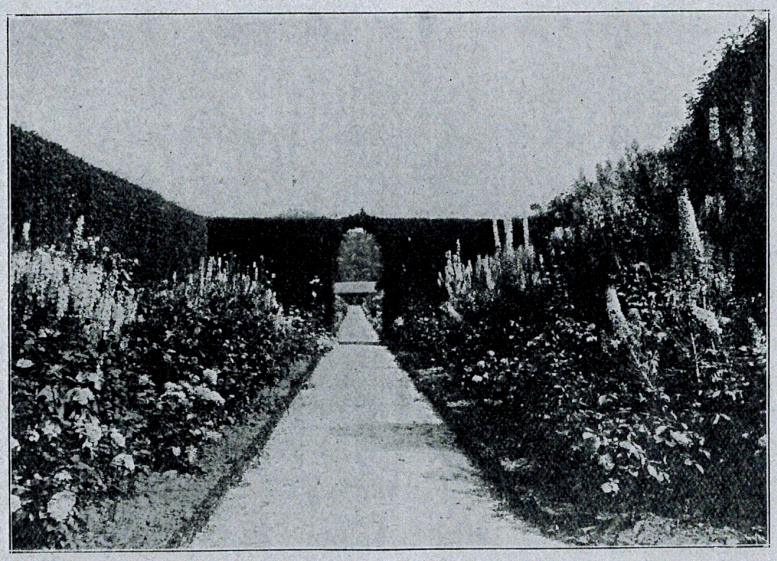
"What is the building with a clock on the face, and Ivy growing up to the clock?"

"The stables. On that side of the mansion, in addition to Ivies, there are Ampelopsis Veitchii, Pomegranates, Clematis Duchess of Albany, and yellow Banksian Roses. Facing the house, here, are shrubs, notably Rhododendrons, and a clump of Bamboo metake only planted five years ago."

Strolling as far as the sunk fence, which separates the park from the gardens, and is filled up with Roses Dorothy Perkins, I was able to form an excellent idea of the brilliant appearance of the scarlet Begonias, as seen from this point. Between the lake and the sunk fence is a rough garden, with white and yellow Broom, Berberis Thunbergii, and hardy Heaths. Over the lake is a rustic bridge, with Virginian Creeper running over it. Returning to the lawns, and passing a bed devoted to single Dahlias in variety, we proceeded along the terrace walk. Here on each side are four specimens of Cupressus Lawsoniana, planted about eight years ago, while beyond are two old-fashioned vases, filled in summer with Geraniums Madame Crousse, and a fine bed of Azalea mollis. Ascending the terrace steps, I noticed in front of the balconies four beds of mixed Ericas, interspersed with China Roses, and then we inspected the "panel" of Roses, otherwise a sunk Rose garden, formed in the angle of the mansion.



An Ornamental Bridge at Holbrook.



Delphiniums and Roses at Holbrook.

"The variety used here," said Mr. Dancy, "east and west of the vases in the centre (which, like the others, are filled in summer with Madame Crousse Geraniums), is Caroline Testout; while north and south are Fellenburg and Frau Karl Druschki. The corner beds are mixed, the varieties being Madame Hoste, Maman Cochet (white and pink), and Antoine Rivoire."

"Have you any groundwork?"

"For groundwork we use Violas White Queen and Dove, edging the round beds with Saxifraga leptophylla, and others with Saxifraga umbrosa (London Pride). All round the terrace walks in summer we have tubs filled with Agapanthus umbellata, and Sweet Peas, chosen for colour, alternating."

Sweet Peas in Tubs.

"How do you treat the Sweet Peas in the tubs?"

"We get a paraffin tub cut in two, clean out thoroughly by burning, make about six holes in the bottom for drainage, and fill with good loam and well-rotted manure, and a little fowl manure, rammed in tightly. The seed is sown singly in pots, inside, during February or early in March; the plants are afterwards hardened off carefully, and then we place five in each tub. These tubs are left out in the kitchen garden until the plants come into flower, when we remove them to the terrace, where they make a fine show. We give them manure-water constantly, with good results."

"What are the principal varieties?"

"Frank Dolby, Etta Dyke, A. J. Cook, Miss Drayson, The Marquis, Helen Lewis, Mrs. H. Sykes, Constance Oliver, Malcolm, Prince of Asturias, Paradise, and Sutton's Scarlet."

Arums in the Lake.

"And the pergola on the right of the Rose panel?"

"The Roses on the pergola, which was built seven years ago, are Electra, Crimson Rambler, Queen Alexandra, and Leuchstern, with a few

Vitis to give colour in the autumn. The bedding underneath is chiefly Acanthus mollis latifolius, with clumps of Funkias. The Rhododendron ponticum at the end of the pergola is about forty yards round, an amazing specimen. The boughs have laid in, and struck root. There are more Rhododendrons on the left, and a large bed of Azalea mollis."

"Also the Lily pond?"

"In the Lily pond are a quantity of white Lilies and Nymphæa rosea, and in more water close by are clumps of Arums. We select two big plants, and bind them together with ordinary wire netting, with good soil, and throw them into the pond. Sometimes they have to be removed, but they yield quantities of flower. Last year there were eleven blooms on one clump. They last several years, and are not killed by ice covering them. Round the edge of the water are Gunnera glabra, and clumps of Japanese Iris, Spiræa aruncus, and Bamboos. At the far end we plant Bamboos for shelter, manuring them occasionally. Behind the Bamboos, and beyond the rustic bridge over the water, is a big bed of Montbretias, which flourish exceedingly. Now we come to the Rose garden proper, which contains about twenty varieties of the best kinds. In the centre you see there is a little Rose bower, with Crimson Rambler and Aimee Vibert (red and white)."

"Then, there is the fountain?"

"With rockwork round it and Rose beds in the centre. There are twelve beds round the fountain, every other bed containing Gruss an Teplitz, which alternates with Madame Abel Carriere. On the left of the summer-house is the herbaceous border, about fifty yards long, containing chiefly Asters, Phlox, Eremurus, and Acanthus, backed by Crimson Ramblers, which give a blaze of colour on the fence in the season."

An Apple Pergola.

"You have also, leading out of the Rose garden, a fruit pergola?"

"Yes, it was planted seven years ago, is about eighty yards long, consists chiefly of Apples, and runs through an old orchard, with a bulb garden on the right."

"What are the varieties of Apples?"

"Chiefly Cox's Orange Pippin, Mere de Menage, Stirling Castle, Golden Spire, Emperor Alexander, Gascoigne's Scarlet, Keswick Codlin, Egremont Russet, New Hawthornden, Warner's King—in all, about twenty varieties. Some of the old Apples in the orchard, which were planted probably sixty or seventy years ago, are Ribston Pippin, Bess Pool (a splendid keeper), and The Denne Pearmain (a fine dessert Apple with a Ribston flavour, which keeps good up till March). In addition to the twenty varieties of Narcissus in the grass under the old trees, we use a number of the best varieties of Cannas."

A Blue and Pink Walk.

"In the Rose garden itself, I notice you are making a number of fresh beds, with wide grass walks round them."

"Yes, and in the centre there are Penzance Briers, and eight poles of Dorothy Perkins. Round the Briers are a number of choice varieties, including Bessie Brown, Mrs. E. Mawley, Mrs. John Laing, Reynolds Hole, The Bride, Killarney, La France, and Mrs. Sharman Crawford. We use a good many more Roses outside the Rose garden. Thus, between the Yew hedge and garden walk, where we now are, is a wide border planted with Delphiniums and Roses. We call it the Delphinium border."

"Blue, then, is the predominating colour?"

"Blue and pink, the Roses being all pink varieties. The Delphiniums are seedlings raised here, and grow to a height of eight feet. We grow others to cut, but these remain for ornament, and during the season are quite a picture."

"Do you grow many varieties in the herbaceous borders on each side of the Yew hedge?"

"Yes, a considerable number. One of the features of these borders is the quantity of Incarvillea Delavayi, whose deep rose flowers and beautiful leaves are very attractive. It may interest you to know the treatment. The seed is sown in boxes as soon as it is ripe, and we prick the plants out in the boxes until the following spring. The plants are then put out in a little nursery bed, and transferred here as they are wanted. Incarvilleas like good rich soil, with a covering of leaf-mould in the winter. If they do not get this protection, the frost kills them. They flower in June and July, and are extremely useful for cutting. Before we go into the houses, I think you ought to see our New Zealand garden, which is quite a feature."

The New Zealand Garden.

Accordingly, we proceeded along a shady walk to this unique addition to ordinary pleasure grounds. The garden includes a large lake, and many clumps of trees are planted by the waterside. The New Zealand varieties came direct from that country in the spring of last year, and I asked Mr. Dancy to tell me the names of some of the most valuable.

"There is a shrub called Sophora tetraptera, which grows from six to ten feet high. It is deciduous, and requires a deep, sandy loam. For position, it should have a south wall and a very sheltered border, with protection in winter. The flowers are large, deep red in colour, exactly like a parrot's beak. We have kept some of these in pots, in case those planted out should die. Then there is Blagianthus betulinus, a fine, vigorous tree, like Birch in character, but more graceful Leptospermum Chapmanii is a strong, pretty, dwarf-growing bush, with rosy-pink flowers, requiring protection in winter. Muehlenbeckia alpina is the New Zealand Ivy, which grows best in a sunny rockery, in sandy loam or peat. It also requires protection in winter. A valuable hardy, evergreen, ornamental-foliaged shrub, growing from three to ten feet high, is Griselinia. This shrub has egg-shaped leaves, dark green in colour. It needs rich loam, and a sheltered position, in a shady bower. Then there is the Celery-leaf Pine, which is best grown in a large pot or tub."

"What is its botanical name?"

"Phyllocladus trichomanoides. It is not hardy here, and therefore requires to be taken indoors during winter. The same applies to Pseudopanax Ferox (or Lance Wood). Both require loam, peat, and sand. We have altogether about thirty kinds of New Zealand plants, shrubs, and trees, but I cannot say much about the others until I have grown them for another year."

How to Fertilise.

In the fruit houses we started with the Peaches, flowers being conspicuous in the early division.

"Do you get a long run of Peaches?" I enquired.

"We begin to pick on May 20th, and keep on until the end of October. Two years ago I picked for a week later, finishing up with Sea Eagle outside. You may like to know that I fertilise with a rabbit's tail on a stick, just lightly brushing it over the trees. I use it afterwards for early Muscat Grapes."

"When were the trees planted in your early Vinery?"

"The Muscats fifty years ago. Last year I cut from this tree thirty-one bunches, averaging two to two and a half pounds each. The Black Hamburgh is also about fifty-six years old, and still gives fine crops. I lifted them from outside four or five years ago, and they have improved since. In the late Vinery the varieties include Golden Queen, a splendid doer and a fine cropper. In this Vinery are the Chrysanthemums in their first pots."

"How many do you grow?"

"Between four and five hundred, in fifty varieties. For exhibition purposes, I recommend, of yellows, Algernon Davis, F. S. Vallis, Mrs. W. Knox, and Duchess of Sutherland. The best whites are Mrs. A. T. Miller and Mrs. Norman Davis."

The Treatment of Lachenalias.

"You have a fine large flowering house?"

"We call it the 'Conservatory.' As to its present contents, you see that there are Lachenalias Nelsonii in flower. Our treatment is to bake the bulbs in the sun before they are potted up. For soil we use leaf-mould, loam, bonemeal, and sand, with a dusting of clay. It is a vital point to dry them off gradually, so that the bulbs may be ripened. Arums are also in flower."

"Yes, and I should like to know the size of the flowers."

They are eight inches across the span. We put one bulb in one pot, obtaining one flower at a time, and getting four or five flowers off one plant. I always stand Arums out, when

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE AT HOLBROOK.

they have done flowering, under a north wall. The first week in September I dig round with a grafter. A fortnight later I take up and pot the plants in 'twelves,' with three parts loam, one part decayed horse manure, a good dusting of soot, bonemeal, and a little artificial manure. When they have been potted firmly, and placed under the north wall, I syringe twice a day until the frost comes. Then I cover them in a cold frame until there is room for them in a house—about November."

"Is there any special feature in the Palm house?"

"There are one or two fine specimens of Phœnix, Kentias, and Lantanas; and baskets of Asparagus Sprengeri, plumosus, p. nanus, and deflexus variegatus. On the roof are Bougainvillea glabra, Clerodendron Balfouri, and Allamanda Hendersonii. The house also contains Crotons and Dracænas in variety."

"You go in for Tree Carnations, too?"

"Yes, this season we cut nearly three hundred flowers out of a house with a hundred and fifty young plants. The varieties include Enchantress, Britannia, Flamingo, Mrs. T. W. Lawson, Scarlet Prince, Royalty, Lady Bountiful, Flora Hill, and Mrs. Brooks. But now I think we must finish up with the kitchen garden."

Arches of Scarlet Runners.

"Do you grow many flowers in it?"

"Pentstemons are rather a feature. They like good, rich soil. Then we have two rows of Cactus Dahlias, growing about a hundred plants, while right round the kitchen garden we have arches of Scarlet Runner Beans about ten feet high, one plant on each side of the path. The arches were made for ornamentation, but each plant averages a yield of from twenty to thirty pounds during the season. This means that forty pounds of Beans are picked off each archway. We generally dig in holes in the winter for the Beans, having previously, at the end of April, planted them in pots. This secures them from exposure to frost. The Loganberry is also grown, partly for ornament and partly because it is useful. The trees made growths of twenty feet in one season, and we had fruit from the tip to the toe."

"What about other fruit?"

"Both Red Currants and Gooseberries are grown on wire trellis They do not take up half as much room as on bushes, and are much easier to pick. There are Peaches on the south, west, and east walls. The Pears on the walls include a very old variety known as Althorp Crassane, a very good stewing variety. We also grow about a hundred Pears on cordons. Amongst the varieties which do well on this clay soil are Williams's Bon Chretien, Clapp's Favourite, Doyenne Boussoch, Doyenne du Comice, Durondeau, Beurre Diel, Beurre Sterckman, Beurre Superfin, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Winter Nelis, and Pitmaston Duchess."

Celery and Peas.

"Do you go in largely for Celery?"

"We grow about a thousand heads, and have exhibited Celery four feet long, two feet clear being bleached. As to ordinary Celery, we dig out trenches six feet apart, and leave them open till spring, when the manure is dug in. We always grow Peas between the Celery, and when the Peas come off, we can earth the Celery. The next year the Peas take the place of the Celery, and after two years we shift them elsewhere."

"Which do you consider the best early Pea?"

"The best early varieties include May Queen, Little Marvel, Duke of Albany, and Early Giant. We grow Gladstone and Autocrat for the main crop. About ten quarts are sown, and we begin picking in June, going on till November."

"Your Broad Beans are coming on well."

"Yes; the variety is Norfolk Giant. They are sheltered by a high wall, and grown on a south aspect. The spring Cabbages, as you can tell, have not been injured by the frost. I find that Flower of Spring cannot be beaten. Instead of adopting the old-fashioned method of two feet apart, I grow Cabbages eighteen inches apart—an economy of space."

"I believe you show a good deal, Mr. Dancy?"

"I have taken over two hundred prizes since I came here. Last year I won twenty-eight firsts, most of them for fruit, flowers, and vegetables."

"When did you come here?"

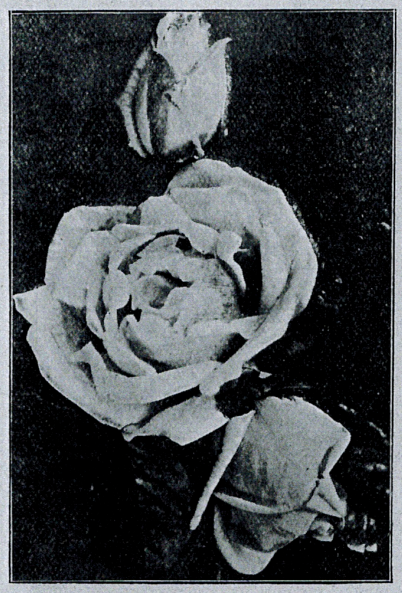
"Ten years ago last September. I have been head gardener twenty years. I began showing in 1893, and took a number of prizes for Chrysanthemums, winning, in 1896, the challenge cup with a keen competition of thirteen, some of the competitors growing a thousand plants. In the same year I won two first-class certificates, and the N.C.S. Jubilee medal. Since then I have exhibited a good deal, and put up four times for the cup, taking first, second, third, and fourth. During the last six years I have won—at Horsham—four cups, three for fruit and flowers for a table, and one for Chrysanthemums; also four gold medals, one silver gilt, one silver, and one bronze, for vegetables."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 349.—FLOWERS FOR SUMMER AND AUTUMN.

Dear Kate,—Last week we counted up some of our hardy flowers in the winter and in the early spring garden, but we cannot do that for the summer quarter of the year, within the limits of a paper. For, with the returning warmth, most of our flowers open their blossoms—annuals, biennials, and perennials, each and all in gorgeous profusion. Roses, Carnations, Irises, blue Delphiniums, Lilies, and Violas, are a few of the principal herbaceous groups in summer, but the great bouquets of the flowering shrubs—Rhododendrons, Lilacs, Hawthorns in pink and in white—and the flowering trees, the orchards, and the hedgerows, all contribute their quota to the pageant of early summer. Later on, we have the semi-tropical bedding-out plants (Geraniums, Heliotrope, Lobelia, etc.), to reinforce the brightness of the garden, with many fine, half-hardy bulbous plants, of which the Gladioli (which should be planted at once, if the late wintry weather has deferred the work) are amongst the grandest, especially where the rich tints of the Kelwayi group are selected.



Rose, Madame Falcot.

Our forebears of several centuries since had but a comparatively small range of choice in flowers, until the magnificent shrubs, climbers, Lilies, Pæonies, Chrysanthemums, and Irises of Japan became available through the power of steam; but the fashionable craze for semi-tropical bedding-out plants ousted many grand old herbaceous flowers throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. Now we employ both hardy and half-hardy flowers, in endless variety, to fill our borders.

Plant These Now.

There are several groups of these last plants which should be put in during the next month, before the more delicate semi-tropical flowers (Cannas, Heliotropes, Begonias, Pelargoniums, etc.) can be safely risked in the open air. Of these half-hardy plants may be mentioned Pentstemons (of the newer large-flowered varieties, which are amongst the loveliest of blossoms), blue Salvia patens (indispensable for its pure and rare tint), Dahlias (both dwarf and the taller Cactus varieties, now to be brought on in slight warmth for early flowering), early-flowering Chrysanthemums (in endless shades of rich colouring, both double and single), and Pyrethrums (crimson and pink Marguerites), with many another native of foreign lands which are on the border-line between the temperate and the tropical zones, and must, therefore, have special consideration.

At this season, too, we must make provision for our gardens in the autumn (for planting cannot be safely carried out after June arrives, except from pots), and forethought is needed if the mass of summer colouring is not to be followed by a want of brightness in the garden during the autumnal months. Dahlias, early Chrysanthemums, Michaelmas Daisies, and Salvias, both the red (Bruanti), and the blue (patens, aforesaid), will do much towards providing autumn flowers, but they may be reinforced by late-sown annuals (Salpiglossis, Asters, Zinnias, etc.) with great advantage. To secure plenty of these bright blossoms (which are half-hardy), without fire heat, is quite practicable, if you sow the seed in the border towards the end of April, and cover it with a sheet of glass (raised on stones three inches above it) until it has germinated, when the glass can be gradually raised, and the seedlings may be pricked out into rather shallow boxes of rich soil, from which they are placed in the borders in May or June, and will be found very useful to plant between the spring bulbs which will then be ripening their foliage, in a rather untidy way, needing the fresh growth of annuals to take their place.

Another valuable addition to our gardens during the last three months of the year may be found in encouraging the Roses to bloom at that time, and a plentiful supply of these favourite

ssential facts, and then put any questions as oncisely as possible.

March 21st.—Not very far away there is an venue of large Limes, three deep, and on lmost every tree there are masses of Mistletoe. was not previously aware that it grew on imes, but I find that Dr. Masters includes

Mr. R. Davidson.

them among its favourite trees, the others being the Apple, Poplar, Hawthorn, Maple and Mountain Ash. It is singular that, contrary to the popular idea, the Mistletoe seldom grows on the Oak. "Dr. Bull, in a paper in the 'Journal of Botany,' only mentions seven authentic instances of the growth of Mistletoe on the Oak in this country." So far as I know, in spite of the large demand for it at Christmas, it is not cultivated in England, probably because of its ness of growth.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 78.—Mr. R. Davidson, at the Gardens, Culford Hall, Suffolk.

The great feature of interest at Culford Hall, from the horticultural standpoint, is the garden within the walls; and on the occasion of my visit the other day I first had an opportunity of inspecting this portion of the pleasure grounds surrounding the well-known seat of Lord Cadogan in Suffolk. I also was able to stroll through a portion of the noble park, some two hundred and fifty acres in extent, ornamented by a lake (spanned by an artistic new bridge), which winds beautifully from east to west, and is nearly a mile in length. The park contains several stately Oak trees, one of which is over three hundred years old, and also many fine specimens of Beech, Chestnut, Thorn, and Limes.

Mr. Davidson, the head gardener, who has been at Culford about eight years, was previously foreman at Lambton Castle, Durham, for between three and four years, and prior to his appointment to his present post in East Anglia gained all his experience in the North of England and Scotland. The picturesque cottage in which he resides is in the centre of a long range of vineries, running east and west, and commands a full view of the flower garden. I say flower garden, but the eleven acres within the walls are a remarkable and unique combination of flower and kitchen gardens, with Yew and Hornbeam hedges on an imposing scale, while the arches that form the crosspaths through the hedges add to the dignity. The hedges at once attracted my attention, and I asked Mr. Davidson how long ago they were planted.

"The garden," he rejoined, "was planned by Mr. Peter Grieve, who was head gardener here to the late Mr. Benyon for over thirty years. Lord Cadogan, who purchased the estate about fourteen years ago, has not altered the arrangement."

"Can you tell me the length of the Yew hedges?"

"About one thousand eight hundred and thirty yards. The height is from five to nine feet, and they are about four feet wide."

"Their condition after so many years is wonderful."

"Yes, that is the general opinion. Of course, they have to be carefully trimmed every year."

"When do you begin clipping?"

"The end of July. It takes nearly three months to do the Yew hedges properly. But they want no other attention, save that in the spring we sometimes go over them in order to see if any stray shoots are showing, in which case they are clipped out, the great object being to preserve the trim and straight appearance they now have."

"What is the length of your very beautiful Hornbeam hedge?"

"About two hundred and fifty yards. It is about eight feet high, and three feet six inches wide. There are also, as you see, some fences of common Privet. These are about one hundred and eighty yards in length, four feet high, and two feet wide."

"I notice that you have a Rose and Clematis garden?"

"Yes, that was recently made. Formerly, the space given to it was only partly planted with Roses and Clematis, the other part being summer bedding plants, including varieties of the East Lothian and Intermediate Stock."

"You have, I presume, a large number of Roses growing out of doors for several months?"

"Hybrid Teas flower from early in June until Christmas. In fact, I was able last Christmas to furnish the rooms of the Hall with Hybrid Tea and Noisette Roses all grown out of doors. This was partly due to the unusually favourable weather."

"Are there any special varieties that you care to name?"

"All the leading varieties are included in the collection, notably Caroline Testout, Belle Siebrecht, Viscountess Folkestone, La France, Grosherzog Ernst Ludwig (a German variety, but a very fine Rose), and Antoine Rivoire."

"And the Clematis?"

"The varieties include some of the new hybrids, such as Fairy Queen, Mrs. Hope, Duchess of Edinburgh, and Duchess of York."

"What about your spring bedding?"

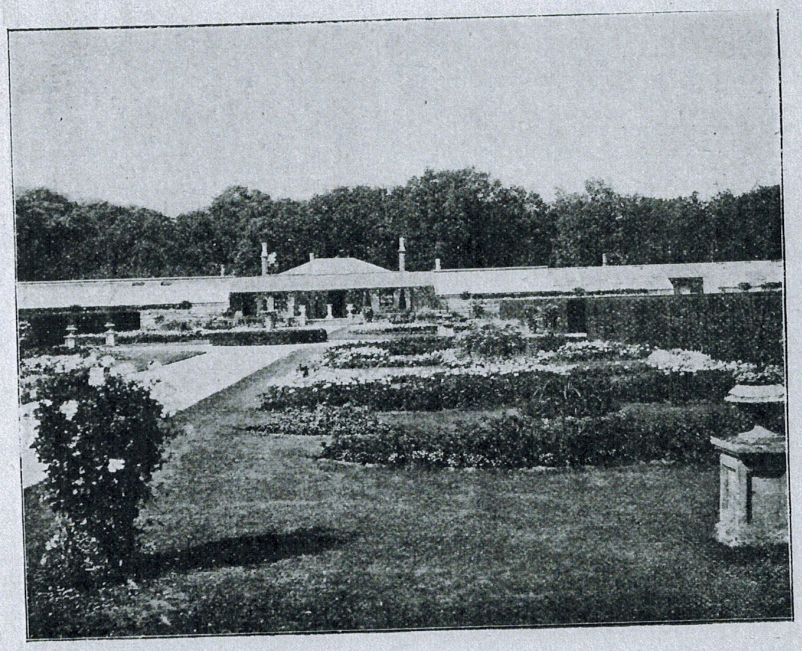
"It includes the very best flowering bulbs, Tulips, Jonquils, Narcissus, Crocuses, and variegated Kale, which are very ornamental, and last well."

"I notice that you have a large quantity of Wallflowers?"

"About eight thousand in the borders and beds. The three principal varieties are Fairy Queen, Easter Queen, and Purple Queen. We have also the old-fashioned Blood Red, and the Golden Tom Thumb varieties. These five suffice to produce a fine blending of flowers. The old Blood Red Wallflower is in considerable request, it being quite the most sweet-scented of the Wallflowers."

"When do you sow the Wallflower seeds?"

"During the first week in June, in a north border, shaded by a high wall. Seedlings are pricked out about five inches apart, as soon as they are fit, into a portion of the kitchen garden, in a soil which is not by any means enriched with manure. Afterwards, a good deal of water is given to settle the soil about the roots of the plants. They receive little further attention, beyond keeping them free from weeds, until they are transplanted into their positions."



The Gardener's Cottage and Vineries at Culford Hall Gardens.

"As to other spring-flowering plants, numerous varieties of Violas and Pansies are grown from seed, and for this purpose they cannot be surpassed."

"At what period do you have a great show of spring flowers?"

"From the middle of April until the end of June, when they are pulled away in order to make room for summer flowers. The higher portion of the garden, within the squares of hedges, is generally devoted to Strawberry culture and Carnations; and sometimes to vegetables that do not grow above the level of the Yew hedges."

"With regard to fruit and vegetables, I conclude that they are produced entirely for consumption."

"Yes, everything is grown for consumption or decoration, either here or at Chelsea House. During the time Lord and Lady Cadogan were in Ireland we sent supplies of flowers and fruit and vegetables to Dublin."

"Do you grow anything exceptional in vegetables?"

"Asparagus is very largely grown, being a favourite vegetable. There are only two varieties, Conover's Colossal and Argenteuil. The Globe Artichoke is also a favourite."

"Your wall fruit is a considerable feature. Beginning with Pears, you might, please, tell me the order in which the varieties ripen?"

"Beurré Giffard, Jargonelle, Souvenir du Congress, Triomphe de Vienne, Williams' Bon Chrétien, Fondante d'Automne, Beurré d'Amanlis, Thompson's, Durandeau, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, Doyenne du Comice (the Pear *par excellence*), Beurré Diel, Winter Nelis, Zephirin Gregoire, Josephine de Malines, Olivier de Serres (one of the best—if not the best—of all winter Pears), Beurré Rance, Bergamotte Esperen, and President Barabe."

"Which variety of Plums do you start with?"

"Rivers' Early Prolific. Then we go on to Rivers' Czar, Oullin's Golden Gage, Denniston's Superb, Belgian Purple, Transparent Gagé, Kirke's Blue, Victoria, Jefferson, Greengage, Bryanston Gage, Pond's Seedling, Reine Claude de Bavay, and Coe's Golden Drop. Of Cherries, we grow Early Rivers, Belle d'Orleans, Frogmore Bigarreau, May Duke, Reine Hortense, Elton Heart, Royal Duke, Waterloo Heart, Bigarreau Napoleon, Late Duke, and Black Tartarian. Morello Cherries are also extensively grown."

"Your Apricot trees are a sheet of blossom?"

"Yes, I hope to have a good crop. The varieties are Early Nonpareil, Frogmore, Grosse Peche, Kaisha, Oullin's Early, and Moor Park."

"What are the principal dessert Apples?"

"I must limit the list of their names. Among the best are Juneating (American Red), Irish Peach, Devonshire Quarrenden, Lady Sudeley, James Grieve, Wealthy, St. Edmund's, Cox's Orange, Scarlet Nonpareil, Fearn's Pippin, and Allen's Everlasting. Among Apples for cooking purposes, some of the most noteworthy are Duchess of Oldenburgh, Lord Suffield, Cellini, Stirling Castle, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Blenheim Orange, Bismarck, Mere de Menage, King of Tomkins County, Beauty of Kent, Lane's Prince Albert, Bramley's Seedling, and Sandringham."

"Do you go in for many varieties of Gooseberries and Currants?"

"Both of these, and also of Raspberries; only the best and newest varieties are grown. The Logan Berry is also grown."

"We have not mentioned Strawberries?"

"About an acre of ground in the kitchen garden is allotted to Strawberries, and we have all the leading varieties. About five thousand plants are also grown in pots every year for early forcing. Filberts and Blackberries are grown extensively, and a few Peaches and Nectarines on the walls."

"What is the extent of the lawn round the front of the Hall?"

"About fourteen acres. It contains some fine specimens of Conifers and Cedars; also of Wellingtonia gigantea, Picea pinsapo, Cupressus Nutkænsis, and some very handsome examples of the Retinospora family. Among the decorative and ornamental varieties are two fine Tulip trees, varieties of Philadelphus, Syringa, Prunus Pissardi, and the Japanese variety of the Plane tree, flowering Cherries, Almonds, and Peaches, Magnolias and Catalpas, Deutzias, the Jew's Mallow, and a nice collection of the Bamboo family."

"Is there anything of special consequence in the lake?"

"No, but in the water basins, the garden close to the Palm house, and elsewhere, are a number of Water Lilies which do extremely well. The varieties are Alba (the common white), Alba rosea, Caroliniana, Flava, Laydekeri, Liliacea, L. purpurata, and L. rosea, M. liacea Albidii, M. chromatella, M. rosea, M. rubra, M. pygmæa melveda, and M. tuberosa."

"The numerous houses, I gather, are chiefly devoted to the cultivation of fruit?"

"Yes, especially Grapes, Peaches, and Nectarines. We wish to ensure a continuous supply throughout the year, and can always, at any rate, carry on from the second week in March until the middle of the following January."

"How many vineries are there?"

"Nine, the principal varieties grown being Muscat of Alexandria, Black Hamburgh, Madresfield Court, Black Alicante, and Gros Colman: the first two are preferred."

Double Begonia—Mrs. Richmond.

"What are the principal varieties of Peaches?"

"The best of all early Peaches is the Amsden, which we pick in June. The other varieties are Waterloo, Early Alexander, Violette Hative, Condor, Hale's Early, Early Grosse Mignonne, Royal George, Stirling Castle, Dymond, Crimson Galande, Barrington, Lady Palmerston, and Belle de Doué. The two best in existence, I think, are Royal George and Stirling Castle. The Nectarines include Cardinal, Early Rivers, Lord Napier, Dryden, Elruge, Humboldt, Rivers' Orange (very free, and one of the best), Pine Apple, Spencer, Newton, Stanwick, and Victoria."

"You have also a large number of Figs in the houses?"

"They have always been a feature, and I have introduced one or two varieties. We grow St. John's (white), Marseilles, Violette Sepor, Brown Turkey, White Ischia, Bourjasotte Grise, Negro Largo, and Castle Kennedy."

"A few words about your treatment of Figs would be useful."

"They are early planted out, the depth of the house border being sixteen inches, and the width about twenty-four feet. The staple is composed of good, turfy loam, and about a quarter of the whole consists of charcoal. Other ingredients are crushed bones, bonemeal, dried cow manure, a little charred refuse, some mortar rubbish, and, most essential, lime. The early house is heated underneath the border of four rows by means of 4½-in. hot-water pipes, the border material being rested upon strong, specially-made iron gratings."

"Lastly, perhaps you would mention some of the flowers in the houses, in addition to the lovely Cœlogyne in flower?"

"The large batch of Calanthe just out of flower made also a fine show of Orchids. We go in extensively for Carnations (including the Malmaisons and the Tree varieties), winter-flowering Begonias, Cyclamens, Calceolarias, French Pelargoniums, and many other well-known flowers. Our batch of Nerines is particularly striking. The Nerine Fothergillii major is the best and largest collection I know of in any private establishment. There are about ninety pots, varying in size from eight to twelve inches, the pots, according to their size, containing from fifteen to sixty bulbs in a pot. A more charming plant, when it is in flower during the latter part of September, October, and November, cannot be imagined."

Alfred Wilcox.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

34.—A COOL GREENHOUSE.

Dear Kate,—So you have started a cool greenhouse. I don't quite understand whether you intend to get a small hot-water stove for it in the autumn? If not, you can still cultivate a quantity of flowers so long as you manage to keep the frost out, by means of covering the top with mats at night in severe weather, and putting a good lamp (well trimmed, to keep alight all night) on the floor in winter, as you say it is a small one. So few people understand that there are plenty of fine flowers hardy enough to grow in such a place, and they keep their greenhouses bare and wretched looking because they have not any hot-water pipes in it; or else they buy a lot of delicate plants, which are sure to look miserable in the winter, and will probably die then.

I will tell you, with pleasure, what plants to cultivate, on the plan of just keeping the frost out, and in another letter I can add the more delicate plants, if you prefer to have hot-water pipes. A great many bulbs can be grown to perfection in a cool greenhouse. For instance, Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, and Scillas will do much better without fire-heat, although they will not bloom quite so early; then the deliciously-scented Freesias I wrote about on January 17th will now be in bloom in a cool greenhouse, and are much more easily managed without forcing.

The lovely starry flowers of the Ixia, the Sparaxis, and a host of pretty Irids from South Africa also prefer no heat, and only need the slight protection of glass in winter; even Amaryllis hippeastrum, with its great scarlet Lilies, can be grown in the same way, if kept fairly dry in winter. Then, for a handsome background to these bulbs, you can have early-flowering hybrid Rhododendrons, in pots or tubs, of the more dwarf varieties, such as R. Nobleanum coccineum, with brilliant scarlet flowers, opening in February; R. ocholeucum, in pale yellow, spotted with maroon; or R. Blanche superbe, in pure white, and others. Azalea mollis is perfectly hardy, and will do well without heat, so that these lovely things will keep your greenhouse gay in spring.

You can also have two or three Myrtles, for their foliage, as well as that of the Rhododendrons, is always decorative, and their flowers are lovely; some of the hardier Palms, too,

DAVIDSON Roderick of The Lodge Kippington-road Sevenoaks **Kent** died 26 September 1953 at Orpington Hospital Orpington Kent Administration **London** 11 November to Violet Mary Newsham married woman. Effects £641 5s.

DAVIDSON Rowena of Laira 26 Morgan-avenue **Torquay** spinster died 1 May 1953 at St. Clements Nursing Home Ash Hill-road Torquay Probate **London** 30 July to Allan Davidson retired surveyor and Charles Garfield Davidson retired laundry proprietor. Effects £14896 12s. 1d.

DAVIDSON Sarah Annie of 26 Gleggside Grange West Kirby Wirral **Cheshire** (wife of Alexander Davidson) died 1 October 1953 at Clatterbridge Hospital Poulton-cum-Spital Cheshire Administration **Chester** 21 October to the said Alexander Davidson civil engineer inspector. Effects £478 13s. 3d.

DAVIDSON Siddle of 18 Helena-avenue Whitley Bay **Northumberland** died 13 January 1953 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 9 April to Elizabeth Ann Davidson widow.
Effects £1748 1s. 11d.

DAVIDSON Stephen Cyril of 24 Vernon-road Seven Kings Ilford **Essex** died 11 March 1953 Probate **London** 25 June to Joyce Eileen Davidson spinster. Effects £319 3s. 8d.

DAVIDSON Stephen Reed of Fourstones **Northumberland** died 28 October 1953 at War Memorial Hospital Hexham Northumberland Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 23 December to Noel Bowman draper and Isabel Wallace widow. Effects £205 13s. 1d.

DAVIDSON Thomas of 2 Worcester-terrace **Sunderland** died 25 January 1953 at The General Hospital Sunderland Probate **Durham** 16 February to John Lowther Wright coal teemer.
Effects £37 16s.

not until one has yielded to the temptation to buy plants that the defect shows itself. I bought a number of last year's novelties, and out of them all there is not one that holds its flowers erect. Unless this is altered, Cactus Dahlias, beautiful as they are, will certainly go out of favour, as many other plants have done before them.

June 7th.—The Cranesbill, or Wild Geranium, is now in the hedgerows, and those who are interested in the subject may study its remarkable method of dispersing its seeds. The seeds, each in its own capsule, are fitted into a little groove at the base of the beak-like appendage to the fruit (from which the plant gets its name, Crane's-bill), and each is connected with the extremity of this appendage by a tiny rod. These rods, as the drying process proceeds, are in a state of great tension, and at length they give way, throwing the seeds a considerable distance. The method, it will be seen, differs widely from the more common one by which the edges of the capsule come together and forcibly press the seeds out.

June 8th.—In every garden of any size a summer-house is almost an essential, and one constructed of rustic woodwork with a thatched roof is more in harmony with its surroundings than any other. It needs creepers, of course, and for a time may look rather bare, but when they grow it will become a charming retreat from the heat of the sun at midday. Earwigs? Oh, yes, you will find a few, no doubt, if you look for them, but in a garden where will you not? And, after all, they are not centipedes—the tropical kind, I mean. H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens of Mr. J. Gurney Fowler, at Glebelands, South Woodford.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. J. DAVIS.

NATURALLY, one expects to find in the glasshouses of the chairman of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, Mr. Gurney Fowler, a splendid collection of Orchids. But, while this expectation was not disappointed on the occasion of my visit to Glebelands a short time ago, I was hardly prepared for the numerous other features of interest inside the walls (which enclose eight acres) at South Woodford, one of the most representative gardens in the country.

The Rose Quarters.

And, first of all, Mr. Davis, the head gardener, who has occupied his present position just twenty-one years, and has a staff of half a score under him, showed me the collection of Roses, extending over half an acre.

"Roses, then," I said, "are a great feature?"

"We grow all the best, and have about three thousand," rejoined Mr. Davis, "chiefly Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals. The Roses are massed according to colour, four beds, for instance, having four varieties of colour. They are well protected from the north-east wind by Irish Yews, and we are able to cut pretty well from June until Christmas. Elsewhere there are garden Roses which we peg down, but, with regard to these, we only take out all the old wood in March. There is one large bed consisting entirely of Tea varieties, which we prune the first week in April."

"Do you show Roses?"

"We used to do so, but now all the trees are grown to provide flowers for decorating the house and giving away to the hospitals."

"You have some fine old trees on the lawn?"

"Yes, the Copper Beech and the Cedars close to the house present a beautiful contrast, and among other good specimens are a Pyrus spectabilis floribunda and a Tulip-tree."

General Bedding and Herbaceous Borders.

"What does the bedding chiefly consist of?"

"For spring bedding, Wallflowers and Silenes, with bulbs intermixed, are largely used; for summer, in the same beds, there is a row of Gladioli in the centre, filled up with bronze or Vesuvius Geraniums. There is a bed of Delphiniums of the best varieties on a north-east aspect, and they flower all through the summer."

"Then, you have a bed of Eremurus opposite the Delphiniums?"

"They include the best varieties, such as E. himalaicus, E. robustus, and E. Wareii. Close to these are the standard Roses, the varieties including Dorothy Perkins and other climbers, and, speaking of Roses, there is a bed of Crimson Ramblers pegged down, with Wallflowers and Lilies underneath."

"What are the principal varieties in your very extensive herbaceous border?"

"In that border and elsewhere, we have some of the newest and best species, such as Anchusas (Dropmore variety), Campanula Fergusonii, Corydalis thalictrifolia, Gypsophila paniculata, Incarvillea grandiflora, Lathyrus latifolius (the White Pearl), and Senecio argenteus. The collection also embraces Acanthus, Asclepias, Asters in variety, Centranthus, Chelone (crimson variety), Eryngiums, Funkias, Inulas, Orobus, Physalis, Polygonums, Solidagos, Spiræas, Thalictrums, Tradescantias, Tritomas in variety, Tussilagos, and Verbascums."

"There are herbaceous plants underneath the wall, with the Wistaria sinensis and Magnolia?"

"A considerable number, and beyond is a ribbon border with a row of Phlox at the back. In addition to the Wistaria, which flowers exceedingly well, Roses and Clematis intertwined are grown on the wall."

The Orchid Houses.

"Are the whole of the Orchid houses in the kitchen garden which we are now entering?"

"Yes, and the first is the Cattleya house. Here is a specimen of Cœlia Bella, one of the finest in the country; few people grow it well. It is a Chysis hybrid."

"It would be interesting if you would mention the names of some of the most choice of your hybrid Cattleyas."

"Brasso Lælia King Edward VII. is just throwing up two sheaths. Lælia-Cattleya Woodfordiense was raised here; also C. Fowlerii. The Lælia-Cattleyas include Bletchleyensis (Fowler's var.), Canhamiana alba, Dominiana Langleyensis, Ilione, Henry Greenwood, Semiramis superba, Cappei Charlesworthii, Lady Wigan, Remula, Prince Edward, Herode, and Hippolyta. We have a fine batch of L.-C. luminosa, and C. gigas saturata. C. Yellow Prince and C. Moranda are very good; also L.-C. Pallas, C. Mantinii nobilius, and C. Bowringiana triumphans. C. intermedia (Fowler's variety) is just throwing up a spike. In this house, also just in flower, are Phalænopsis Rimestadiana, and two fine plants of Dendrobium Brymerianum."

"In the East India house," continued Mr. Davis, "there are chiefly Vandas, the best varieties including a fine batch of Sanderiana. Then there is a batch of Miltonia Roezlii, one plant of Arachnanthe Lowii (a very good Orchid), and the Dendrobiums in flower include Apollo grandiflora, nobile Cooksonii, nobile nobilius, Balliana, and alba. There are also in this house a nice little batch of seedlings which will flower in about three years, and a batch of Cattleya seedlings which will flower next summer."

GLEBELANDS, FROM THE TENNIS LAWN.

The next Orchid house contained Cymbidiums Lowianum, eburneo Lowianum, Traceyanum, and several new species which have not yet flowered. I asked the names of some of the varieties which have been shown.

"We had a first-class certificate last year for C. erythostylum, and we have shown, amongst

others, C. insigne (Glebelands' var.). Here is an important batch of Dendrobium Wardianum, which are coming on splendidly, and will flower well this year for the first time."

Notable Cypripediums.

"What are your most notable Cypripediums?"

"One of these is C. calloso Rothschildianum, which received a first-class certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society, and among others are Troilus, Penelope, Milo (Cobb's variety), Miss Louisa Fowler, Acteus (Fowler's variety), Prospero majus, James H. Veitch, Annie Measures, Daisy Barclay, Captain Holford, Chapmanii, Gowerianum magnificum, H. Ballantine, I'Ansonii, Lawrenceanum Hyeanum, Hackbridgensis Leeanum, J. G. Fowler, magnificum, Clinkaberryanum, Mrs. E. V. Low, Œdippe, Mary Beatrice, Æson giganteum, Mr. W. Mostyn, Ville de Paris, Chrysotoxum Victor, Maudiæ, F. K. Sander, Phœbe, minos Youngii, Mrs. Alfred Fowler, and Ernest Read. Those now in flower include C. aureum Hyeanum (one of the best forms), C. Helen II., C. Olivia, and C. aureum virginalæ. In this house there is also a number of C. Fowlerianum, one of the finest specimens in the country of Eulophiella Elizabethæ, several plants of Eulophiella Petersiana (which are very rare), a fine bulb of Phaius Mishmiensis, and a very rare specimen of Bulbophyllum verescens."

"You have more Cattleyas?"

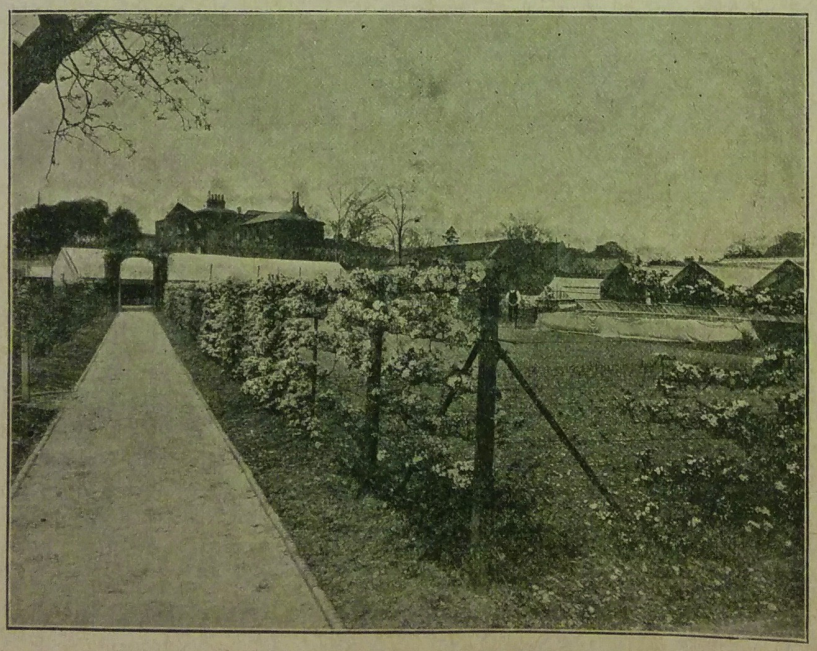
"This is a special house of Cattleyas, which contains several of the best white Labiatas, such as Gilmouriæ, Mrs. E. Ashworth, alba, Princess of Wales, Gaskelliana alba, F. W. Wigan, and The Baron; also Brasso-Cattleya and Madame Charles Marone. In this house, too, there is Cattleya Mantinii (Fowler's variety), for which we had an award of merit last year; a fine batch of C. Schroderæ, some of them throwing up as many as twelve or thirteen sheaths; and the finest plant in the country of C. Warscewiczii F. M. Beyrodt. Other choice Cattleyas are Harrisoniana alba, intermedia alba, Cecilia (Fowler's var.), Maronii, Mendelii albens Princess of Wales, Mossiæ Reineckiana, Victoria, Waganerii, Parthenia, Princess of Wales, Schroderæ alba, Fowler's var., Pitt's var., Frianei, Amesiana, alba, J. G. Fowler, Little Gem, Fabia, Iris, Davisii, Atalanta (Fowler's var.), and Hardyana. In the other Cypripedium house there is a large batch of insigne, embracing the Harefield Hall variety, Sanderæ, J. Davis, Luciana, Laura, gigantea, Dormaniana, montanum, montanum aureum, and Amy Moore magnifica. Here, too, are batches of Miltonia vexillarium, Zygopetalums, and Lycastes. Now we had better go to the Odontoglossum house, which was put up last autumn by Mr. Harris, of Ealing."

"It seems a very large and handsome building?"

Thousands of Odontoglossums.

"I believe it is the finest Odontoglossum house in the country. The double staging is all teak, and there is ventilation for summer use between the two stages. The sides are built with loose bricks, pigeon-hole fashion, to keep the cold air and dry heat from entering the house direct. In fact, every possible contrivance for perfecting ventilation and ensuring the temperature required for the cultivation of cool Orchids has been introduced, and I think that Odontoglossums can be grown here under the best possible conditions. All the plants you see here were potted up last autumn, and a great many are rare and costly. They run to thousands, both in number and in sovereigns. Several O. Crispum are in flower, and the varieties include Cooksonianum, Ardentissimum Dorothy Fox, The Jewel, Britain's Queen, Raymond Crawshay, Fowlerianum, Luciana, and Lindenii. Amongst the endless varieties of Odontoglossums are amabile (Glebelands' variety), for which we received an award this year; O. Wilckeanum and O. Ossulstonii, and O. Eduardii now in flower. Other varieties are Wilckeanum William Pitt, Pittianum, Fowler's var., Waltonense var., Othello, amabile Rex, Halli King Edward VII., Wiganianum, Lolbiæ, Loochristiense, Aliceiæ, and luteo-purpureum Vuystekeanum. There is also in this house a batch of Masdevallias, a few of which are in flower, namely, Melampus, Lindeni, Schlimii, Maccura, and Chelsonii. Of course, I could tell you a great deal more about Orchids, and give you a great many more names, but I think you would now like to see some of the other features of the gardens."

MR. J. DAVIS IN THE ODONTOGLOSSUM HOUSE.



A PART OF THE KITCHEN GARDENS AT GLEBELANDS.

"What shall we take next, then?"

"Here is a collection of Star Capsicums in variety, for which we got a silver medal at the Horticultural Hall last year. The award was given to the variety Celestial, but the collection includes nine or ten varieties, and from six to seven dozen plants. We sow the seed in February, grow them on in plenty of heat until the end of October; then, when they have coloured up, take them into a cooler house, and they last well all through the winter. Another plant which we find very useful for forcing, and may be treated in quite an ordinary manner, is Forsythia. We bring them in the first year, pot them up, and plant them outside, and then force the second year."

Strawberries and Peaches in Pots.

"I see you have a Strawberry house."

"We force about eight hundred plants, all Royal Sovereign. Four shelves you will notice are above the others. It is very useful to have them close to the glass and up to the roof. In the next house we grow Roses in pots. Instead of cutting back in accordance with the usual practice, we throw out all weak wood, and train the shoots round an iron band, with

the result that we get a great deal more flower. All the best varieties are grown."

"You also grow Peaches and Nectarines in pots?"

"Yes, we devote a house entirely to them, and have done so for six or seven years. I shake them out every year, pot them up in the autumn, plunge them outside, cover the roots with dung, keep the wood exposed to the weather, and, as a rule, take them in early in February, when I dip them in caustic."

"Have you suffered from any disease?"

"Some time ago the plants were attacked by a kind of fungus, but, by spraying them with caustic in the winter, and with sulphur in the summer, I have lately been able to keep them entirely free from it."

"They are now looking remarkably well. What are the principal varieties?"

"The Peaches are Dr. Hogg, Dagmar, Alexander, Royal George, Goshawk, Early Louise, Violette Hative, Condor, Early Beatrice, Sea Eagle, Grosse Mignonne, Crimson Galande, and Noblesse. The Nectarines are Cardinal, Darwin, Milton, Lord Napier, Humboldt, Early Rivers, Stanwick Elruge, Dryden, Precoce de Croncels (which does exceedingly well), and Pineapple."

The Vineries, and Selaginellas.

"Do you go in largely for Grapes?"

"In the early Vinery we have Madresfield Court and Black Hamburgh, and, in the late, Gros Colmar, Gros Maroc, Black Hamburgh, and Muscat. The Vineries are also used for Chrysanthemums, of which we grow about eight hundred; and we force Lilacs, Laburnums, double-flowering Peaches, and Rhododendrons. As to bedding plants, we have a large number of Border Carnations, and from five to six thousand Geraniums. There is still one house for you to see which contains a very special feature. We have the only complete collection in the country of Selaginellas."

"All grown in pots, I believe?"

"Yes. We use them to decorate the house, and three or four years ago we received a gold medal for the collection."

"What is your treatment of them?"

"Selaginellas require plenty of heat and moisture. The varieties include Douglasii, Griffithii, molliceps, viticulosa, amœna, Pitcheriana, divaricata, Poulterii, tuberosa, Lobbii, denticulata, Martensii variegata, lesta, Erythropus, Watsoniana, stolonifera, elegans, serpens, africana, cœsia, increscentifolia, and Kraussiana variegata. Three of the varieties (S. grandis, Lyallii, and atro-viride) are grown in a cupboard. I have not given you the whole of the names, but every variety is represented."

Hardy Fruit.

"Now, with regard to outside fruit."

"We have a great number of young trees, Plums, Apples, and Pears. Apples are grown as pyramids, espaliers and cordons on the walls, and as standards in the orchard. One of our great features in fruit are the Gooseberries trained as cordons, which were planted last year, the varieties embracing all the newest, and including Langley Gage, Brown Girl, Golden Gem, Careless, Sir J. Brown, Sir Prize, Scotch Nutmeg, Beauty, Railway, Talfourd, Eva, London City, Early Green Hairy, Leader, Yellow Smith, Early Sulphur, Mount Pleasant, Speedwell, Prince Arthur, and Rumbullion.

"Now," concluded Mr. Davis, "although there are other things of interest in the gardens, I think that you have a fair idea of what we chiefly cultivate at Glebelands."

ALFRED WILCOX.

THE finest form in cultivation of that charming plant, the Japanese Quince (Pyrus or Cydonia japonica), is that known as Simoni. It is not a new plant, but its exquisite colour should ensure it a place in every garden.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 253.—THE PRUNING OF SHRUBS, CLEMATISES, AND CLIMBING ROSES.

DEAR KATE,—Who prunes your shrubs? And what is the work done with? Not, I hope, with the shears, those dreadful implements which so rejoice the heart of the jobbing gardener who delights to tidy up at the expense of the unfortunate flowers. I observe that several unlucky people have no flowers at all on their Lilacs this year, although those in my garden are a mass of bloom; and the reason is not far to seek, i.e., they were all sheared off, either in the autumn tidying up, or in the early spring. Many shrubs are like the Lilacs in this—that the blossom is produced on the wood of last year only, and it is fatal to cut this off if you want flowers. But the ideal of the jobbing gardener is a stiff outline like that of a Privet hedge, and any unhappy shrub that dares to break this straight line is immediately decapitated with the aid of his favourite shears.

The Proper Method.

But I hope you don't let him do this, for the right thing is to study the natural outline of your various shrubs, and allow them to be as lovely as Nature intended, only thinning out the weaker growths a little if necessary. Many shrubs are planted far too thickly together, with the result that the stronger plants gradually crowd out and destroy those which are weaker; and usually the bullies amongst them are the most uninteresting, producing no blossoms at all to speak of, such as Euonymus, Box, etc. Do examine your shrubbery closely, with a view to help any poor dear shrub which is being crushed out of existence, and have those which are in fault removed at once, so as to give the sufferers a chance to recover during the summer. The holes made by taking away the roots of their enemies should be filled up with good soil and manure (for they are no doubt nearly starved to death), and they will soon find out the fresh food and enjoy it, so as to be able to make strong new growths quickly.

The time to prune many shrubs (but not all) is directly they have finished blooming, and any dead or half-dead wood should then be cut out cleanly with a sharp knife, as well as shortening such branches as may have wandered through being crushed by other plants; but don't cut the poor thing into the shape of a plum pudding, the usual fate of a single shrub in the hands of an ignorant gardener. Those shoots which would make the centre of the bush too close for the air and sunshine to penetrate may be cut away, too, in moderation, but don't overdo this; it is always easy to cut growths off, but you can't put them back again, and therefore think twice before you use your knife.

The upper shoots of Lilacs should never be interfered with, for it is on the due ripening of these that next summer's flowers depend; and this is the general rule with flowering shrubs, so that it is easy to see how mischievous the shears can be amongst them.

Rhododendrons and hardy Azaleas should not be pruned at all, but you should carefully pick off all their fading flowers as soon as possible, or those points will be blossomless next season. Myrtles and many rather delicate things are best left unpruned until the winter is past, for bitter winds and sharp frosts are apt to cut them back too much if exposed by the removal of their leaves, and as Myrtles blossom in the autumn, they can be pruned as late as this with impunity. Clematises are very puzzling plants to prune, for some of them blossom only on the wood of last year, whilst others make new shoots containing flowers, however much you cut their old wood.

The starry white Clematis from the Himalayas (C. montana), and its varieties, will not bloom at all if closely pruned, for it produces its lovely flowers at the axils of last year's shoots in long trails; the Jackmanni Clematises, on the other hand, will blossom on this year's shoots, and may therefore be more closely pruned after flowering, or in the early spring, a safer time for all Clematises if growing in a cold district, as the winter sometimes prunes

PACKING THE MARKET CART.
(See "A Talk with a Lady Florist.")

THE PLEASURE GROUNDS AT HIGHBURY, BIRMINGHAM.

Interview with Mr. John Deacon.

A FEW years ago, by permission of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., I visited Highbury in order to inspect the Orchid houses under the charge of Mr. John Mackay; and this summer I spent an afternoon with Mr. John Deacon, the head gardener, who showed me over the pleasure grounds. So much has been said and written about Mr. Chamberlain's love for Orchids, that the remarkable and numerous charms of Highbury Gardens have scarcely received the attention they merit. The estate is about a hundred acres in extent, and quite thirty are covered by the pleasure grounds, whose natural charms have been greatly augmented from time to time. Originally designed and laid out by Mr. Edward Milner, many of the features owe their existence to Mr. Chamberlain himself, who, like Mrs. Chamberlain, takes the keenest interest in their development and cultivation.

A PART OF THE ROCK GARDEN AT HIGHBURY.

On my arrival, Mr. Deacon suggested that we should start with the terrace in front of the mansion. The mansion itself is partly clothed with creepers, embracing Ivies, Jasminum, and Ampelopsis in variety, with a few Roses, just sufficent for the purpose. The border round the house, which in spring was filled with Wallflowers in variety, and Myosotis, consists in summer of Heliotropes, Mignonette, and Musk, all grown near the windows for their fragrance as much as their beauty.

"The six large beds just below the terrace," said Mr. Deacon, "are devoted to Tulips in spring, and these are succeeded by Geraniums Mrs. Cannell, in two beds, Henry Jacoby in two, and Flower of Spring in two, edged with Pyrethrums, Lobelia, or Centaureas, according to colour. The Tulips used include Carmine Brilliant, Brutus, Chrysolora, and Artus. Surrounding the terrace walk are English Yews and Hollies in a half circle, alternating with beds of Tritomas. Sloping off the terrace is the tea garden, which Mrs. Chamberlain superintends."

The Tea Garden.

"It is a lovely spot," I said, as we stepped over flagstones into a delightful enclosure looking on the park, and a lake, adorned with a balustrade covered by leading varieties of Rambler and Wichuriana Roses, and an ancient sundial. "When was it made, and what is the aspect?"

"Six years ago; the aspect is due south. You see that chairs are placed on the flags, which are covered with rugs when used, and that between the flags are Mountain and Lemon Thymes, with the brown-leaved Oxalis. The prevailing colours of the outer border of the tea garden are pink and white, Roses in variety, and Lilium candidum. Later, there will be dotted about white, lilac, and pink Sweet Peas, with Stocks and Asters to match. The bed in the centre contains Heliotrope Lord Roberts, and a pale variety; and the Roses near are the common Sweet Briers and perpetual-flowering varieties of the China section."

"And the Rhododendrons in the shrubbery border?"

"Yes, chiefly Pink Pearl, to harmonise with the colour of the Roses. The principal Rose in the border is Baby Dorothy Perkins, with the light varieties of Lonicera. The colours are always maintained, and also the perfume."

"The furniture likewise matches with the garden."

"It is old English pattern, pale green colour, and for shade there is the fine old Oak, which extends over a portion of the seating capacity of the garden."

A Rose Garden.

Retracing our way up the slopes, we next paused in one of the Rose gardens, which has been cut out in the turf, with eight large beds and a fine specimen of golden Holly in the centre.

"Does your soil suit both Hollies and Roses?"

"Fairly well, though we have to enrich it. The eight varieties of Roses grown respectively in the eight beds are, Merveille de Lyon, Paul Neyron, Etienne Levet, Captain Christy, Mrs. John Laing, General Jacqueminot, Marquise de Castellane, and Baroness Rothschild. The large bed of standards has Crimson Rambler in the centre, with Gruss an Teplitz as half pillars, interspersed with the red China Rose Cramoisie Superieure, the bed being carpeted with pale blue and yellow Violas. Just outside the Rose garden are four small beds, with the miniature and bronze tricolor Geraniums in summer, and varieties of Polyanthus in spring."

Passing a large bed of Ericas in variety, and a corner filled by double-flowering Gorse, we came to a quarter dominated by Rhododendrons, from which there is a magnificent show of blooms in June. I asked when the Rhododendrons were renewed.

"Ten years since," rejoined Mr. Deacon, "the borders were renewed with peat and sandy loam to a depth of two feet six inches. The shrubbery at the back here is planted in blocks, with Laurels, variegated Hollies, Portugal Laurels, Golden Privet, and Aucubas, while on the undulation alongside the Rhododendrons is a very fine specimen of a drooping white Thorn."

"In the border, too, I notice a fine specimen of Berberis stenophylla, between two large specimens of dark green Holly."

"Now we approach the Old English Rose garden, surrounded by clipped Yew hedges. The beds here are of various shapes, and are bordered by Box."

"The seats, again, are in keeping with the garden?"

"Yes, the seats in the corner recesses are Old English, and the sundial in the centre is in its element. On the four entrance arches are Rambler Roses, Lonicera, and Clematis. The beds are confined to Roses of one variety of the Hybrid Perpetual section, and other strong growers are trained as pillars."

"Mention should be made of the striking border of Delphiniums on one side of the Rose garden, in which all shades of blue appear to be represented."

The Alpine Garden.

"I think they include the very pale to the very dark. Beyond is the Alpine garden."

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"There must be many varieties thriving here?"

"One of the most beautiful is Daphne cneorum. Aubrietias are strongly represented. The finest I have yet seen of these is Jessie Baker; it is as large as a small Viola. Other prominent plants are double Arabis, Alpine Irises, Alyssums in variety, Alpine Violas, the old red Daisy, Iberis, Erigeron alpina, Pulmonia saccharata (with rose-coloured flowers turning to blue), Veronica rupestris, Alpine Phloxes, Arenarias, Sedums, and Saxifrages in variety."

The winding walks from garden to garden at Highbury are a feature to which justice cannot be done by description. Along one of these is another large Alpine border, with an aquatic pool below, which is rich in water-loving plants, such as Spiræas, Water Iris, Primula japonica, Caltha palustris, and Trollius japonicus.

"On the banks of the water," continued Mr. Deacon, "are varieties of Aconite, and at the point of the peninsula a large clump of Stenanthium robustum. The water is more or less surrounded by Rhododendrons, principally ponticums, in order to give a variation in colour to the hybrids. There are varieties of Lilies in the aquatic pool."

"Then there are the beds and borders at intervals on one side of the pool."

"The contents of these include varieties of Water Iris, chiefly of the siberica type. You might make a note of the fact that the Daffodil poeticus was flowered splendidly for six or seven years in poor soil."

"Can you tell me the dimensions of the drooping Ash which forms an arch along the side?"

"It is from thirty to fifty feet across. Willows, Thorns, Laburnums, and the Purple Beech are amongst the other ornamental trees. With regard to the larger beds, here is one with Campanulas pyramidalis, Pæonies (dark and light), and Iris Kæmpferi, which later will be occupied entirely by a scarlet bedding, semi-Cactus Dahlia."

A New Dahlia.

"What is its name?"

"Mr. Child, of Acock's Green, who raised it, called it after me, John Deacon. Carpeted with yellow Violas, it makes a fine show."

"You get a pleasing view from the rustic bridge here, including the boathouse in the distance. Many kinds of birds seem also to be at home in the water."

"There are moor-hens, wild ducks, Paradise ducks, and widgeons. In the park there is a horse show on Whit Monday, and a flower show on August Bank Holiday. We get from five to ten thousand here on some occasions, and Mr. Chamberlain allows them to have free access to the gardens and greenhouses."

"Your beds of late double and Darwin Tulips, carpeted with Myosotis, and edged with Violas, are very effective."

"I follow them with Lobelia cardinalis and Queen Victoria, edged by Violas. The next feature is the long herbaceous border."

"It must be broad as well as long?"

"The exact dimensions are ten by one hundred yards. The arches along the path are covered with varieties of Wichuriana Roses, and in the border are all the leading varieties planted in clumps. At the back are chiefly Hollyhocks, perennial Sunflowers, and tall Asters, below these being clumps of Phloxes, Monarda didyma, Pyrethrums, dwarf Asters, Sweet Williams, and Campanulas, with others, the whole being bordered with the choicest annuals in patches."

The Rock Garden.

Beyond this brilliant border is a narrow bed of Phloxes, backed up by blue and white Lupins, and Oriental Poppies in variety. A little further on is a long strip border filled with mixed Tulips, which challenged admiration, and is no doubt equally successful in its summer dress of Ten-week Stocks.

"How many Tulips does it take to fill this border?" I asked.

"Three thousand; and two thousand five hundred Stocks. The patch border opposite is edged with patches of the leading varieties of bedding Violas, mainly self colours. The steps at this junction mark an important addition, which was made about twelve years ago."

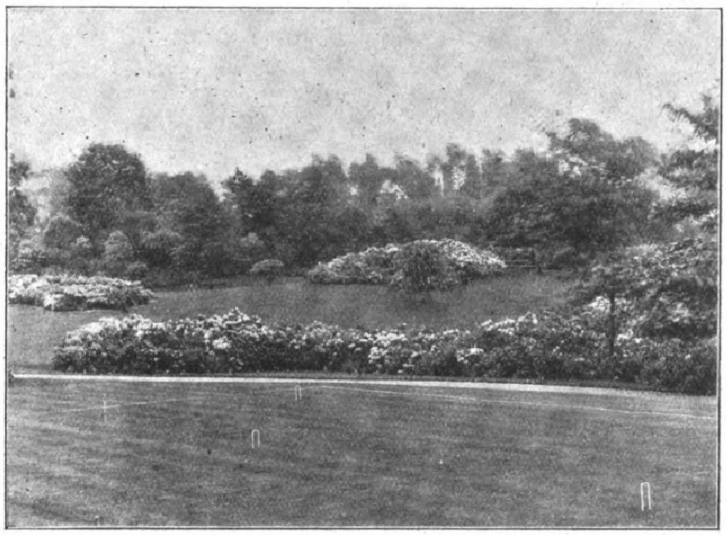
"You mean the rock garden?" I said.

"Yes; this was designed by Mr. Chamberlain, and executed by Messrs. Pulham and Sons. Care, you will see, has been taken so that the bold rocks lie on or push up through the soil in a natural manner, leaving plenty of space for choice shrubs with dwarf habit, and, at the same time, providing suitable positions for lovely creeping Alpines."

"What are the chief shrubs represented?"

"Acers, Cotoneasters, Berberis, Cydonias, Alpine Rhododendrons, Helianthemums, Rock Roses, and Ericas. The more noticeable Alpines, or, at any rate, those in flower just now, include Eryngium alpinum, Alpine Auriculas, Erianthus Ravennæ, Primula Sieboldi, Sempervivums, and Ajuga compacta."

"You have a very ornamental pergola at the top of the rock garden."



THE RHODODENDRON GARDEN IN THE PLEASURE GROUNDS AT HIGHBURY.

"It is built on square brick pillars, terra-cotta in colour, with a skeleton Oak top. The pillars match with the terra-cotta top of the balustrade. On the pergola are Rambler Roses, Clematis, and Honeysuckle, with a border of Lavender at the base on one side, and a Rosery on the other. Now we reach the Italian garden, the features of which are its big E-shaped beds, and its sunk lawn."

The Italian Garden.

"The beds are of different design?"

"Yes, and mixed: while the oblong beds outside are devoted to Liliums, Pyrethrums, Canterbury Bells, and other plants of similar habit. In the centre of the outer beds is a fountain with dwarf varieties of Lilies in the water. The Italian garden is broken up with specimens of Cupressus, and both the rock and Italian gardens are enclosed with a clipped Beech hedge, which is a great shelter."

"And materially adds to the beauty of the gardens."

The Dutch Garden.

"Finish is given to them by the fine pair of ornamental wrought-iron gates at the entrance. Adjoining the Italian garden is the Dutch garden, in three divisions, surrounded by a Holly hedge."

"How would you describe the design?"

"It is quite formal, and the plan geometrical. The paths and edges of the beds are all terra-cotta tiles, and the centre is adorned by a quaint sundial."

"How are the divisions made up?"

"The first section is confined to Irises, Spanish and German, named varieties. The second was originally used for spring Tulips, but is now devoted to annuals, the result being a mass of colour. The annuals embrace Coreopsis Drummondi, Chrysanthemum Morning Star and Evening Star, Centaureas Silver Queen, Salpiglossis (mixed), Shirley Poppies, Lupins in variety, Lavateras, Godetias in variety, Calceolarias, Nigella Miss Jekyll, Scabiosa (mixed), and Oriental Poppies from blush to cardinal. The third section, which we do not bed in summer, and renew every three or four years, consists entirely of Daffodils in beds of one variety."

"Judging by the size, you must plant an enormous number?"

"About ten thousand. They are arranged with a view to extending the flowering season as long as possible. The varieties represented in the beds and borders are principally Emperor, Empress, Queen Victoria, Barri conspicuus, Figaro, Mrs. Langtry, C. J. Backhouse, and Sir Watkin."

Leaving the Dutch garden, we proceeded past another small lake, with a good old Oak overhanging it, a small island in the centre covered with Willows and Rhododendrons, bordered with Iris Kæmpferi, I. orientalis, I. siberica, and I. clematida, to another modern feature of the gardens.

"This," said Mr. Deacon, "we call the shrubbery garden. It extends, with the Rosery adjacent, to about two acres, and is also Mr. Chamberlain's own design. He gave instructions as to the planting."

"There must be a very fine collection of flowering and other shrubs?"

"It will suffice if I mention flowering Cherries, Laburnums, Crabs, Peaches, Lilacs, Syringas, Brooms, Deutzias, Azaleas, standard Wichuriana Roses with umbrella heads in great variety, and Rhododendrons (Kew hybrids). These are bordered on one side by clumps of Bamboos, and on another with Rosa rugosa, and the Rose garden."

"That makes three Rose gardens?"

"Yes, there are three, and this contrasts very

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much in situation with that of the Old English Rose garden near the terrace. The level here is of course much lower, and no Teas are grown, though we have a number of beds of Hybrid Teas. These and beds of the Bourbon Rose, the Moss and Damask Rose, and China Rose, are chosen for colour; while different varieties of pillar Roses break the monotony. On one side of the shrubbery garden is a border of Penzance Sweet Briers."

Then, pursuing our way in the shrubbery garden itself, I noticed a very fine bed of Ghent and mollis Azaleas, the shape of a scroll, bordered with Hypericums, and interspersed with varieties of Lilies.

"The paths, you will observe," said Mr. Deacon, "are winding, and kept short with the mowing machine, while the grass generally is left longer, and trimmed occasionally, with a quite different effect, which is generally considered more pleasing for the type of garden. At various points are either specimen trees, like that of Magnolia stellata, or beds filled with such shrubs as Forsythia suspensa and Pyrus japonica, carpeted with varieties according to the season. Along the drive, which is also winding, are more ornamental shrubs, including a good many Cedars and Hollies, with fruit trees scattered about."

Roses and Bamboos in the Shrubbery at Highbury.

Peaches and Grapes.

By this time we had reached the mansion again, and though I did not attempt to exhaust the kitchen garden, I was able to inspect some of its contents, and to go through the range of fruit houses.

"This is not," said Mr. Deacon, "a fruit-growing district, but inside we do pretty well. In the first of the Peach houses are Royal George and Nectarines Victoria and Pineapple. In the second, Princess of Wales and Bellegarde Peaches, and in the third Nectarines only, Hardwicke's, Elruge, and Lord Napier. The three large lean-to houses are from sixty to seventy yards long, and twelve feet broad. The three principal Grapes grown in the four Vineries are Muscats, Black Hamburgh, Alicante, and Madresfield Court. The Vines, Peaches, and Nectarines have been established in the last fifteen years."

"You have very good crops of all the inside fruit, especially the Peaches and Nectarines."

"Yes; they are very satisfactory so far, and should come out well. The Melons we grow are Sutton's Scarlet, Superlative, A1, and Countess, a pale red. With regard to plant cultivation, you may like to mention the Carnations, of which we have a large collection of Trees, Border, and Malmaison varieties."

"Please tell me a little about your experience in exhibiting Carnations."

"Last year, and the year previous, at the July show at Edgbaston, we were awarded a gold medal, and each year I have exhibited, I have been awarded medals and other prizes. We also exhibit cut blooms of Chrysanthemums, of which we have a large collection of both the older and the up-to-date varieties."

"There is another speciality in plants which ought not to be overlooked—I refer to your remarkable show of German double Wallflowers."

"Well, there are certainly a good many varieties of colour represented, from golden to violet. I sow them in June, prick off in boxes, and pot them up singly, getting flowers from one foot to eighteen inches in length. They are invaluable for conservatory work, and last in bloom for six or seven weeks. Violets are another feature, and several rows of frames are devoted to them. We get a supply from November to April, the varieties being Wellsiana, Princess of Wales, De Parme, and the single Czar. The kitchen garden is not large, though the vegetables grown are of the choicest kinds. But the pleasure grounds and the Orchid and plant houses are the principal attractions at Highbury. There are many other plants grown for the show houses at Highbury, namely: Aralias, Java and Himalayan Rhododendrons, Crotons, Anthericums, and general stove plants, Gloxinias, Begonias (tuberous-rooted and the Gloire de Lorraine), Primulas, Regal and Zonal Pelargoniums. There is also a large collection of Amaryllis, the greater part being hybridised and raised from very good plants. Mr. Chamberlain takes special interest in these."

"How long have you been at Highbury, Mr. Deacon?"

"Upwards of sixteen years. Before I came here as head gardener, I was for seven years at Bowden Hill House, Wiltshire, where we did a good deal of exhibiting." Alfred Wilcox.

"The Evolution of a Modern Nursery Enterprise," will form the subject of next week's interview.

Perpetual-Flowering Carnations.

FINAL POTTING.

Many growers succeed until this stage is reached, and then spoil the results of their labours—overpotting, too rich a compost, and overwatering being a few of the mistakes made by the inexperienced. I assume that the plants are now well established in their "forty-eight" pots; that they have been gone over regularly each week, and stopped at the fourth or fifth joint; and have now strong breaks three to four inches in length. Should a winter crop of bloom be the aim, stopping must now be discontinued, and the work of final potting taken in hand at once. This is of no small importance. Three parts of fibrous loam, half a part of dry cow-manure, a quarter part of wood-ashes, one-eighth each of sand and lime-rubble, adding a "forty-eight" potful of bonemeal to each barrow-load, is an ideal compost.

Pots and Fertilisers.

I find that a 7-in. pot is large enough to carry the plants through the winter months. The risk of overwatering is not so likely to occur if the pots are well filled with healthy roots; while many varieties, such as Black Chief, Britannia, and Mrs. Burnett, give finer results when allowed to become moderately pot-bound.

The principle of adding inorganic manures to the compost is now looked upon as altogether unsatisfactory. A too liberal supply of manure is one of the causes of plants being attacked with stem rot during the winter months. Nitrogenous food should not predominate in a Carnation compost, phosphates and potash being used in greater quantity by the plants.

Care must be taken that the pots are perfectly clean. Place a reasonable supply of small crocks in the pot for drainage, and see that the compost is in perfect condition for use, neither too wet nor too dry. If the compost is in the right condition, no fear need be entertained that the plants will be waterlogged through too hard firming of the soil. It is important at this potting to ram the compost firmly in the pots—hence the need for having the compost in the right condition. Be sure that the plants are not placed deeper than they were in the "forty-eight" pots. Do not water them directly after potting if the weather is dull, but keep them close, and give a sharp syringing overhead for three days, after which the lights from the frames must be withdrawn entirely, placing them on only in the case of continuous rains.

Treatment of Old Plants.

In the case of plants that have been recently flowering under glass, it will now be advisable that they be cut back, and placed in a clean cold frame. Give them a sharp syringing overhead each day—twice a day if the weather is hot—to induce them to start into growth again. Directly the new growth attains three to four inches in length, give the plants a move on into the next size pot. On no account coddle them, for this stock must be grown perfectly hard. Some growers object to using the plants a second year, but I have found that if quantity of bloom is required, enormous crops of average size will be obtained. Some varieties even produce their finest flowers on two-year-old plants.

Few growers allow their flowering plants to be in the houses after July. Should it be desired to continue a batch of flowering plants, place them outdoors in a position where lights may be placed upon them in case of heavy rains which would spoil the blooms. Shading also must be carefully attended to over this section of the plants. Keep a sharp look-out for red-spider, thrip, and green-fly, and see that all stock is perfectly clean, or the health of the plants will be seriously affected.

Richard Brant.

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Loudon's Gardener's Magazine, 1831

Art. XI. *Obituary.*

Died, May 11., in his 64th year, at Croome Park, *Mr. Dean*, botanical gardener there during a period of nearly 40 years. Mr. Dean was the author of *A Description of Croome Park and Grounds, &c.* 1 vol. 8vo.

Blanche Burpee, Queen of England, and Snowdrift are good in their way.

Of blues, I would name Countess Cadogan, which has standards slightly hooded, of a bright, shining violet colour, overlaid with a charming light sky-blue; the wings are a pure sky-blue with lavender keel—this is undoubtedly a charming variety. Navy-Blue was sent out by Burpee last year; it is a dark blue flower, the standards of a brilliant royal purple, the wings violet with a lighter keel. Captain of the Blues and Emily Eckford are equally desirable varieties where a number are required, perhaps.

My choice of blush-coloured varieties includes Duchess of Sutherland, a pearl-white, delicately suffused with light pink; the standards slightly hooded; the blossoms widely placed on the stems, which improves the variety in effect—individually, it is one of the most charming varieties. Countess of Aberdeen, white, suffused with pale pink, has finely-formed standards, and altogether it is a pleasing flower. Mrs. Fitzgerald is of a soft, creamy tint, flushed and edged with pale rose.

In claret-tinted flowers there is Duke of Westminster, a deep rose-tinted maroon, overlaid with bright violet—a quite distinct, novel, and pleasing variety.

Flowers with cream-white grounds and tinted, are Venus, although somewhat old, still one of the best in this section, flowering freely; the colour is salmon-buff, and the standards are delicately shaded rosy-pink. Lady Beaconsfield has salmon-rose tinted standards, and pale yellow wings. Crown Jewel, Coquette, and Lemon Queen are also desirable where a larger number are required.

In crimson flowers there are several varieties which, if not synonymous, are too near alike to be separated, viz., Salopian, Mars, Wide-awake, and Firefly. Mars is, perhaps, the most preferable, as with age, it remains brighter than Salopian; the colour is a bright fiery crimson, deepening with age.

Flowers of indigo tint are Duke of Sutherland, standards deep claret, with a deeper flush of maroon on the back; the wings are a bright indigo-blue, very attractive, especially as the keel is of a pale blue tint—it is a handsome variety, either when growing, or as a cut bloom. Shazada and Indigo King belong also to this type.

In lavenders there are several charming varieties. Lady Grisel Hamilton is, perhaps, the most attractive of all; the colour is a shining pale lavender, deepening towards the base of the standard. Lady Nina Balfour, Lottie Eckford, and Countess Radnor, are distinct, but hardly desirable, except where a large collection is grown. Golden Gate is of an attractive tint of pinkish-lavender, with a rose-pink suffusion of the standard deepening towards the base.

The lilac section is represented by Lady Skelmersdale and Colonist, both distinct and desirable varieties. The former has bright, rosy-lilac standards, the white wings are slightly tinted with the same hue—a distinctly novel and pleasing variety. Colonist has soft lilac wings, and rosy-lilac standards—a distinct and pleasing variety, of vigorous growth, flowering freely on stout stems.

Magenta-coloured varieties are not numerous, although one of the finest varieties in cultivation. Calypso is included in this class; the standards of this variety are especially bold, of a rich bright magenta tint, flushed with mauve; the wings delicate mauve, forming a striking contrast.

Maroon-coloured varieties consist of no fewer than four names, each beautiful, but when compared with each other it is doubtful if they are all sufficiently distinct. They are named Black Knight, Othello, Stanley, and Boreatton. Black Knight, in my opinion, is the most desirable of them all. The colour is a deep maroon, with an intense metallic lustre on the standard; the keel pale purple, giving a distinct character to the flower.

In mauves, I include a variety which is regarded by many gardeners and others as the finest variety in commerce, viz., Fascination. The standards are of a delicate magenta-mauve, the wings deep mauve, and when on the plant or used in glasses, &c., it always charms; the growth is vigorous, and the blossoms abundant on stout stems. Dorothy Tennant, although several years older, is well worthy of cultivation, being very distinct, of strong growth, and free to flower; the colour of the wings is pucy-violet, with standards of a rosy mauve tint.

Of orange-coloured varieties there are no fewer than eight, viz., Gorgeous, Triumph, Chancellor, Countess of Powis, Lady Penzance, Meteor, Orange Prince, and Lady Mary Currie. In making a selection, I place the American raised Gorgeous at the head of my list. It is a striking variety; the standard of a salmony-orange tint, and the wings of soft rose, with deeper coloured veins. Lady Mary Currie has deep orange-pink standard, wings flushed with rose. Chancellor and Triumph have hardly enough orange in them to warrant their inclusion in this section.

Of pink-flowered varieties there are, as might be expected, no fewer than ten. Mrs. Gladstone, quite one of the first in the section to be sent out, received a certificate in 1891; it is distinct and pretty in colour, but in growth and productiveness is now surpassed. Lovely is a striking variety of a pleasing shade of pink, with a deeper suffusion at the back of the standard.

Duchess of Westminster has flushed pink wings, which deepens in the standard, terminating with a flushed apricot suffusion; the blooms are rather small. Prima Donna is in the way of Lovely, but inferior to it. Hon. F. Bouverie has coral pink standards, veined deeper, and pale pink wings. Countess of Lathom, too, nearly resembles this last.

In Purples, Monarch is the only desirable variety; the standards are bronzy-crimson tint, with wings of an intense deep blue colour.

The rose-coloured varieties, as might be expected, are many, rendering a selection difficult, for no fewer than twelve come under this heading. Her Majesty, a soft rosy-pink self, remains still one of the best. Prince of Wales is a handsome striking variety, with standard of a bright rose tint with deeper veining and paler wings; the flower possesses a strong flower-stalk and large blossoms. Mrs. Dugdale, too, nearly resembles the former to be included. Lord Kenyon is distinct from the above, in that the standards are flushed and veined more deeply with rose. Chancellor is classed as an orange-coloured variety, but it properly belongs to the rose-coloured section; it is a distinct variety, being a rose self heavily veined with a deeper tint. Triumph, too, comes under the same category, it has deep rose-coloured standards with paler wings and keel.

Of scarlet-tinted varieties, Prince Edward of York, Princess Victoria, and Duchess of Edinburgh, are supposed to represent the section. The first-named is a distinct type of flower, and an acquisition, but how it can be classed as scarlet is beyond my comprehension. The standards certainly contain some red-scarlet colouring, but the wings are pale puce; it is an attractive variety well worthy of attention by cultivators.

What are known as yellow-flowered varieties are represented by Queen Victoria, Primrose, Mrs. Eckford, Cream of Brockhampton, and Golden Gleam. The former is distinct, and therefore desirable; its flowers are of great size, supported on stout stalks. The colour is soft yellow with a suspicion of purple. Any one of the remainder named may be cultivated as a yellow-flowered variety.

The striped section has of late received many additions and found many admirers: Aurora, Gaiety, Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain, Mikado, Midnight, Princess of Wales, Senator, and Pink Friar, are all names that are selected as being representative of the type.

Midnight will appeal to the majority of cultivators; it much resembles Senator in colour, except that the standards exhibit a bronzy tint in distinct waves, rendering it quite conspicuous. America, or as some name it B. P., is perhaps the brightest form of a striped flower, and is scarlet on a white ground, and therefore attractive; Aurora, is a white flower flaked with orange-salmon; Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain, white striped and heavily flaked with bright rose, a fine bold variety; Princess of Wales is the best of those with purple or mauve stripes.

In addition to the above, Mr. H. Eckford has the following new varieties: Miss Wilmott, which is best described as an improved Gorgeous; the growth vigorous, with strong flower-stalks, and flowers of an immense size. Jeanie Gordon: this is a hooded variety, with pale rose-tinted standards and cream-white wings veined and flushed with carmine. Lady M. Ormsby Gore is after the style of Queen Victoria, excepting that the blooms are more inclined to pink than that variety. George Gordon is an effective variety, best described as a lake-coloured self. Coccinea hardly comes up to its name in colour, is more like Her Majesty, and it has the peculiarity of showing at times a double set of wing-petals, and may be the forerunner of a double-flowered variety—not that this would be an acquisition. *E. Molyneux, Swanmore Park, Hants.*

Obituary.

James Godfrey Dean.—We regret to announce the death in his seventieth year of Mr. James Godfrey Dean, head gardener at Titsey Place, near Limpsfield, Surrey, which took place very suddenly on the 2nd inst. at Titsey from apoplexy. Mr. Dean had been in failing health since an attack of influenza which he had about four years ago. For forty-seven years he had been in the family of the Leveson-Gowers and their relatives, as will be seen by the following record. He was born at Stoke Farm, Slough, his father being the steward. His apprenticeship was served at General Howard Vyse's, Stoke Place, under Mr. Patrick, one of the greatest fruit-growers of the day. He had a wish to become an artist, but was persuaded not to by Miss Vyse, and gardening, he then said, was the only other thing that he cared for. After serving his apprenticeship he went to Dropmore under Mr. P. Frost as an improver. He then took a foreman's place at Lord Boston's, at Hedsor. He next went to the Honourable Granville Ryder's (a relative of the Leveson-Gower family) at Westbrook Hay, as gardener under the bailiff, Mr. Tranter, remaining there two years. At the end of that time, viz., in April, 1855, he entered the service of Wm. Gresham Leveson-Gower, Esq., of Titsey Place, grandfather of the present owner of Titsey Place, Chas. Granville Gresham Leveson-Gower, Esq., as head gardener, staying there five years. After leaving Mr. Leveson-Gower's service, he went as head gardener to Joseph Ridgeway, Esq., brother-in-law of the before-mentioned Mr. Wm. G. Leveson-Gower, remaining there over six years. His next place was at Hams Hall, Birmingham, as head gardener to the Rt. Hon. Sir Chas. Adderley (now Lord Norton), brother-in-law of the late Granville Wm. Gresham Leveson-Gower, Esq., where he remained nine years. Owing to his wife's delicate health, Mr. Dean was compelled to leave there, and the head gardener's place at Titsey Place being vacant, he was invited by Mr. Granville W. G. Leveson-Gower to take it again, which he did in October, 1875, and has remained there ever since.

Mr. Dean was always willing to help all young gardeners, and give them the best practical advice in his power. He had a wonderful memory for the names of the different kinds of fruit and flowers, and was an excellent cultivator of them, as also of vegetables and plants generally, and has won many prizes and certificates at local horticultural shows, and at Chiswick and the Crystal Palace. In 1887 he won a Bronze Medal of the One-and-All Agricultural and Horticultural Association Show; and in the same year the Sir Joseph Banks Bronze Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society at the National Co-operative Flower Show.

The gardens and grounds under Mr. Dean's care

were always kept in excellent order, and all who paid him a visit were always made welcome.

He will be much missed by all who knew him; his cheery manner, kindness of heart, and good-nature, having greatly endeared him to them.

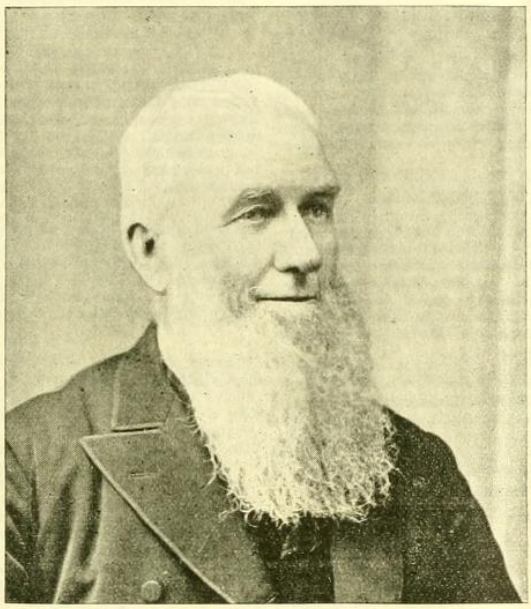
Much sympathy is shown to the widow and daughters (two) in their sudden bereavement, especially by the family with whom he had been so long connected.

The funeral took place at Titsey churchyard on Saturday last, the 4th inst.

Mr. Dean was a life-member of, and had for many years been an annual subscriber to, the Gardeners' Benevolent Society.

JOHN LAING.—We deeply regret to have to announce the death on the 8th inst., from apoplexy, of this distinguished and much esteemed horticulturist in his 77th year. Among nurserymen and hybridists he was in the foremost rank, and his genial qualities endeared him to all that met him. In early life he devoted much attention to botany in Edinburgh, his collection of Mosses being remarkable. At the moment we have no particulars of his early life, but when we first knew him he was a partner in the firm of Downie, Laird & Laing, of Edinburgh. Subsequently he represented that firm in London, but for many years past he was the head of the firm of John Laing & Sons, of Forest Hill.

As a hybridist and a raiser of florists' flowers, Pentstemons, Clivias, Streptocarpus, Gloxinias, and the like, he did good service; while his work with the tuberous Begonias completely revolutionised that genus. For that alone, his memory will stand out prominently for generations to come. To the gardening charities he did yeoman service, and in all public horticultural affairs he was an active participator till declining health necessitated his partial retirement.



THE LATE JOHN LAING.

ENQUIRY.

A CORRESPONDENT, "W. R.," would be glad to hear of the whereabouts of Mr. Thomas Reid, landscape gardener, and at one time a contributor to the pages of this journal.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL.

Scientific Committee.

JULY 31.—*Present:* Dr. M. T. Masters, in the Chair; and Dr. Russell, Rev. W. Wilks, and Rev. G. Henslow (Hon. Secretary).

Diseased Peaches.—Mr. ROGERS, of Bridge Hall Gardens, Bury, sent samples attacked by the "Peach-mildew." The Peaches become arrested in patches, never ripening where the fungus is located. Sprinkling with sulphur is the best remedy.

Decayed Roses.—Mr. KELLY, Gardens, Greenwell Ford, Durban, forwarded shoots split and decayed. The appearance suggested their being cracked by frost, and subsequently attacked by fungi.

Synanthic Nymphæa.—Mr. HUDSON sent a specimen of twin flowers united, of the lavender-coloured Nymphæa stellata from South Africa.

Stanleya pinnatifida.—Flowering sprays of this Crucifer were sent by Mr. BUNYARD. It is remarkable for the long spreading filaments and yellow sepals. It is a native of California, and figured in Gray's *Gen. Flor. Amer. bor.*, pl. 65.

Figs dropping.—Dr. RUSSELL brought some Figs grown against a wall at Ringwood, Cornwall, which turned yellow, became shrivelled, and fell just before ripening. There was no fungus, but it was apparently due to want of water or nourishment. They were sent to Mr. WRIGHT for examination, who reports as follows:—

"There are several causes that will affect Figs like the examples just to hand; such as too much or too little water, insufficient atmospheric moisture, and sudden checks in the atmosphere, also over-cropping. Any one of these will cause the fruit to drop prematurely. No fruit requires so much care and attention as the Fig."

Pears decayed.—Dr. W. G. SMITH sent the following report on Pears received from the Rev. H. W. FLETCHER, Bicker Vicarage, Boston:—

"The Pears received were quite dried up, and full of mycelium; they had assumed the mummified condition which follows attacks by Monilia fructigena, the brown fruit rot of Apple, Pear, Peach, and other rosaceous fruits. Cultures in a moist chamber produced several forms of fungi, including the form of spores known as Monilia. There were some insect larvæ in one of the fruits. Your correspondent mentions that the check began during a south-east wind, and also that the very early sorts escaped attack. In view of this it may be safest to assume that the crop received a check by this wind, and that the fruit was thus rendered susceptible to attack by fungi, &c.; the Monilia form producing the mummified condition of the fruits received. The earlier sorts escaped because the fruit was further advanced and more resistant. All the dried fruits left hanging on the tree should be gathered and burnt."

Fruit Committee, Chiswick.

AUGUST 3.—In wild, stormy weather there was but a small attendance at the meeting of the Fruit Committee convened here on the above date.

It was mentioned that the First-class Certificate granted an early Potato at the previous meeting under the name of Sharpe's Early Kidney had been corrected, the proper name being Denby Castle. Some sixty varieties of Potatos were tried, chiefly of early and mid-season varieties, and there are several scores of later ones, old and new, to be seen at a future time. Nine varieties were cooked, amongst which the well-known Beauty of Hebron was one of the best. This was awarded three marks, and also was Pioneer (new), a very handsome free-cropping kidney. Awards of Merit previously made to Sutton's Harbinger (dwarf and free), Early Peter (very free cropper), and Sharpe's Victor, now as a border variety, were confirmed. One or two others, very fine croppers, are to be seen again.

A small trial of Dwarf Kidney Beans was next inspected, and three marks were given to Early Favourite (Veitch) as very early and free-cropping. A hybrid variety from the Dutch Runner and a dwarf, having white flowers, was of great promise, and is to be seen again at a later date.

DEVON AND EXETER HORTICULTURAL.

AUGUST 3.—This, the 191st exhibition of the Society, was held in the accustomed place, Northernhay Park, on the above date, and in rainy weather. The date was fourteen days earlier than usual, and as a consequence the exhibits were fewer, fruit was not fit, and specimen plants not sufficiently forward; and taken as a whole the exhibition was below that which is customary. It seemed as if some of the exhibitors were holding back their exhibits for the Taunton show, which is held at the usual time in the second week of August, and where the prizes are of higher value. The vegetable classes were as usual very well shown, and entries numerous.

CUT FLOWERS, OPEN.

The best twenty-four show and fancy Dahlias, and twenty-four Cactus varieties, were those shown by Mr. W. B. SMALE, nurseryman, Torquay; and Messrs. W. TUPLIN & SONS, nurserymen, Newton Abbott, were 2nd in each class.

The best twenty-four Gladiolus, distinct, were shown by Mr. S. DOBREE, Wellington; and Messrs. W. TUPLIN & SONS were 2nd.

The finest twelve blooms of Tea Roses were those exhibited by Messrs. JARMAN & Co., of Chard. In these classes the competition was very limited.

TABLE DECORATIONS.

There were four exhibits of these objects as compared with nine last year. The Silver Cup (value £5) went to Mr. BARNES, gr., Winslade, Exeter; and the 2nd prize fell to Mr. F. LOCK, gr., Newcombes, Crediton. The tables were prettily arranged in all cases, and flowers of Orchids were largely used in the various devices. The table which was awarded the 1st prize was remarkable for the lightness of the arrangement; fronds of Adiantum gracillimum were used throughout, and Oncidiums freely associated with Odontoglossums.

SPECIMEN PLANTS.

The 1st prize for twelve stove and greenhouse plants, half to be flowering, fell to Mr. Rowland, gr. to W. BROCK, Esq., Parker's Well, who showed the same plants he has shown for a number of years. The flowering specimens were rather late, and will be in bette condition in a week There was really no competition.

For six specimens, and for six stove and greenhouse plants, Mr. BROCK's gardener was again 1st, there being no 2nd prize awarded owing to lack of competition.

In the class for six stove and greenhouse exotic Ferns there were several entries, and the competition was fairly lively. 1st prize went to Mr. ROWLAND; and 2nd to Mr. J. Harding, gr. to J. H. LEY, Esq., Trehill.

GROUPS.

Miscellaneous plants arranged for effect in an oval 15 ft. by 11 ft., Mr. W. R. Baker, gr. to Lady DUCKWORTH, Knightleys, was 1st; and Mr. ROWLAND 2nd. In this class the competition was keener, but although Mr. BAKER's group was the more effective, it lacked brightness.

For the smaller group, 11 ft. by 6 ft., Mr. J. HARDING was awarded the 1st prize, no 2nd being forthcoming. Humea elegans, Galtonia candicans, Tuberoses, Gladiolus, Codiæums, Adiantums, and Draciænas were freely used in the groups. The Orchids failed to bring any competition.

PLANTS IN BLOOM.

Mr. Rowlands, gr. to W. BROCK, Esq., was 1st for six well-grown Fuchsias; and Mr. Cole, gr. to W. B. HEBERDEN, C.B., Elmfield, was 1st for six Gloxinias, having flowers and fine colour and size—an exceptionally fine lot. Rev. S. P. COLERIDGE, Alphington, was a close 2nd. Mr. W. R. BAKER, gr., Knightleys, was 1st for six Cockcombs of the Glasgow Prize strain; Sir JOHN SHELLEY was 2nd. Tuberous-rooted Begonias and Caladiums, were well shown by Mr. W. R. BAKER, who was 1st with both.

Six zonal Pelargoniums, single-flowered, Mr. T. Stark, gr. to MARK FARRANT, Esq., St. Thomas, was 1st, and Mr. ROWLANDS, 2nd, these awards changing places in the class for double-flowered varieties.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Dickson, James (1738?–1822), *botanist*
by Anita McConnell
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Dickson, James (1738?–1822), botanist, was born at Kirke House, Traquair, Peeblesshire, allegedly of humble parentage, and began work as an apprentice in the gardens of the earl of Traquair. He then went to London and worked as an improver at the famous nurseries of Jeffrey & Co. in Brompton. He held several posts as a gardener before opening his own shop in Covent Garden in 1772 and establishing a business as nurseryman and seedsman. Dickson could now count among his friends William Forsyth, the king's gardener, Sir Francis Drake, master of the household, and Sir Joseph Banks. With Banks's support he secured in 1781 the contract to maintain the British Museum's garden. Several of Banks's overseas correspondents enclosed with their letters plant material for Dickson.

The identity of Dickson's first wife is unknown, but after her death he married, on 24 October 1786 at Selkirk, Margaret (1762–1837), sister to his friend the then medical student and later explorer, Mungo Park (1771–1806). Their son, James (*b*. 1800), and daughters Isabella (*b*. 1796) and Jean (*b*. 1805) were baptized at the Scottish presbyterian church in Covent Garden. Before leaving for Africa, Park gave Dickson power of attorney, and in 1806 and 1807, when Park had been missing for some time, Dickson reminded the Treasury of the government's promise to support Park's family.

In February 1788 Dickson was one of seven who formed the first ‘fellows' meeting’ of the Linnean Society at Marlborough Coffee House. Sixteen years later, on 7 March 1804, he was one of seven who gathered in the house of bookseller John Hatchard to found ‘a society for the improvement of horticulture’. This body developed into the Royal Horticultural Society, with Dickson as one of its vice-presidents.

Although his daily work concerned cultivated plants and vegetables, Dickson's reputation as a botanist rested on his studies of mosses, begun in 1781, and on grasses and fungi, much of his material being gathered in visits to Scotland between 1793 and 1802. In 1785 he began publication of *Fasciculus plantarum cryptogamicarum Britanniae*, a quarto work in four parts with 400 descriptions. However, Dickson himself was ill-educated, as his correspondence shows, and the Latin texts were prepared by John Zier, a Polish-born London apothecary. Zier died in 1796, before the last volume was completed, and Dickson was then assisted by Robert Brown. Neither man was credited in the work, and Zier's role only came to light in the 1880s with the discovery of some of his manuscripts. Dickson also published *A Collection of Dried Plants, Named on the Authority of the Linnaean Herbarium* (1789–92), consisting of 425 species, followed by *Hortus siccus Britannicus* (1793–1802). Few copies of this work survive as many purchasers extracted the specimens to add to their own dried collections.

From the 1790s Dickson also had a nursery garden at Croydon, Surrey. He lived at Bedford Street, Covent Garden, from 1795 to 1799, thereafter at Broad Green, Croydon, where he died on 14 August 1822. On 22 August he was buried, at his ow

request, in the churchyard of All Saints, Sanderstead, among the Surrey hills where he was accustomed to gather mosses. The Covent Garden nursery passed to Dickson's nephew, James Anderson (1800–1830), and Margaret Dickson inherited the Croydon house and garden; she was buried at Sanderstead on 17 June 1837, passing the property to their unmarried daughter Jean. Dickson's memory is preserved in the genus *Dicksonia*, consisting chiefly of tree ferns.

ANITA MCCONNELL

Sources introduction, J. Dickson, *Plantarum cryptogamicarum Britanniae* (1976) · A. Simmonds, 'James Dickson', *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, 68 (1943), 66–72 · H. R. Fletcher, *The story of the Royal Horticultural Society, 1804–1968* (1969) · A. T. Gage and W. T. Stearn, *A bicentenary history of the Linnean Society of London* (1988) · *The Banks letters*, ed. W. R. Dawson (1958) · J. Britten, 'John Zier FLS', *Journal of Botany, British and Foreign*, 24 (1886), 101–4 · parish register, All Saints, Sanderstead, Surrey, 22 Aug 1822 [burial] · TNA: PRO, PROB 11/1661, sig. 469 · B. Henrey, *British botanical and horticultural literature before 1800*, 3 vols. (1975) · *The parish of St Paul, Covent Garden*, Survey of London, 36 (1970), 254 · *GM*, 1st ser., 92/2 (1822), 376

Archives Bodl. Oxf. · Bodl. Oxf., catalogue of dried plants · Linn. Soc., herbarium · Linn. Soc. | Linn. Soc., corresp. with Sir James Smith · NHM, Sowerby collection

Likenesses H. P. Briggs, oils, 1820, Royal Horticultural Society, London · Wagemann, portrait, Linn. Soc. · portrait, Hunt. L.

Wealth at death several thousand pounds in bequests: will, TNA: PRO, PROB 11/1661, sig. 469

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Anita McConnell, 'Dickson, James (1738?–1822)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/7618, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

James Dickson (1738?–1822): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/7618

be worked by a valve, and only used when the ground thermometer indicated its necessity.

It may be asked, How about the bottom pipes in case of accidents? Now I do not see the use of burying so much money for the sake of gratifying a feeling of security against evils that may never came. Nor do I think it at all necessary or profitable to attempt to heat vineries except in the case of small houses for especial early purposes, and even then the advantage is only one of time. This has been my experience of bottom-heat—not that I have ever made it a point to select houses for Vines where I had bottom heat at command, but the force of circumstances has compelled me to have recourse thereto in order to fill up gaps which might otherwise occur while a process of renovation was being carried out. *W. Hinds.*

(*To be continued.*)

THE CHAMPION GRAPE GROWERS.

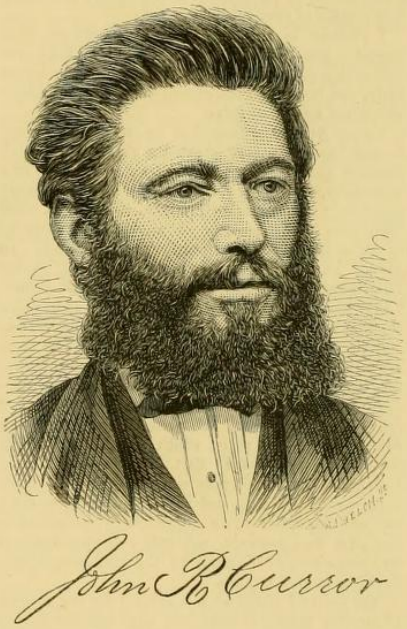
WE are glad to be able to lay before our readers the portraits of the two Vine growers whose successes at the International Fruit Show at Edinburgh last year, were so noteworthy. This year at Dundee, as will be seen in another column, they have well maintained their repute, for which reasons some account of their respective careers may be of unusual interest.

JOHN R. CURROR.

Mr. Curror served his apprenticeship in Fife, and then became gardener in a small place in East Lothian, from which he removed to his present situation, where he has been four years. He has two vineries, where the Vines were planted six years ago—the soil a strong yellow loam mixed with the dark sharp soil of the neighbourhood where they grow, with a large allowance of ground bones and some rotten dung. The early house produces splendid crops of Black Hamburghs and other early sorts; the late house grand examples of Black Alicante, Mrs. Pince, Lady Downe's, and, as all the world now knows, splendid bunches of Raisin d'Calabre. The Vine of this Grape that produced the largest and probably most handsome bunch of Grapes that was ever seen, produced last year besides it over 20 lb. of Grapes, showing that the monster had not swallowed all its neighbours, as is common in such cases. Mr. Curror makes no sacrifice of crop for the mere fame of producing great bunches, which makes his success the more creditable.

In his greenhouse are a number of very finely grown Heaths, as well as other greenhouse plants. His Orchid-house is filled with very healthy, well managed plants of that most interesting race. His cold and warm Fern-houses are also filled with well-grown Todeas, Dicksonias, Davallias, Adiantums, &c.

The whole place is in excellent order, and though not more than an acre in extent it well repays a visit at all times. Mr. Curror seems a gardener by intuition, and his skill is only equalled by his modesty; in fact he seems quite embarrassed when reference is made to his triumph as a Grape grower.



JAMES DICKSON.

I commenced my gardening career in 1853 (says Mr. Dickson), at the age of fourteen, under Mr. John Maclean, gr. to the late Wm. Forbes Mackenzie, Esq., of Portmore, Peeblesshire, under whom I served for three years, and during the greater part of that time I had charge of the houses. Mr. Maclean was famed as a first-class grower of Camellias; indeed, I have never seen a finer and more healthy collection of that favourite plant anywhere.

When leaving Portmore I engaged as an under gardener with Mr. James Baird, gr. to the late Captain Patterson, of Cunnoquhie, Monimail, Fifeshire, in which garden I had the privilege of assisting to renew the vineries, the Vines of which, Mr. Baird told me some time after, had turned out remarkably well. Few growers excel Mr. Baird as a grower of Pines and Grapes.

While at Cunnoquhie I was requested by Mr. John Pender, late gr. to David Anderson, Esq., of Moredun, Liberton, near Edinburgh, to come to him as a journeyman. Accordingly I engaged with him, and I had charge of a very extensive range of forcing-houses. I had good opportunities afforded me while there of improving myself.

After four and a half years' service at Moredun I came to Arkleton, my present situation, in the latter end of 1862. It is 5 miles north of Langholm, in the centre of Ewesdale, and surrounded by the finest hill scenery in the South of Scotland. It has for centuries been the property of the Elliots, an old and celebrated border family. The present proprietor, Wm. Scott Elliot, resides in Edinburgh. It is the residence of my present employer, John Jardine, Esq., of Thorlieshope, and has been the residence of his ancestors for upwards of a century. He is a retired country gentleman, who not only takes great pleasure in his own garden, but also patronises liberally the horticultural societies in the locality, and awards handsome prizes to the cottagers in the district for the best kept gardens and window plants—an example well worthy of imitation.

The house was erected in 1860, and occupies the site of the old Peel Tower of the Elliots of Ewesdale, and combines all the architectural features of the Border keep with the elegancies and conveniences of the modern mansion.

The gardens were planned in 1862 by the late Mr. Little, of the firm of Messrs. Little & Ballantyne, of Carlisle, and were laid out by me in 1863 and 1864. The ground occupied by the garden had evidently at one time been a watercourse, so that I had in a great measure to make the soil, but a deep stratum of gravel underlies it which makes an excellent drainage—a circumstance not without its advantages in a locality where the rainfall is so heavy.

The vineries consist of two houses (Shaw's patent), each 30 feet long, planted with the following Vines:—Black Hamburgh, Mill Hill Hamburgh, Golden Hamburgh, Duke of Buccleuch, White Frontignan, Black Frontignan, Black Prince, Alicante, Lady Downe's, Mrs. Pince's Muscat, Madresfield Court, Tyninghame Muscat, Archerfield Muscat, Gros Colman, and Syrian.

The Peach-houses are 180 feet long, in two divisions, each 90 feet long, with a drum trellis running along the front, and occupied both back and front with well-grown, healthy-looking and fruitful trees, principally Peaches and Nectarines, with the exception of a few Cherry and Plum trees.

Each of the Vine borders is 14½ feet wide inside and the same outside. In making the border I took out what soil there was, and gravel to the required depth, and in the bottom of the border I laid as a foundation a foot of stones, over the stones a slight covering of lime-rubbish, over this turf with the grassy side down, and then filled up the borders with the following compound:—The turf of a fine fibry loam taken from an old sheep pasture; to every twelve cartloads of this turf were added two cartloads of old lime-rubbish, one cartload of horse-droppings, one cartload of charcoal, and 5 cwt. of inch bones. The turf was fresh from the field, mixed with the other ingredients; and with this compound the borders were filled up to the required depth, 3½ feet deep inside, the same depth immediately in front of the houses, and 2½ feet next the walk.

In common with others similarly situated I was on the look-out for young Vines, so I heard from my old master (the late Mr. Pender) that Messrs. James Dickson & Sons, nurserymen, Edinburgh, had a superior stock. I therefore took train for Edinburgh, inspected them, and satisfied myself that they were really first-rate. I then ordered the number required, including one Syrian in the list. The number of bunches, with the weight this Syrian has carried, is seen by what follows:—

In the year 1865—3 bunches, 6½ to 8 lb. each
,, 1866—4 bunches, 6 to 8½ lb. ,,
,, 1867—3 bunches, 7, 8, and 9 lb. ,,
,, 1868—2 bunches, 8 and 8¾ lb. ,,
,, 1869—1 bunch, 16½ lb.
,, 1870—1 bunch, 19 lb. 5 oz.
,, 1871—1 bunch, 18 lb. 7 oz.
,, 1872—1 bunch, 19 lb. 6 oz.
,, 1873—1 bunch, 16 lb. 10 oz.
,, 1874—1 bunch, 12¾ lb.
,, 1875—2 bunches, 8 lb. 12 oz., and 12 lb. 10 oz.

The Vine that carried the bunch last year which weighed, when cut, 26 lb. 8 oz., is a young Vine grown from an eye taken from the above. The second year it was planted a bunch was cut from it that weighed 14 lb.; the third year, one of 16 lb. 6 oz. Another that I have of the same, growing on the back wall of one of the vineries, has carried some very big bunches, with which I have taken prizes at local shows. All the other Vines, with the exception of a few that I have added recently, were cropped the second year, each carrying seven or eight bunches.

I last year cut from a young Vine of Mrs. Pince's Muscat two bunches, each 5½ lb., one 6 lb., one 6½ lb., and one 8 lb. weight. From a young Vine of Alicante four bunches, which weighed 3 lb., 5 lb., 9 lb. 6 oz., and 10 lb. respectively, and Black Hamburgh bunches that weighed 6 lb., 7 lb., and 8 lb.

In the year 1869, at the Edinburgh International Show, I got 1st prize with a bunch weighing 16½ lb.; in 1870, at the Royal Caledonian Society's Show, with a bunch weighing 19 lb. 5 oz.; at the same place in 1871, 1st prize, with a bunch weighing 18 lb. 7 oz.; at the Glasgow International Show in 1872, I got 1st prize for the heaviest white, with a bunch 19 lb. 6 oz., and 1st for heaviest black, with a bunch of Hamburghs, 6¾ lb. In 1873, at the Manchester International, I was 1st for the heaviest white, with a bunch 16 lb. 6 oz.; and 2d for the heaviest black with a bunch of Black Prince, weighing 5 lb. 13 oz.; and in the same year, at the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's show in Edinburgh, I received the 1st prize for white, with a bunch weighing 16 lb. 10 oz. At the same Society's show in 1874 the 1st prize for white was awarded to me for a bunch weighing 12¾ lb.; and the 1st for black, for a bunch of Alicante weighing 8 lb.

In addition to the places named, I have been very successful as an exhibitor at local shows, where for fruits, flowers, and vegetables, I have taken over 400 prizes during the last twelve years. The bunches of Grapes shown for weight at the local shows have been of various weights—from 5 lb. to 16 lb.

Fruit trees thrive very well here; very few standards are grown, but the walls are covered with a very good selection of Pears, Apples, Plums, and Cherries, most of which bear annually fine crops of fruit. The following is a list of Pears that fruit remarkably well here:—Easter Bergamotte, Beurré d'Amanlis, Beurré Diel, Chaumontel, Crawford, Dunmore, Nélis d'Hiver, Green Chisel, Hessel, Jargonelle, Marie Louise, and Swan's Egg.

As a rule, Cherries do very well. May Duke and Royal Duke have done better than any other sort that I have tried.

I have a very good selection of Plums, but some of them have not done very well as to bearing fruit. The sorts that have been most productive are the following:—Blue Gage, Green Gage, Guthrie's Tay Bank, Huling's Superb, Kirke's, White and Red Magnum Bonum, Orleans, Victoria, and Reine Claude Violette. In regard to the growing of Gooseberries and Currants I have been very successful, attributing my success in that direction to a good mulching of manure which I give them annually.

Independently of having a good substantial Vine-border, I generally give the Vines a liberal top-dressing every year (to the depth of about 3 inches), with turfy loam, mixed with inch or half-inch bones. As to the growing of fine Grapes, I have great faith in inch or half-inch bones and liquid manure. Guano-water is very good; but, so far as I am a judge, it can never be compared with liquid manure. What I use here is taken from a tank in the farmyard, and with this I give the Vines a good watering, say three times, before they begin to colour.

As a grower of Peaches and Nectarines I have been very successful in taking prizes at the following places:—Edinburgh, Carlisle, Langholm, and Lockerbie.

NOMENCLATURE OF TIMBER.

"What's in a name?"—*Shakespeare.*

THE answer may be given in the words of the same poet—"more than's dreamt of in our philosophy." It is impossible to take up any feature or subject so closely associated with the common wants of man as that of timber, without finding in its name something of absorbing interest. As a material it ranks second to no other, either in connection with man in his rude and primitive state or under the high polish of civilisation; so closely is it associated with his everyday life that we may say of it as of his shadow—it is always with him.

A mere glance at the vocabulary pertaining to timber shows it abounds in monosyllables, and that words of a compound character are the exceptions. This fact points with unerring truth to the rude and simple language of our Saxon ancestors as the source from which it is drawn. We find, so far as this country is concerned, that the Celtic and the Roman "tongues in trees" have failed to reach our times, and that names of a Norman origin occupy no prouder position than parasites upon the grand old Teutonic stock.

The study of this subject carries us back to an early period in the Christian era, when our eastern coast was called the "Saxon shore," when every creek and river mouth of this fertile spot "set in the silver sea" was infested with the blue-eyed strangers of the North; it shadows forth a time when like a living wave this intruding race swept over the land, blotting out in its devastating course the vernacular of its predecessors, and setting up a standard tongue which, with sundry changes consequent upon the wearing effects of time, has endured to the present day.

In dealing with the nomenclature of timber it is impossible in the limits of a single chapter to give it the attention it deserves, hence we must confine ourselves to a simple abstract, leaving the question of its elaboration to be dealt with in the future.

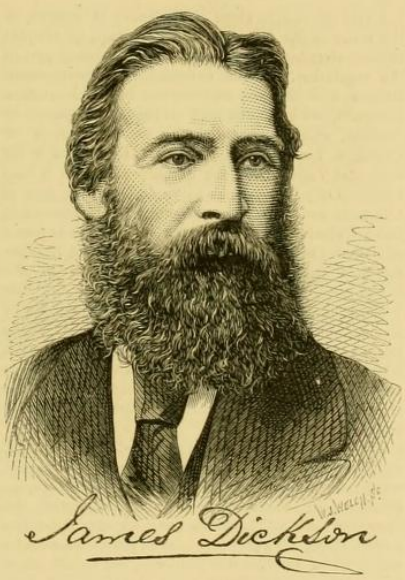
Ash, in alphabetical order, claims our first attention; it is the "aesc" of the Anglo-Saxons, and the "ast" and "ask" of the Swede and Danish dialects. From being the wood of which the lances, spears and shields of our forefathers were made, it became *par excellence* the tree of war, and unlike its present feminine, the "queen of the woods," was endowed with masculine attributes. It held the high distinction of being the personification of strength and valour, and it was a tenet of the heathen faith of the northern nations that the first man, Æsc, was made from the wood of this tree. From this belief it became a personal name of the highest honour, to be worn only by those of royal blood. Æsc, the son of Hengish, is an instance of its application in historic times, in which case it implied that his genealogy was traceable to this ancient source. It is noteworthy that the Greeks and Romans made their spears or pikes of this wood, a custom also obtaining with the Saxons, who called this warlike instrument an "aesc."

Balk, or "baulk" as applied to a log of wood, is from the Saxon *balc*, the German *balken*, and the Dutch *balk*. In the former dialect it had a more extended meaning than it bears at present, as we find it implied a beam, a roof, a covering, or a balcony.

Batten is from the Saxon "bat," a boat or ship, and implies a piece of wood suitable for making or building such vessels. The club or bat of the cricketers, as applied to a piece of wood, is allied to this word.

Beam, from the German "baum," a tree: in the sense of a tree, the word still lingers with us in Hornbeam—Horn tree; its primitive meaning was a rough hewn tree, used for constructive purposes.

Board is the Anglo-Saxon "bord," and German "brade," a thin plank. This word has been highly wrought upon; from being made of boards, we find it applied to the deck of a ship, also to a table, and



hence those that assemble round it and even the food placed upon it.

Charcoal is a compound of the Russian and Anglo-Saxon tongues; "char" is to burn or reduce to coal or carbon, and "coal" is a term referable to a black substance. Charcoal means literally wood reduced to impure carbon by expelling the volatile matter. In the early history of the iron trade of this country it was an ingredient of the first importance; our present name for fossil coal is borrowed from this material. When made from Beech wood it was called "Beech coal." Charcoal burners were called colliers—an occupation or calling which furnished the family names of Collier, Collyer, and Colyear.

Chestnut, sometimes called Spanish—from the fact of the best fruit coming from that country—is from the Anglo-Saxon "cyst-beam," literally the fruitful tree. Being a tree requiring a warmer climate to ripen its fruit than that prevailing in this country, it is naturally inferred that it was a tree little known to our rude ancestors. Be this as it may, the fact remains that they were present at its christening. The Horse Chestnut was so called upon its introduction from Asia in 1629, the term being a mere translation of its classic name, *Hippocastanum*.

Deal is the Anglo-Saxon "dael," and the German "diele," a part or portion; hence a piece of wood. In early times it most probably referred to a riven piece, as a riving axe was called a "deal axe." We still retain the word in "a deal of cards," meaning a division or portion of the whole. So far as the timber trade is concerned, the term "deal" appears to have been applied alike to the Fir and the Spruce, the "mast tree" and "deal tree" being common terms long before it was known what trees they were the produce of.

Elm, from the Anglo-Saxon "elm" "ellm," or "ulme," and the Dutch "olm." This name occurs with slight variations in all the Celtic dialects. From the fact that the Elm rarely ripens its fruit in this country, coupled with the resemblance of its name to the classic *ulmus*, it is looked upon as a doubtful native. The term "Wych Elm" is supposed to refer to its ancient use for water pipes, especially in connection with salt-springs, erroneously supposed to have been called "wycs" and "wics," as in Nantwich, &c. The writer is of opinion that the term "wych," also referable to the Hazel and the Mountain Ash, is merely a varied form of "withe"—a lithe or pliant rod or twig.

Fir, as a term, embraces all the best known coniferous trees, such as the Scotch Fir, the Spruce Fir, and the Silver Fir; it applies to trees of a resinous character, easily ignitible, and consequently suitable for fuel, for torches, and firebrands. Gerard says "the Fir tree" was originally the "fire tree"—an inference that all investigations confirm; and there can be no doubt upon comparing the Anglo-Saxon "fyr," fire, with the Scandinavian "fyrre," Fir, that the terms "firewood" and "Fir-wood" are synonymous.

Forest is an Italian or Armenian word, which has reached us through our French or Norman collections; it appears in the German language as "forst." Our ancient forests were called "woods," as in Sherwood; but the intruding term, although superfluous, has tacked itself on behind, hence the common phrase "Sherwood Forest." The Saxon "woodward" from this change of dialect became the Norman "forester;" as an occupation it was of sufficient importance to found a large family of personal names, hence those of Forrester, Forster, and Foster.

Log is an old Dutch term for "heavy," hence a heavy piece of timber is so called; the equivalent in the German tongue is "klog." In America, where the mother tongue is subject to great mutations, the act of rafting timber has got corrupted to "logging."

Lumber—dry household rubbish—has taken the place of the term "wood" on the American continent. With the early settlers, whose all lay in the cultivation of cereals, timber was an incumbrance to the land; and although it has long since raised itself into a marketable commodity, it has failed to free itself from this term of ridicule.

Oak, the Anglo-Saxon "a'c," "aec," and "aac," and German "eich;" the first form is preserved to us in the fruit "a'ccorn," the corn of the Oak. In ancient times it was a tree prized for its fruit, being used for fattening swine, and in time of dearth as human food. Oak woods were estimated by the number of hogs they would fatten, proof of which we find in the Doomsday Survey, where woods of a single hog are enumerated. Pliny says in his time acorns formed the chief wealth of many nations. The etymology of this word is difficult to arrive at; it appears to be a term peculiar to the North of Europe. We find it in "ac-drenc," oak-drink, a drink made from acorns, and "ac-wern," a squirrel. This interesting animal was known by this ancient name before we borrowed the present one from our French neighbours.

Plank runs through the French, Dutch, German, and Danish languages with little variation. It implies a flich of wood thicker than a board. It is a term which no doubt reached us through our early trading connections with the Low Countries.

Poplar, like all other trees whose names rise above simple monosyllables, is supposed to be introduced. The white and the Aspen Poplars are the trees with which our forefathers were familiar, the black and the

J.H. Dines

THE GARDENS AT SEZINCOT HOUSE, MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH.

THREE miles from Moreton-in-the-Marsh, high up on the Cotswold Hills, is the picturesque residence of Mr. J. F. Dugdale. The drive from the railway station is party through a finely-timbered and undulating park, with overhanging Oaks and Elms forming a striking avenue. Situated in a glorious position, the mansion, with its wonderful copper dome, is quite unique. It was erected by the late Sir Charles Cockerell, and the style is that of an Indian palace. The surroundings are worthy of the stately house, and since Mr. Dugdale bought the estate, great improvements and developments have been made in the gardens. These are on an extensive scale, and they are remarkable for absence of conventionality, wealth of colour, variety of attractions, and consistent beauty. The conservatory is a singularly handsome and imposing building, harmonising with the character of the mansion to which it is contiguous. Entering it with Mr. J. H. Dines, the head gardener, soon after my arrival on a pleasant spring morning, my attention was attracted to a couple of notable plants of Datura. and I enquired their age.

DATURAS FOR FIVE MONTHS.

"They are at least sixty years old," he rejoined. "One is red and the other yellow, and they are in flower from May to September. The blooms hang down naturally, and are most decorative. We do not cut them, but allow them to remain a feature of the conservatory. Every spring I prune them hard back. Otherwise they are left alone. Growing here also are the Lily of the Valley tree—Clethra arborea—and Brugmansia sanguinea. We plant the big things out, and the remainder are all in pots, except, of course, the baskets. For the latter purpose Oxalis cernua is very useful. It has pretty yellow flowers. The treatment is similar to that of Freesias. After flowering the plants are ripened off, and I start them again in autumn."

SERVICEABLE CLIMBERS.

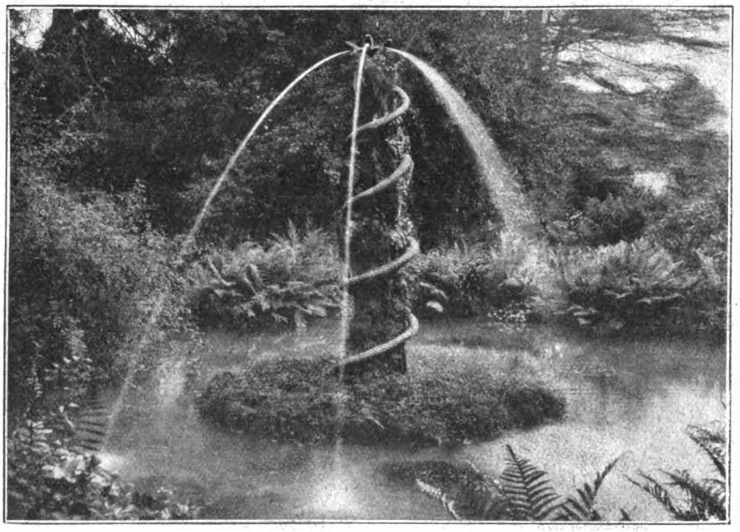
"Is there more than one variety of Rose on the roof?"

"No; it is entirely covered by Bouquet d'Or; but as climbers in different parts of the building, there are also Lantanas salvæfolia, yellow Abutilons, Passiflora cærulea, and Tacsonias."

"Then there are the numerous flowering plants in pots, such as the pink Impatiens Oliveri. How do you treat it?"

"As a cool greenhouse plant, and I have no trouble with it so long as it gets plenty of root room and moisture. The Primula obconica varieties have been selected for some years, and do well in a cool temperature. They last in flower for several weeks. Fuchsias, too, contribute materially to the brightness of the conservatory, and we have just finished with Clivias.

"The only formal bedding at Sezincot is on the south front, and in order to relieve it as much as possible from stiffness, grass is used instead of gravel as a setting. The spring scheme now in evidence embraces Wallflowers Cloth of Gold, with wide edging of Sutton's Myosotis Royal Blue; beds of white Polyanthus and scarlet Tulips, yellow Polyanthus and Picotee Tulips, double Arabis with Couleur Cardinal Tulips, and Wallflowers Miss Willmott and Blood-red. Here we have Rose beds frequently occupied with Violas later on. Most of the varieties are old favourites, but there are some of the newer. The principal are Augustine Guinnoisseau, Caroline Testout, Frau Karl Druschki, Killarney, Lady Ashtown, Liberty, Lyons Rose, Pharisaer, Richmond, Viscountess Folkestone, and Lady Roberts. Later on the stone jars on the terrace wall will contain specimen plants of Hydrangea hortensis."



THE SPIRAL FOUNTAIN IN THE GROUNDS AT SEZINCOT.

From the south front, which includes a charming fountain, we proceeded to the south side of the mansion, where an immense improvement was carried out eighteen months ago by the removal of a bank from fifteen to twenty feet high, which blocked the view. One of the tennis-courts gives access to the wild garden.

ERICAS IN THE WILD GARDEN.

"How long does this date back, and how do you manage to obtain such a glorious display of Heaths?" I asked.

"It is the new ground, twelve years old. With regard to Erica carnea, which has been in flower on the slopes since February, owing to the presence of too much lime in the soil we prepare the beds, and use plenty of leaf-soil in making them up. Erica mediterranea hybrida is more robust. The plants are finer, and they are in flower for months. Here we are always trying to naturalise fresh plants, so as to secure new patches of colour in the grass. Anemone appenina is used for this purpose."

"Bamboos seem to be thoroughly at home."

"Yes, the varieties japonica, nitida, and palmata make fine specimens. Other shrubs and tree include groups of Acers, dissectum roseum marginata atrosanguinea, septemlobum japonicum, and palmatum; Berberis stenophylla and Darwinii; Spiræa Thunbergii, now in bloom, with small white flowers in elegant sprays; a specimen Magnolia soulangeana; the Maidenhair tree; Taxodium distichum; a Cedar quite a hundred feet high; and Abies pinsapo and nobilis glauca. By the side of the stream are Saxifraga peltata and Iris sibirica."

AN INDIAN TEMPLE.

Perhaps the most lovely of all views at Sezincot is afforded from Buffalo Bridge, so called because there are buffaloes carved in the stonework. The bridge itself spans a wide stream, and this feeds a lake about five acres in extent, some distance below. But a greater fascination still attaches to the outlook on the high ground. Between six and seven hundred feet above sea level is an Indian Temple, containing a stone idol. Below the temple is a sparkling stream or cascade, which is widened into three pools at intervals, with a fountain playing in the centre of each. On either side of the temple figures of oxen keep guard, and just at this point is one of the finest pieces of Larch in the county of Gloucester.

"On the lower side of the bridge," continued Mr. Dines, "the banks are planted with Bambusa palmata, japonica, and nitida, and Rhododendrons in variety, chiefly Pink Pearl, Cynthia, and Cunningham's White. On the adjoining slopes Hypericum calycinum, and Viola cornuta purpurea find a congenial home."

"Do you prepare the soil for the Rhododendrons?"

"Yes; they would not flourish in the natural soil, but in that specially prepared they flower profusely. Japanese Maples are also at home, and in the beds near these there are displays of Deutzia crenata flore pleno, and likewise of Diervillea rosea."

"You adopt very much the system of planting in groups?"

"Whenever we can. For example, near the group of Acers is a group of Magnolia stellata, and right through this portion of the grounds, which we call the Thorneries, the same system is observed. Among the most noteworthy trees in this locality is the Hornbeam, and a pair of yellow-flowering Chestnuts. This is one of the best of the Chestnuts."

FOR WATER BANKS.

"What varieties do you find flourish on the banks of the lake water garden?"

"Saxifraga cordifolia, S. peltata, Primula japonica, Lythrum salicifolia, Senecio Veitchii, clivorum, and tanguticum; Artemesia lactiflora, and Spiræa aruncus are all excellent plants for the banks of water. To these may be added for covering rocks, Saxifraga Clibrani, muscoides, and Rhei; Daphne cneorum, Viola gracilis, and Arenaria (balearica). The water garden is the newest extension, and at present we are somewhat in the dark as to the varieties which will do best under the conditions. Aubrietia Dr. Mules is one of the first to justify its selection —it is flowering bravely. The Roses near the

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summer house, planted over forest trees, are Mrs. F. W. Flight and Blush Rambler."

THE FRUIT HOUSES.

Lack of time and the distances to be traversed rendered it impossible to go further into detail, especially as two important features of the gardens had yet to be visited. These were, first the range of glasshouses and then the series of walled-in kitchen gardens. Entering one of the three Vineries, I inquired the varieties grown.

"Muscat of Alexandria, Madresfield Court, Black Hamburgh, Mrs. Pince, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Alicante are the varieties grown in the three houses. The Muscats and Madresfield Court were only planted in 1908. They yield large crops. In the Peach house the varieties are Stirling Castle and Belgarde; Nectarines Humboldt, Early Rivers, and Dryden."

"I see that in one of your two plant houses you grow Streptosolen Jamesoni as a pot plant."

"We propagate each year, and it lasts in flower in pots for twelve weeks. I can strongly recommend it for purposes of decoration. Varieties of Hippeastrum, raised here, flowered in batches from January to April. Another useful plant, not very much used, is Scutellaria mociniana."

"Yes, the orange flowers are very pretty. Is there anything special in the treatment?"

"Practically ordinary stove treatment answers, and if the cuttings are taken every spring, there is no difficulty in flowering them. The Schizanthus, with fringed edge to the flowers, you will notice, are selected varieties grown from year to year, care being taken to select the best."

"Do you care to mention any other good pot flowers?"

"You have already seen varieties of Primula obconica. Another very useful flower for pot purposes is Clarkia Firefly, a very showy flower. Browallia speciosa major, Vinca rosea, and Verbena Miss Willmott are used considerably, and in their season all the most useful decorative plants are grown in succession, including a representative collection of Chrysanthemums."

"What is the extent of the three divisions of kitchen gardens within walls?"

"Between six and seven acres. The whole of the walls are covered with fruit trees, Pears, Plums, Apricots, Peaches, and Nectarines—the last two on a south wall, with a glass coping. The varieties that do best are Waterloo, Royal George, and Dymond. It is necessary to use glass copings here to protect the trees when in flower, so that the fruit may set freely."

"Do you grow many varieties of Strawberries?"

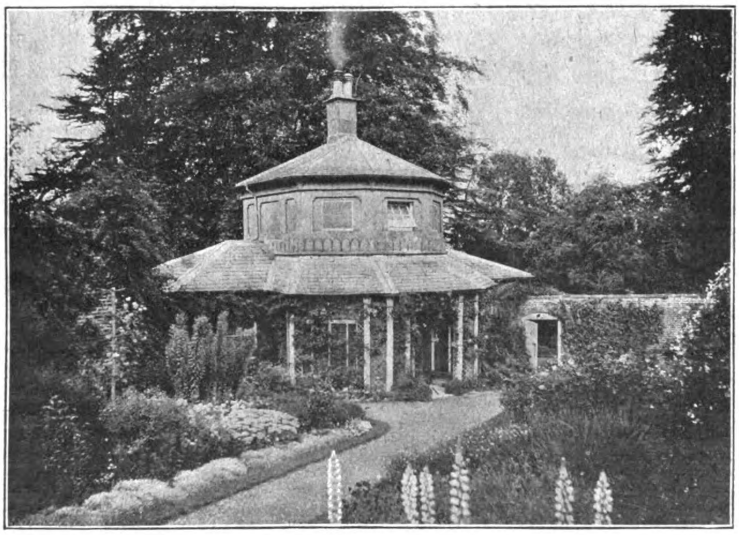
"Royal Sovereign, Fillbasket, Vicomte de Thury, Sir Joseph Paxton, Givon's Late Prolific, and Alpine St. Fiacre."

SUCCESSION OF VEGETABLES.

"Have you anything particular to say in respect to vegetables?"

"Our best early Potato is Sutton's Supreme, and there follow in succession Ringleader, Myatt's Ashleaf, Duke of York, British Queen, Edward VII., Factor, and Up-to-Date. The varieties of Peas are Langley Gem, Alderman Selected, Gradus, Gladstone, and Veitch's Maincrop. Onions Ailsa Craig are grown under glass, and planted out for big bulbs. The other varieties are James' Keeping, Bedfordshire Champion, and Veitch's Maincrop. The Onion bed is trenched in autumn, pricked over in spring, and the seed is sown as soon as the ground works well in March."

THE FLOWER BORDER IN THE GARDEN AT SEZINCOT.



THE GARDENER'S HOUSE AT SEZINCOT.

"You have some striking herbaceous borders in the division of the kitchen garden close to your own charming residence."

"The principle adopted in planting in the borders is to secure bold masses, and all the well-known varieties of the most popular flowers are fairly well represented. We keep up a show for several months, and, in addition, we cut from these borders for decoration in the mansion. In the long bed in front of my house Roses of many varieties are grown for cutting purposes, the groundwork being composed of Violas. There is no doubt that the association of Roses and Violas is a very happy one. The aspect, the soil, and the general conditions which suit the one are appreciated by the other, and it is perfectly easy to avoid any clashing of colour."

KEW EXPERIENCES.

"Where did you start your gardening career, Mr. Dines?"

"In the School of Horticulture at Chelmsford. I was then at Kew for nearly seven years, and went through most of the departments, being at one time sub-foreman in the propagating department, and afterwards in the Arboretum. Then I came here to take charge of these gardens four years ago last September."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week: Interview with a Celebrated Amateur Rose Grower in Hampshire.

SWAINSONIAS.

SWAINSONIA GALEGIFOLIA ALBA is one of the most useful plants to grow in a greenhouse, over a roof or pillar, especially where white flowers are valued because of their adaptability for wearing in coat or dress. This plant is most reliable, and flowers for a considerable period in a house which is kept but moderately warm, and therefore it can be depended upon to do well in the hands of the amateur.

Give it a compost made up of loam and leaf-soil, see that the drainage is good, and one may grow it in a pot or tub, or plant it out on a border in the house.

To keep it in good condition, it delights in rather a humid atmosphere, and therefore one should slightly syringe it in the early part of the day. A dry state at the roots is likely to engender insect pests, which may be avoided by keeping the plants syringed occasionally.

The Swainsonia may be propagated from seeds, which should be sown in spring in a slight hotbed. They germinate better if soaked for a little time in warm water. Cuttings strike readily under a hand-glass. CAPEL CURIG.

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and articles advising the eating Potatoes ("ware" we call them) to be carefully placed on the latticed shelves of the Potato houses we see in large gardens, I then think that gardeners do not know what good tubers are like, for I assure you they will not retain their quality if kept out of the pits more than a fortnight or so. The advice, too, that the diseased haulms ought to and must be burned is no doubt very good, or sounds so; but, given suitable weather and a tender variety of Potato, the all-pervading countless myriads of spores will attack the leaves, resulting in the present sad condition of the Up-to-Dates, which were smitten at the same period of warmth and moisture that sprouted sadly our Wheat and Barley in the stook. The very best Potato farmer on the very best Potato farm in the kingdom, when I saw it, was feeding 180 bullocks, and every morsel of haulm was saved for them to tread into manure for the next Potato crop. And no one grows sounder tubers.

The great Potato show at the Crystal Palace is no earthly use if held when everybody is taking up their tubers and no one knows how this or that sort has yielded or withstood the disease. If the society could take the minor hall at the Smithfield Show we should all put in an appearance, and we might then buy a few pounds of one boomed variety or 100 tons of another. NORTH LINDSEY.

NURSERY GARDENS.

MESSRS. W. WELLS AND CO.'S CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

MESSRS. W. WELLS AND CO.'S large double-span greenhouse, 126 feet in length by 54 feet in width, is at the time of writing one of the finest sights within easy distance of the great Metropolis. The collection of Chrysanthemums is a remarkably comprehensive one, and the blooms of all the season's novelties are always produced in such a way as to enable the connoisseur to form a pretty accurate judgment of their capabilities in the future.

Novelties abound, many of them Continental, many of them home-grown seedlings, and others from our distant Australasian Colonies. There are some excellent examples of recent additions, which have proved worthy of a second, or even third, year's trial. Among them we note a fine batch of noble blooms of General Hutton, a grand Japanese of unusual dimensions, deep golden yellow, slightly tinted bronze. Miss Elsie Fulton is a noble white, already well known to the grower for show; and the more recent Mrs. J. Dunn is also conspicuous in a number of capital examples. Rich and attractive is W. R. Church, a massive broad-petalled Japanese that needs no recommendation, as its peculiar shade of crimson makes it everywhere an effective variety. William Duckham is a deep solid-looking variety with incurved florets, colour silvery pink; and other shades of varying intensity in this colour are represented by such varieties as Mrs. George Mileham, Mrs. Barkley, Countess Harrowby, &c. Among the very biggest is Mrs. White Popham, pale purple; and hard by is Florence Penford, a big Japanese with grooved florets, globular in form and deep in build, colour pale buff. Mrs. W. Knox, a fine deeply-built flower, close and compact, with intermingling florets, colour pure pale yellow, is also worthy of note. Miss Mildred Ware is now well known, and maintains its reputation for size and colour wherever we have seen it. Very fine are the noble examples of Mme. Paolo Radaelli, pale blush pink, a big solid flower peculiarly useful on the showboard. Mrs. Henry Weeks, Mme. Ferlat, and Miss Stopford are among some of the best of the whites.

Yellow is essentially the primary colour of our famous flower from the Far East, and, indeed, it is the colour most esteemed by the Chrysanthemum specialists of the Celestial Empire. A Chinese author, who wrote about Chrysanthemums in 1783, tells us that this colour is more highly appreciated than the others, and in his descriptive list he places the yellow kinds first. At Merstham among the yellow varieties are many examples of the best novelties of recent introduction, the most striking and effective being Colonel Weatherall, Merstham Yellow, Maud du Cros, Chelton, the yellow sport from Miss Nellie Pockett, and another, a sport from Miss Elsie Fulton called Souvenir de Mme. Buron. Mrs. W. Duckham is also a grandly-built globular flower with medium-sized florets, in which the body colour is slightly tinted carmine. Bessie Godfrey has been seen everywhere in good form this season, and is certainly one of the finest in its form and shade, while Calvat's grand seedling, named after that champion grower Mr. F. S. Vallis, is one of the most popular of its kind.

A few others of various tones occur to us as worthy of a brief mention. They are Mrs. F. W. Vallis, which has long drooping florets, colour crimson, shaded apricot yellow, reverse old gold; Henry Perkins, a large bloom of great depth, florets long and drooping, colour bright red-crimson, reverse golden; W. A. Etherington, also of great size and of excellent form, colour flesh pink, shaded mauve; Leila Filkins, fine blooms of very deep build, close and compact, the florets intermingling, soft pinkish lilac-mauve.

Novelties of much more recent introduction abound, but our space will only allow of the most superficial mention, as they would form a sufficient theme for a special article to themselves. Of these we like Valerie Greenham, a fine seedling of English origin, with medium-sized florets, colour lilac-mauve; Dora Stevens, long drooping florets curly at the tips, bright shade of rosy amaranth with straw reverse; Mrs. H. W. Partridge, florets of medium size, colour rich fiery crimson, old gold reverse; Hettie Wedge, Japanese, with florets grooved and incurving, colour lovely shade of golden amber; J. H. Doyle, the colour of this may be described as a salmon cerise with golden reverse, big fine blooms with long florets; Mrs. George Heaume, a fine novelty, globular and deep in build, the florets are of medium width, colour golden buff; E. J. Brooks has rather broad florets, blooms big and solid, plum-coloured amaranth; Mrs. J. E. Dunne, a grand flower of great size, florets long and drooping, colour salmon rose, passing to golden buff in the centre. C. H. P.

MR. GEORGE DINGWALL.

A WELL-KNOWN SCOTCH GARDENER.

MR. GEORGE DINGWALL.

IN the course of this month Mr. George Dingwall, head gardener and forester to the Right Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, G.C.B., at Belmont Castle, Meigle, N.B., leaves Belmont after a long period of service. Mr. Dingwall is a native of Ross-shire, and served his apprenticeship at New Tarbatt House, Parkhill, in that county, under the late Mr. James Laing, brother of the late Mr. John Laing of Stanstead Park, London, and, as Mr. Dingwall remarks, one of the best all-round gardeners he ever knew. In 1857 Mr. Dingwall left for the Lothians, where he was a journeyman for two years. In 1859 he went to East Bank Gardens as foreman, remaining there until November, 1860, when he left to enter upon his first appointment as head gardener. This was with Mr. John Hall Maxwell, C.B., Dargavell House, Renfrewshire. In 1863 Mr. Dingwall entered upon a similar appointment with Mr. G. Kelly McCallum, Braco Castle, Braco, Perthshire, where he remained until 1869, when he was appointed gardener to Mr. G. Stirling Home Drummond at Ardoch House, Braco. At Ardoch Mr. Dingwall laid out the gardens anew and made a new flower garden. To the successful carrying out of these works Mr. Dingwall largely attributes his securing his next appointment in 1886—that of gardener and forester to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who had recently purchased the estate of Belmont, Meigle. At Belmont Mr. Dingwall remodelled the whole of the gardens and grounds, and carried out the important works which have made Belmont such a beautiful and well-kept property. Mr. Dingwall has purchased a property at Newtyle, not far from Belmont Castle, where, it is to be hoped, he may long be spared to work. He does not intend to relinquish horticulture entirely, however, as he means to devote a part of his time to seed-growing. Some of his strains are already well known for their excellence, and he purposes to enter still more largely into seed-growing, as he has a greater demand for his stocks than he can meet. Mr. Dingwall is a most able all-round gardener, and the gardens at Belmont Castle show the evidences of high cultivation in every department. He takes great pleasure in landscape gardening, for which he has a special aptitude, and he has contributed papers of great ability upon this subject to meetings of such horticultural associations as that of Dundee, where he lectured last year. He has also frequently acted as judge at flower shows, where his services were highly esteemed. Among his other acquirements is that of basket-making, and he has taken prizes at industrial exhibitions for his handiwork of this kind, which is exquisitely done. He is a keen antiquarian, and a man full of interesting information on many other matters besides those connected with his calling. S. ARNOTT.

SOCIETIES.

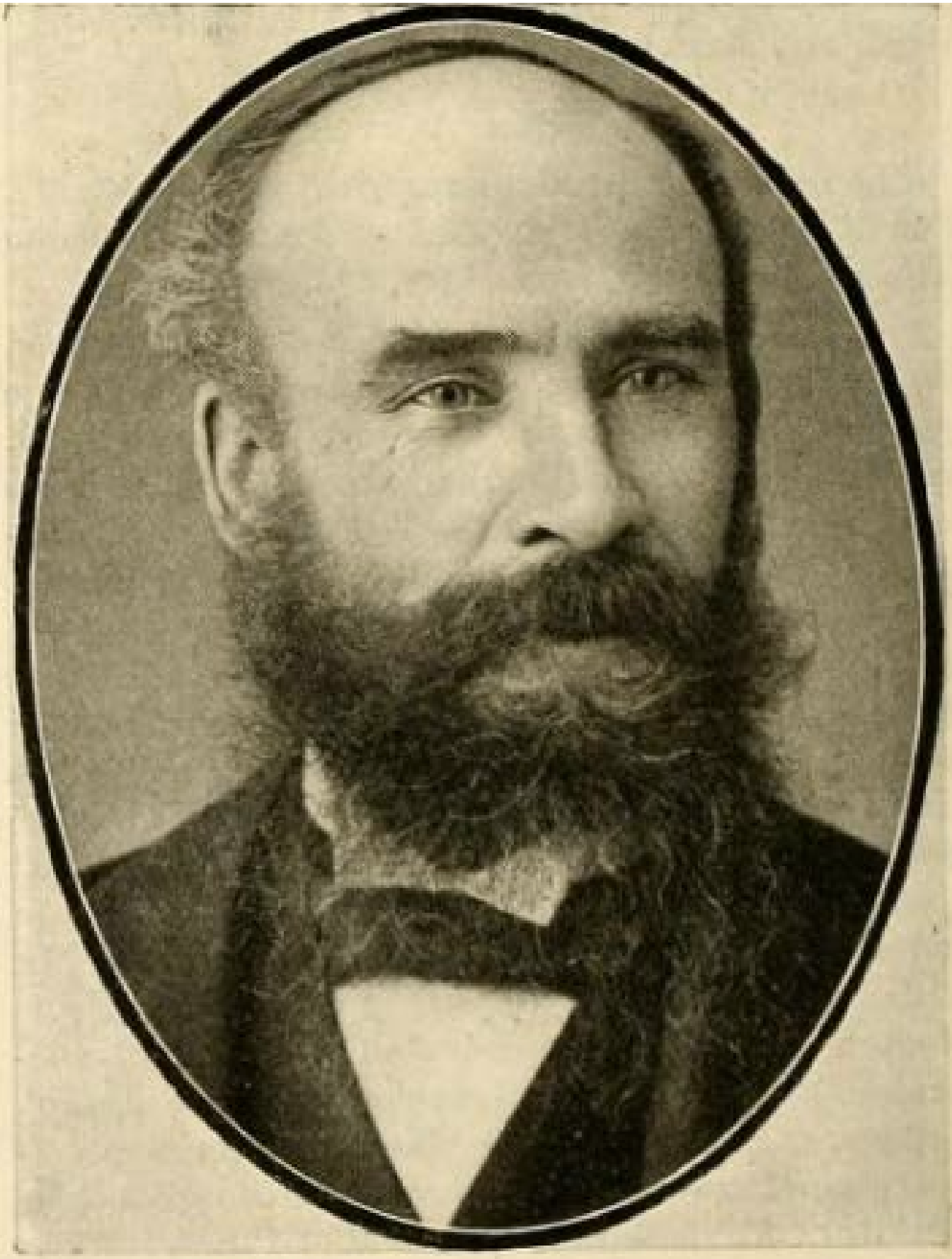
REDHILL, REIGATE, AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

THIS society held its fortnightly meeting on Tuesday, the 25th ult., in St. Matthew's School, under the presidency of Mr. W. P. Bound, when a most interesting paper was read by Mr. C. J. Salter of the Gardens, Woodhatch Lodge, Reigate, on the "Zonal Pelargonium and its Culture." As usual there was a very large attendance, over 100 members being present. That the lecturer was thoroughly at home with his subject there was no doubt, judging by the very able manner in which he dealt with it. The introduction of the zonal Pelargonium was briefly touched upon; then followed notes upon striking the cuttings, potting, soil, temperatures, and the best houses. Many members took part in the discussion which followed. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer, which brought the meeting to a close. F. C. L.

DULWICH CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY.

THE eleventh annual exhibition of the Dulwich Chrysanthemum Society took place on the 8th and 9th inst. The society is in a most flourishing condition. The initiation of a summer show of Sweet Peas, &c., and the remarkable support given to it, especially by the amateur members, points to increasing interest in the neighbourhood. A capital programme of lectures for the winter session has been arranged. The first, by Mr. R. B. Leach, on "Begonias," on Tuesday, October 18, was of a most interesting character, the various stages of Begonia culture, from the initial difficulties of seed fertilisation to the finished and dried-off tubers, were practically and minutely described. The peculiarities of various types were referred to. The hearers were greatly interested and instructed, and the questions which followed the paper were answered in a manner which can only come from a life-long intimacy with the subject.

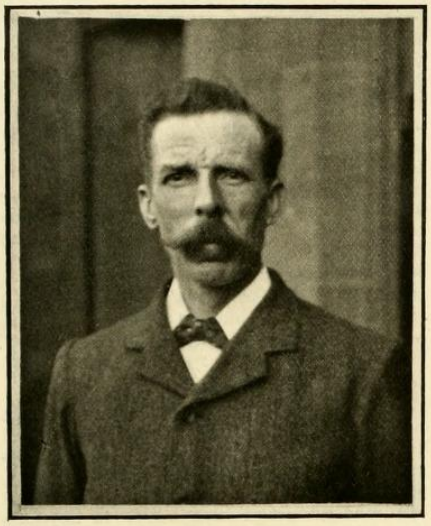
Later papers on "Sweet Peas," by Mr. C. H. Curtis; "Horticulture in Canada," with lantern, by Mr. Cheal; "Members and their Gardens," &c., are included in the programme.



MR. W. H. DIVERS,
Gr. to His Grace the DUKE OF RUTLAND,
Belvoir Castle.

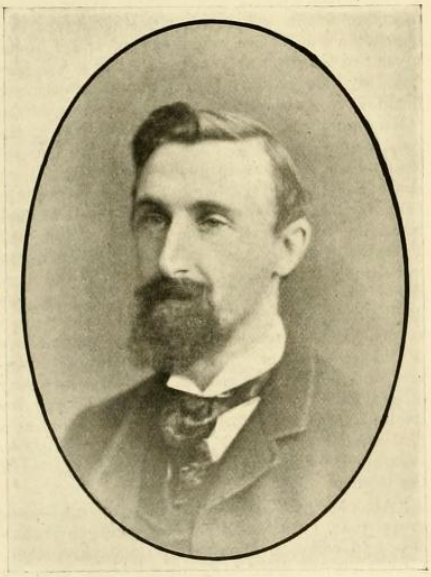
send up as many as 100 bushels in a season to Covent Garden. Such crops, however, are uncertain unless unusual facilities are at command; but they require no heat.

"Notwithstanding the discouragement market gardeners meet with, unfair taxation of glass-



MR. BEN ASHTON,
Gr. to the EARL OF LATHOM,
Lathom House, Ormskirk.

houses, excessive railway rates, uncertain markets, and other drawbacks, I am of opinion that there is scope for extended cultivation of choice early vegetables. Englishmen need fear no foreign competition, but one must be quick to learn the requirements of markets."



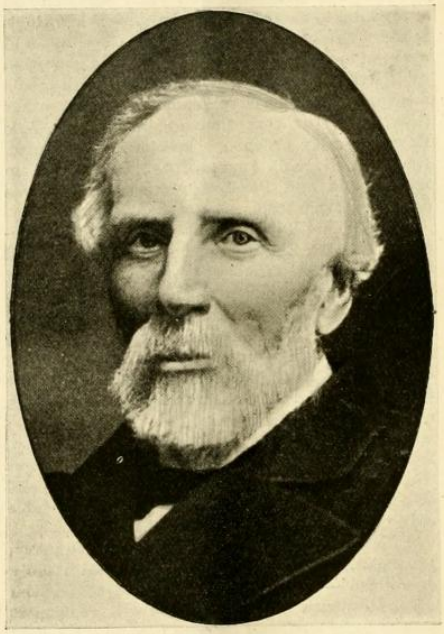
MR. NORMAN DAVIS,
Cultivator of Early Crops of Vegetables,
Framfield.

Mr. W. H. DIVERS

is well known as gardener to the Duke of Rutland, Belvoir Castle, Grantham, and is a frequent and valued correspondent to these pages. He says:—

"Born at Wierton Place, near Maidstone, where my father was gardener for upwards of forty years, I owe much of my success to his encouragement and teaching; I used to get into the garden at every opportunity, and at the age of fourteen commenced work there in earnest. After four years I went to Linton Place in the same neighbourhood, as journeyman under the late Mr. J. Robson, and remained two and a half years. The estate at that time belonged to the late Lady Holmesdale. Vegetables were grown well here, also hardy flowers, and the extensive flower gardens contained a fine collection of Conifers, planted by the late Mr. Masters, of Canterbury, in 1844; a large collection of flowering shrubs also succeeded well—much of my spare time was spent in examining these. Mr. Robson was chairman of the Maidstone Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association, and all the young gardeners attended the meetings, which were very instructive.

"I next obtained an introduction to the late Mr. Arthur Veitch, who kindly arranged for me to go

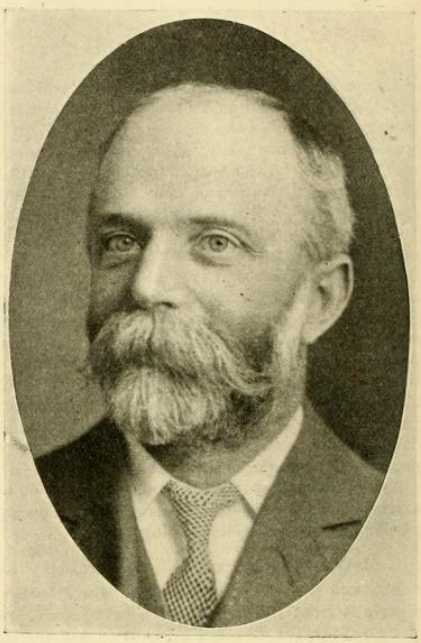


MR. DAVID THOMSON, V.M.H.,
Late of Drumlanrig Gardens, N.B.

as journeyman at Brantingham Thorpe, East Yorkshire, a much smaller place, but where I got acquainted with vegetable-growing in the North, also with a fine collection of New Holland plants and Heaths, and a small collection of Orchids.

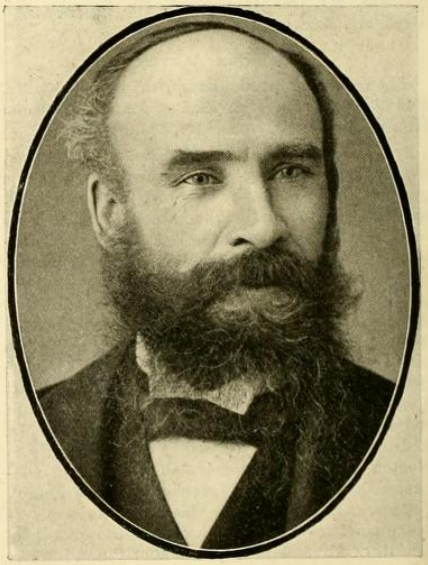
"My next move was to the Earl of Scarborough's, Sandbeck Park, where a good establishment was kept, and garden produce had to be grown on a most unfavourable soil. From there I went to Lord Salisbury's, Hatfield, where the gardens had begun to improve under Mr. Norman's management, frequent changes in head gardeners having previously reduced them to a very bad state.

"I next went to Tandridge Court, Surrey, as general foreman, and found the sandy soil very favourable to vegetable growing. After some few months spent in the stoves and Nepenthes house at Messrs. Veitchs' nursery, Chelsea, my next move was to Burghley House Gardens, Stamford, under the late Mr. R. Gilbert, who was well known at that date (1879) as an exhibitor of vegetables, having recently won the 50-guinea Challenge Cup offered by Messrs. Carter, and various other cups and prizes. While I was there, the new vegetable Chou de Burghley was distributed; this had been raised by Mr. Gilbert, and was a cross between a Broccoli and a Cabbage, and the demand for it was so very great that upwards of £200 was



MR. W. L. BASTIN,
Gr. to SIR ALEX. HENDERSON, Bart.,
Buscot Park.

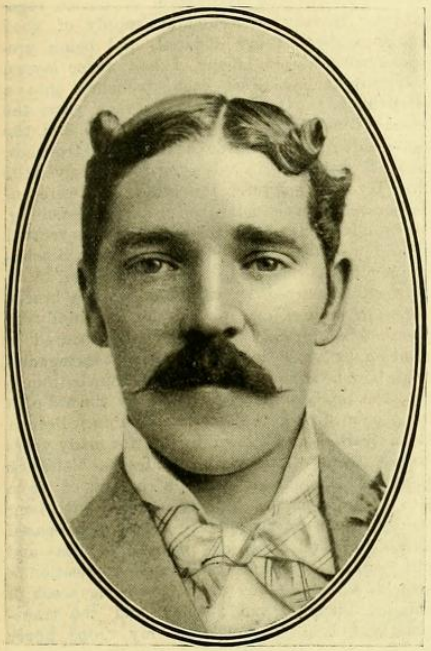
realised by the sale. The Marquis of Exeter, with his usual kindness and liberality, presented me with £5 for keeping the accounts, and gave all the men a present besides. When I had been there



MR. W. H. DIVERS,
Gr. to His Grace the DUKE OF RUTLAND,
Belvoir Castle.

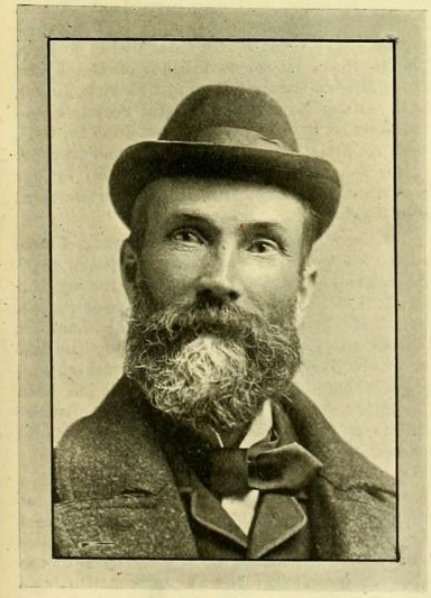
five years the late Mr. Hopwood of Ketton Hall, called to see Mr. Gilbert, and after going through the houses, asked if his foreman could be spared to take charge of his garden; I was called in, and he explained that he had spent a large sum of money in building Peach-houses, and he wanted

a gardener who could grow Peaches better than anyone else in the kingdom. I found on arriving there some very fine houses, and the largest private collection of Peaches and Nectarines in



Mr. R. A. Horspool,
Gr. to Richard Middleton, Esq.,
Chirk Castle, Denbighshire.

the country, but I had to lift the whole of the trees and remake the borders before they fruited satisfactorily. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood often complimented me afterwards on the success I

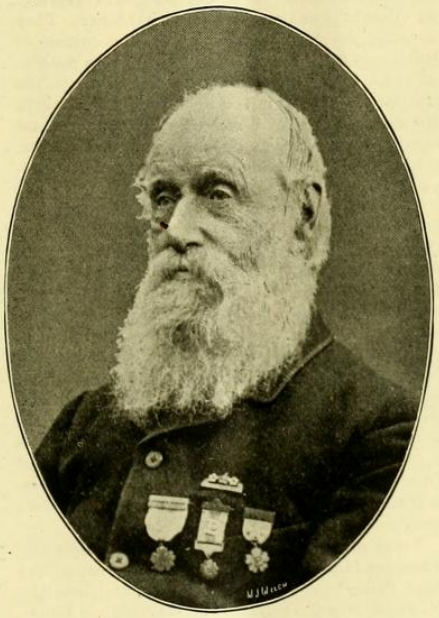


Mr William Pope,
Gr. to the Earl of Carnarvon,
Highclere Castle.

obtained eventually. I also found vegetables had been very scarce there, and that large quantities had been purchased, but after a few months more were grown than the family required. Hardy flowers and Carnations were in great demand, and good collections were established. In the winter of 1889-90 I went to Florida to inspect and report on an estate there belonging to Mr. Hopwood; this gave me a good insight into American life and methods of business, and proved most interesting and instructive. I collected, dried, and mounted all the wild flowers I could find, and took many notes on the cultivation of the various fruits. As a change of ownership was contemplated at Ketton Hall I resigned my appointment there in 1894, after staying nearly ten years, and commenced my duties at Belvoir Castle, as gardener to his Grace the Duke of Rutland, immediately afterwards."

Mr. Robert Fenn

is very well known as one of the first seriously to attempt to improve Potatos by cross-breeding. It was in 1837 that he first crossed the old "Red Regent" with an indigenous variety of America, given to him by a Mr. Pringle; and as the seedlings proved to be different from their parents, he continued the work and achieved



Mr. Robert Fenn,
A Celebrated Raiser of Potatos.

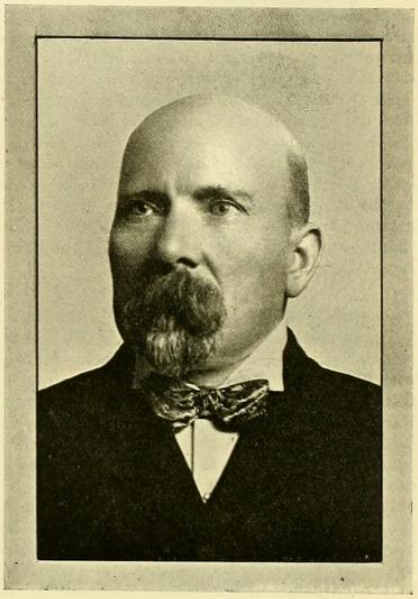
most gratifying success. He has raised very many excellent varieties, which have been distributed by the firm of Messrs. Sutton & Sons, Reading. Mr. Fenn was born in Suffolk in 1817, and he is therefore eighty-six years old, but in spite of his years he is enjoying excellent health and keenly interested in his garden at Sulhamstead.

Mr. R. A. Horspool,

the gardener at Chirk Castle, Ruabon, Denbighshire, is a young man who developed an interest in vegetable culture at the very outset of his career. He is rapidly making a reputation for himself in the Principality. The following notes afford further evidence that a garden is not necessarily useless or "worn out" merely because it is old:—

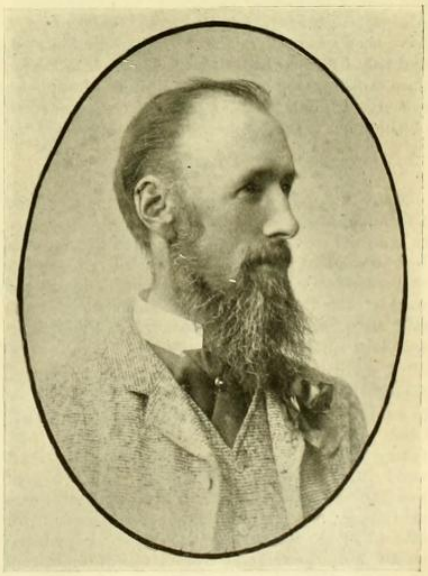
"I have always had much liking for growing good vegetables, but it was not until five years ago that I commenced to grow for exhibition. In the first year I was beaten at Chirk and Wrexham Pomological show, but it gave me greater energy for the next season, when I was placed first at both shows. After this success I showed also at Shrewsbury, Birmingham, &c., and have been fairly successful during the last three seasons.

"These gardens are very old, and the date 1651 is cut in freestone over a doorway in one of



Mr. S. Mortimer,
Raiser of Cucumbers and Tomatos,
Rowledge Nursery, Farnham.

the walls. Nevertheless there is a good vegetable and fruit garden of about 8 acres. It lies between three terraces of walls, there being a mile of walls covered with fruit-trees. The two uppermost gardens slope gently towards the



Mr H. W. Ward,
Market Nurseryman, Rayleigh, Essex.

south, so that the situation is all that can be desired, and there are soils in the different quarters to suit every kind of vegetable grown, for there are five or six different kinds. The lowest part of the garden used to be a fishing lake, about

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THE GARDENERS' MAGAZINE.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Superintendence of London Parks.

To the majority of our readers it will appear as passing strange that there should be any difference of opinion with regard to the qualifications that should be possessed by those who are entrusted with the charge of the parks and gardens of great cities or towns of the first magnitude. They will, and not without good reason, assume that the officer should have a practical knowledge of the work that has to be accomplished in the conversion of a tract of land, agricultural or otherwise, into a place of recreation for the public, either as a beautiful garden or a playing field. They will also recognise the necessity of a knowledge of the art of design in relation to open spaces, and of a thorough knowledge of the various classes of trees and shrubs, and of tender and hardy plants, that can be the most successfully utilised in the creation of garden scenery, and especially in districts in which the conditions are so unfavourable to plant life that only a small proportion of the trees and shrubs available will thrive. In other words, they will consider that the qualifications should be such as those only can possess who have had a thorough training in the several branches of scientific and practical horticulture. With those who hold such views we are, it is hardly necessary to say, in full agreement. The necessity of placing the Parks Department of a city or town under the charge of an experienced horticulturist, who, at the same time, is a gentleman and a man of business, is so obvious, that it is well nigh inconceivable a public body such as the London County Council should have elected by a substantial majority as the Chief Officer of its Parks Department a military man, who, it would appear from the discussion at the Council meeting when the appointment was made, did not claim to be fully versed in the art of gardening. That he had shown remarkable ability in the discharge of his military duties, and achieved much success in his vocation there can be no doubt, but that does not affect the question at issue. The London County Council had in their advertisement inviting applications for the post stated that, "The person appointed will be responsible for the laying out and proper management of the conservatories and the horticultural and other buildings therein, and for the management and discipline of the staff employed in the parks service." Here we have evidence that at the outset the Council had in view the advisability of the successful candidate having an acquaintance with horticultural matters. We have a further proof of this in the paragraph in the advertisement, which stated that, "A knowledge of surveying, landscape gardening, forestry, and horticulture is desirable." Yet, having stated that the officer appointed would be responsible for the management of the horticultural buildings, and that it was desirable he should have a knowledge of landscape gardening, forestry, and horticulture, the Council passed over the claims of the candidates who had obtained eminence in horticulture. It was stated in the course of the discussion that the Council did not want a gardener, but an officer who could supervise the large staff engaged in the Parks Department; but, it should be hardly necessary to point out that a thorough acquaintance with the science and practice of horticulture does not preclude the possession of administrative ability of a high order. So far from this being the case, the most highly trained and successful gardeners have invariably the most efficient control over their staff. If we require proof of this, in relation to public parks, we have only to point to the extensive parks and gardens at Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, and Liverpool, all of which are in charge of gardeners There are others, but the mention of these will suffice for our present purpose, especially as they are well known for the efficiency that is evident on all sides. It should be remembered that all the more important of the magnificent open spaces which are under the authority of the London County Council were designed and planted by gardeners, and only those who know something, by repute or otherwise, of the original sites can fully appreciate the magnitude of the task or the success achieved in its accomplishment. When Victoria Park, Battersea Park, and some other of the great open spaces were about to be formed, the authorities did not engage officers in the army or navy to design and plant the areas. They engaged gardeners of known ability, with the result that we have parks so beautiful that the citizens of London have good cause to be proud of their possessions. If it was advisable to entrust the formation of these parks to gardeners, it is certainly not less desirable they should be under the control of a gardener who, by his accomplishments, has shown his fitness for the post. It is not sufficient that the superintendents of the respective parks are gardeners, the chief officer should be one also, so that he may be in a position to advise, when advice is needed,

MR. C. DIXON.

on difficult points; to see that such improvements as may be necessary are carried out on proper lines, and, what is certainly not less necessary, be in a position to appreciate the difficulties under which gardening is carried on amid unfavourable surroundings. The London County Council has shown such a singular want of appreciation of its responsibilities in this matter as to have given rise to much criticism; and the council of the British Gardeners' Association has passed a resolution expressing its disapproval of the appointment of a military officer as chief of the Parks Department, instead of a properly qualified gardener, and with this protest we cordially agree.

Mr. Charles Dixon, head gardener to Mary Countess of Ilchester, has charge of the famous Holland House Gardens, Kensington, gardens that have become very well known in recent years because of the Holland House exhibitions, held in an adjoining meadow, the gardens being opened to the visitors on payment of a small sum. The amount thus received has always been given to a deserving charity, and the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund and the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution have benefited materially from this source owing to the kindness of the Countess and her late husband. Mr. Dixon was apprenticed at Rossie Priory, Perth, and following his apprenticeship he gained experience at various gardens in Scotland, and presently became foreman at Belton House, Lincolnshire, where he remained five years. The following two years he spent with Messrs. Lee at their Hammersmith Nursery, and acted as pot-vine grower; and while there he was the first to discover the Phylloxera on the vine leaves. In 1864 he entered the service of the late Lady Holland, at Holland House, and at her death was engaged by the late Earl of Ilchester at the same gardens; and he is now serving Mary Countess of Ilchester, and has been continuously in the service of the family at Holland House for forty-five years—a splendid record. Mr Dixon's abilities as a gardener are well known, and they are exerted under the none too favourable conditions obtaining in busy West London. Mr. Dixon is modest to a fault, a quiet man, ready to discuss any horticultural matter, but not his own doings. Mr. Dixon is one of the veterans, and very few people would imagine him to be well over three-score years and ten. He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Floral Committee, and of the committee of the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund, and in both bodies his ripe experience is highly valued.

Retirement of Mr. John Wright.—After eighteen years of strenuous work on behalf of the Surrey County Council in the extension of horticultural science and practice, Mr. John Wright, V.M.H., has retired from the position of Chief Instructor in Horticulture for the county. So many of the masters and teachers in the Surrey schools have been associated with Mr. Wright in his work that it was fitting they should give him some expression of their regard, and this they did recently, presenting the veteran horticulturist with a handsome illuminated address, in which, among other things, they state: "We rejoice that you should have been appointed the first Horticultural Superintendent in Surrey, the pioneer county in school horticulture. We fully recognise the fact that it was due to your expert knowledge and great personal influence that the establishment and systematisation of school gardens were so successfully carried out in the county, that Surrey has always been recognised as holding the premier position in school gardening. We also desire to offer you our hearty good wishes, and hope that there may be many years of health and happiness for you in your retirement."

Our Spring Number.—Our next issue, dated February 26, will be the Gardeners' Magazine Spring Number, and it promises to exceed all previous issues of a similar character both in usefulness and interest. The number will be enlarged, and freely illustrated throughout. Chief among the many subjects to which special attention will be directed are the "Making of a Large Rock Garden," "Rockeries for Small Gardens," "Alpine Pinks," "Columbines," "Borders of Annuals," "Seed Sowing on Clay Soils," "Summer Crops of Tomatoes," "Preparation of Vegetables for Exhibition," "Summer Salads," "Vegetable Marrows," "Runner Beans," "Evergreen Dendrobiums," "Zonal Pelargoniums," and "Annuals for the Conservatory." These are sufficient to show the varied character and wide interest of the contents, but we would add further that the contributors to the special issue include Messrs. Charles Foster, G. Gordon, V.M.H., E. Beckett, V.M.H., T. B. Field, H. J. Chapman, T. Slade, Walter Irving, Thomas Coomber, P. S. Hayward, J. C. Newsham, S. Arnott, Thomas Stevenson, and W. Hedley Warren, all of whom are well known to our readers. As we anticipate a big demand for this issue, those requiring extra copies should communicate with the publisher as early as possible to prevent disappointment.

Shrewsbury Floral Fete is to be held on August 17 and 18 next. This will be the thirty-sixth show, and if the great attractions of the new schedule count for anything the display will be as fine as ever. Besides cups and medals, the sum of £1,100 is offered in cash as prizes, in a total of 200 classes. We notice that the leading seed firms are again offering substantial prizes for collections of vegetables grown by their customers. Fruits, cut flowers, and plants are splendidly catered for, and great interest will centre in the dessert table and leading grape classes. A special new class is for a display of indoor and hardy flowering plants and flowers, cut and growing, the whole to occupy a space of 250 square feet. All cut flowers must be in water, and the exhibitor is expected to produce a novel and artistic exhibit. This takes the place of the old class for a group of foliage plants, and the prizes are, in order: Large gold medal and £20; small gold medal and £15; silver-gilt medal and £12 10s.; and £10. The judges will be instructed to consider quality, general attractiveness to visitors, and novelty in arrangement, and it is hoped the class will be the means of bringing forward some really attractive groups of novel interest.

Visitors to Kew in 1909. — From the official publications of the Royal Gardens, we learn that 3,360,221 visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens were recorded during the past year. These figures show an increase of 397,507 over those for the year 1907, which up to the present were the largest numbers on record. During the last ten years (1899-1908), 17,861,093 persons visited the gardens, giving an average of 1,786,109. The total number of visitors on Sundays during 1909 was 1,384,369, and on week-days 1,975,852. Sunday visitors have increased by 62,985; in this connection it is of interest to notice that until the year 1907 visitors to the gardens on Sundays had only on three occasions exceeded 700,000. The number of visitors on week-days shows an increase of 281,639 over the previously-recorded maximum in 1907. The greatest attendance on any one day was 103,895 on Whit Monday, May 31. The smallest number on any one day was 191, on November 29. The largest and smallest Sunday attendances were 71,584 and 492 respectively, and in the former figures a slight increase has occurred.

The B.G.A. and the London Parks Appointment.—The following letter of protest has been sent to the clerk of the London County Council by Mr. J. Weathers in connection with the recent appointment of a soldier to the post of chief officer of the parks department: "Sir,—I am directed by the Executive Council of the British Gardeners' Association to forward the following resolution, and to ask that you will kindly call the attention of your Council to it at their next meeting: Resolved, 'That this meeting of the British Gardeners' Association in Executive Council assembled, desire to express their strong disapproval of the appointment of a military officer to the post of chief officer of the parks department, instead of a properly qualified gardener, possessing the requisite technical knowledge and powers of organisation and control.'"

Forestry Exhibition at Liverpool.—At the recent meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society proposals were submitted for a plantations competition, on somewhat similar lines to that held in connection with the Gloucester Show of last year. It was decided that, if sufficient financial support were forthcoming, a competition, confined to the districts of Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales, should be carried out for plantations under varying conditions—namely (1) growing on a rich or growing on a poor quality of soil, (2) mixed or unmixed, (3) conifers or hardwoods, (4) from five to thirty years from date of planting. The forestry exhibition to be held in connection with the Royal Show at Liverpool will be on the same general lines as that at Gloucester last June.

Botany at the British Association.—At the meeting of the British Association, to be held at Sheffield, on August 1 and following days, Professor T. G. Bonney, F.R.S., will preside. The president of the Botany Section is Professor J. W. H. Trail, F.R.S., while Professor A. P. Coleman has charge of the Geology Section, and Dr. Herbertson of the Geography Section.

British Gardeners' Association.—The following "open letter" is being circulated to candidates for the London County Council by the Executive Council of the British Gardeners' Association: "Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Executive Council of the British Gardeners' Association to ask if, in the event of your election to the London County Council, you will be good enough to use your influence to secure the following recommendations of the British Gardeners' Association, viz., (a) To secure a minimum wage of 30s. per week for those gardeners employed by the London County Council who can produce the credentials of the British Gardeners' Association as to their being duly qualified gardeners. (b) To secure an alteration of the system which allows the appointment of a military officer to the post of chief officer of the parks department—an appointment which, in the opinion of the Executive Council of the British Gardeners' Association, should be held by a properly qualified gardener possessing the requisite knowledge and powers of organisation and control.—Yours faithfully, John Weathers, General Secretary."

FAMOUS GARDENS :: IN WAR TIME. ::

HOW THEY ARE BEING MAINTAINED WITH REDUCED STAFFS.

III.—Interview with Mr. Charles Dixon, at Holland House, London.

BUT for the difficulties of transit, and the lack of labour, this week would have seen the holding of the Royal Horticultural Society's great summer show in the grounds of Holland House. This is always one of the pleasantest gatherings in the gardener's year, and brings visitors from all parts of the kingdom. Apart from the show, however, the house and gardens have much of historical interest. Built in 1607, the house has sheltered beneath its roof men whose names are world-famous. Cromwell and his son-in-law, Ireton, were visitors here; General Fairfax, William Penn, Joseph Addison, Henry Fox, Macaulay, and the Earls of Holland figure among its list of residents. It is now the property of the Earls of Ilchester, and is the only great estate in London untouched by the builder.

The grounds were laid out a hundred and fifty years ago, when most of the fine trees were planted, and the turf formed; and since then many developments and improvements have been carried out, for succeeding owners have taken great interest in them; while the late Earl of Ilchester was an enthusiastic horticulturist, and Mary, Countess of Ilchester, who now resides at Holland House, is well known as a warm admirer of the gardener's art.

A VETERAN GARDENER.

Mr. Charles Dixon, who is in charge of the gardens and grounds, has the record of fifty-three years' continuous service, for he was appointed to his present position as long ago as 1864. He is thus one of the veterans of the profession, but I could scarcely credit the fact that he is eighty-three years old, for he is as active as most men twenty years younger, and still does much of the work, as I learnt on the occasion of my visit a few days ago.

I had noticed, on the way to his cottage, rows of Dwarf Beans between the lines of Carnations in one of the borders, and mentioned this to Mr. Dixon, who replied:

"Every inch of our space is cultivated. I will show you how we are growing vegetables in the flower beds, and also in the houses."

"What staff do you keep now?"

"There are six men and one woman, where formerly we had nine men—young ones. Those we have are over military age."

"What is the full extent of the grounds?"

"All told, including fields, it amounts to fifty-five acres. At the present time we have numerous allotments on the land, some being taken through the Borough Council, while others we let direct."

There is a considerable range of houses here, and we started our tour of inspection by visiting them. Entering the earliest vinery, where Mill Hill Hamburgh was showing many bunches of Grapes, though rather late in colouring, Mr. Dixon drew attention to a number of pots of Dwarf Beans. "The variety," he said, in response to my question, "is Ne Plus Ultra. It has borne remarkably well, and is, I think, the best for forcing.

A HOUSE OF CYPRIPEDIUMS.

In the next house, largely given over to Cypripediums, I was shown a batch of three dozen, lately purchased at auction for a shilling each.

"They look well, and as they have not flowered yet you may find you have a treasure amongst them," I suggested.

"That is so," was the reply. "All the Cypripediums are coming on nicely and are starting to make fresh growth. As you see, they sadly want repotting, but that cannot be done with the present shortage of labour. As a matter of fact, the last job two of my young fellows did before joining the colours was to break up one of the clumps, which now occupies these seventeen pots."

"With all the plants you have here, it would be a formidable task to break up and repot them," I agreed. "Do you specialise in Cypripediums?"

"No; but they do best with us. Cattleyas seldom do good in London, though we get fair results now and again. At present, however, they are neglected, as we cannot spare time to attend to them."

From this house we passed through several of those devoted to succulents, for which Mr. Dixon is famous. In one is a collection of choice Aloes and Mesembryanthemums, all of which he raised from seed; and in another some fine Sempervivums and Echeverias were to be seen.

ASPARAGUS NANUS NOT DWARF.

"These Echeverias usually go out in the summer, but we have no room for them in the beds this year, as vegetables are taking the place of bedding plants. Here is a nice foliage plant on the wall," continued Mr. Dixon.

"And its name?" I said.

"Asparagus plumosus nanus," was the answer.

"But this is a plant eight or nine feet high, and nanus means a dwarf plant," I urged.

"So it does," replied my guide with a smile, "and this is a dwarf—until it commences to grow, and then there is no stopping it. It was dwarf enough for some years, while I had it in pots, but since I planted it out you see how it has run up."

Stepping out from these houses we next passed a number of frames.

"The Marrows are following Calceolarias and other bedding stuff which we wintered here," explained Mr. Dixon. "Melons, you see, are in fruit. These eight frames without lights are filled with Saxifrages and Sempervivums."

"Of course, they are taken in for the winter?" I said.

"Yes; in the winter we put them in the Perpetual-flowering Carnation house, and bring the Carnations into a heated house."

"Do you grow many of these Carnations?"

"As you see, we have all the best varieties, for the flowers are wanted for indoor decoration. We get plenty of blooms in summer, but are not so successful in winter—the light is too bad in London."

"I notice that you dry off your Cyclamens after flowering," I remarked.

"Yes; some people keep them growing, but I prefer to dry them off," was the answer.

"And the Liliums which look so healthy in these pots—how do you treat these?"

"They have been in the same pots for three years, and have not been repotted. They are plunged out of doors all the winter, and brought in some time in spring. There is promise of good blooms again this year."

MR. CHARLES DIXON AND THE STAFF AT HOLLAND HOUSE.

GOOD CROPS OF TOMATOES.

We were now approaching a further range of houses, but stopped to look at a batch of Tomatoes planted out, and already carrying good trusses of fruit.

"Thanks to the fine weather, the outdoor crop will ripen almost as soon as those indoors," remarked Mr. Dixon.

"Do you use the same variety for outdoor and indoor work?" I asked.

"Yes," was the reply; "the only variety we grow is Comet. The first batch is planted in one of the propagating houses, after the other plants are moved out; the second batch is planted in the open; and for the third we strike cuttings, and grow them on under glass."

The house we now entered was filled with Cucumber plants, but it was explained to me that it was really a propagating house. Adjoining this is a house where Gardenias and Stephanotis are the principal features.

"The Gardenias used to be very fine," said Mr. Dixon, "but the plants are worn out, and

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last winter did them no good—indeed, they suffered badly. But the Stephanotis does very well, and makes a good show."

"Both seem very clean," I remarked. "Are they not troubled with insect pests, as a rule?"

THE WATER HYACINTH.

"They are subject to attack by mealy bug, but that we keep down by cyaniding. There is a plant here that you will like to see—it is called the Water Hyacinth."

I looked at the plant Mr. Dixon indicated, and saw a truly handsome flower, of large size, pale mauve in colour, with a blotch of blue and yellow, and leaves of light green. It is in a tub, and floats on the water, the roots not being attached to soil.

"Is it difficult to grow?" I asked.

"No," was the answer; "but it requires the temperature of a stove. It comes from Brazil."

Moving on, we came to another house with a number of pots of Primulas of different sorts, and Azaleas.

"The Primulas are principally obconica. Some are seedlings, the others have been for three years in the same pots."

"How do you manage to get them to flower so well without renewing the soil?"

"They are fed with liquid manure now and again. Primula capitata has mostly died off. It is a 'miffy' subject. But Primula malacoides does excellently, and is greatly liked for decorations. The Azaleas are young plants, and will be all the better for repotting. I shall do this when I have time, but there is so much to be done, and I am at it early and late."

A glance at the Japanese Hop, Origanum dictamnus—which bears pink flowers and makes a pretty basket plant—and another uncommon plant, Solya heterophylla, of a rich blue colour, and we then wended our way to the Palm house. This structure has a tank filled with choice Water Lilies, and many rare exotics.

RARE PLANTS IN THE PALM HOUSE.

"We lost several fine Water Lilies last winter," said Mr. Dixon, "partly owing to lack of labour, so that we could not attend to them, and partly because we were unable to get coke, and the temperature consequently fell too low. Moschosma riparium was also cut back by frost, but it is breaking away at the base. A splendid specimen of Hibiscus rosea died right down. Another plant that I thought was lost is this, Petrea volubile"—and he indicated a climber with a curious, spirally twisted stem, and many flowers, bluish mauve in colour, on twiggy shoots—"for it lost all its leaves in the fogs of last November; but you see it still flowers. It is not unlike a Wistaria. Here is a tree that you might like to notice—the Guava tree, Psidium cattleianum. I raised this from seed many years ago, and it bears regularly edible fruit, something like a purple Plum. Lasiandra macrantha is another rare plant, which you can see is growing in just a few inches of soil, on slates over the pipes. Its flowers are a rich purple, and very large for the size of the plant."

There were many other uncommon plants which were pointed out to me; then, leaving the Palm house, we passed on to the early vinery, where a Black Hamburgh vine had just had its first thinning, while the girl was busy thinning the berries from Muscat of Alexandria, which, with Madresfield Court, are also in this house.

EASILY-GROWN WATERCRESS.

But before entering this house, Mr. Dixon had called my attention to a narrow border outside the Palm house.

"This is where we grow our Watercress," he said. "We manage to cut plenty of nice, succulent growths."

"How do you manage about water?" I asked.

"We simply water with a rose on the can. It is very easy to grow, all it wants being to be planted in shade—it doesn't like sun. We pick it over every day, and the more you pick the more it grows?"

"Does it survive the winter?"

"No; but in spring we buy a few bunches in the market, and plant them here, and that is all the trouble it gives us."

After leaving the early Vinery we passed in succession through several greenhouses—in one of which Mr. Dixon showed me a collection of Nerines, now drying off, and subjected to a sun-baking—then made our way towards the kitchen garden and orchard.

"The herbaceous borders show how we are pressed for labour," said Mr. Dixon, "for they have not been regulated for two years, and in consequence are overgrown."

GOOD PROSPECTS FOR FRUIT.

Stopping to look up the Pear Tree Walk, my guide remarked:

"They have had good crops in their time, but they are getting worn out. They are on the Quince stock, and that does not last."

"And what are the prospects for fruit this season?"

"They are everywhere excellent. As you will see when we get further round, all the trees are loaded with fruit, and the bush fruits are equally good. Strawberries are not so good, however, as last year's weather was against them."

"You have a fine lot of Cherries in the cage."

"Yes; there are many varieties, and they are carrying enormous crops. We had a great deal of trouble to get the overhead netting, and could not get wire netting at all, so we had tanned netting specially made with a small mesh."

"Your Loganberries seem very full of buds, and have plenty of nice young growths."

"The Loganberry is a very profitable fruit to grow. We tried the Lowberry, but found it no good, and so turned it out."

"You have vegetables in the borders, I see?"

"Yes; we are growing all sorts of vegetables in place of the flowers that we usually have here. The only thing we have not disturbed are the Pinks, and they want taking up and replanting, but we cannot spare the labour."

"This bed of Broad Beans will soon be ready for using," I said.

"It is Early Longpod, a very good variety for the earliest crops, giving Beans of nice size. I do not like Beck's Green Gem so well. Other varieties that we grow in a bed farther round are Green Windsor, Improved Green Longpod, and Improved Green Imperial. Bunyard's Exhibition Longpod is a good old variety."

"Why are the leaves of all the Cabbages in this bed perforated with holes?" I asked, as we came to a large patch of otherwise healthy-looking plants.

A DESTRUCTIVE HAILSTORM.

"The holes were caused by the hail we had a few days ago. We had a thunderstorm that lasted two hours, and a downpour of rain equalling four inches. The water poured down the slopes and the gravelled paths, carrying quantities of earth with it, and leaving huge holes in some places. As a consequence, the drains were choked up, and we had quite a flood. You will see the effects when we get farther round. Other Cabbages have suffered as badly as this, which is Enfield Market. On the other side that large bed is filled with Christmas Drumhead Cabbage."

"I see you are growing plenty of Potatoes."

"Yes; besides the space we usually give, we have grubbed up a good collection of Michaelmas Daisies—keeping just two or three of each of the varieties for future use."

"And what Potatoes are you growing?"

"Midlothian Early and Myatt's Improved Ashleaf for earlies; and for maincrops, King Edward VII., Queen Mary, Great Scot, and Arran Chief—these two we are trying for the first time—while we also have a few rows of Up-to-Date. Early varieties do quite as well in London as in the country, but the maincrops do not."

Continuing our walk, Mr. Dixon next pointed out a bed of Jerusalem Artichokes.

"This is an old border where we used to grow flowers, but we have turned them out. Next to the Jerusalem Artichokes is a plantation of Globe Artichokes, which do splendidly here. We cover them with litter in the winter, and they come through quite safely. Parsley is very uncertain here; one year it is good; another, it rots in the ground. I would recommend those who like Spinach to grow Spinach Beet—it is quite as good, and you can keep on cutting."

"You certainly have a nice lot of it," I agreed. "What Cauliflowers do you find best?"

"Early London for the earliest crop, then Snowden, and Walcheren for a succession."

There were other vegetables to be seen, all giving promise of excellent returns, but leaving the kitchen garden we turned into a small orchard, and Mr. Dixon explained:

"This was formerly the donkey paddock, but we have now put it down to fruit. Under the trees on this side we have planted Brussels Sprouts, and on the other side have sown Swedes. We are not letting an inch of ground go to waste, and in some of the borders have sown Buckwheat, which we were asked to raise."

By this time we had reached the Peach house, where a good crop is promised, while on the wall outside Peaches Royal George, Prince of Wales, and Dr. Hogg, and Nectarines Rivers' Early and Pine-apple were in flourishing condition.

"I have started tying and thinning these myself," said Mr. Dixon (the ladder was, indeed, still against the wall, and I marvelled at a man of his years undertaking the task). "I do this in the early morning, while it is cool."

CARROTS AND BEET AS BEDDERS.

Turning in through an archway at the end of the walk we came to the Water Lily pond, where lovely blooms were open in the water. The beds surrounding this pond, instead of the ordinary occupants, are filled with vegetables.

"Although we have banished the bedding plants," said Mr. Dixon, "we are trying to get as much ornament as possible, so we are filling the beds nearest the windows with Carrots and coloured Beet, while Turnips, dwarf Beans, and dwarf Peas are in the other beds. We are thinning the Carrots and Turnips every day for the house. The Peas are Chelsea Gem, William Hurst, and American Wonder—but this is not doing so well as the others, and seems to lack vigour. The Turnips are Early Milan, which comes in first, and Early Snowball."

THE ITALIAN GARDEN.

From this section we strolled to the Italian garden in front of the house. Here the beds are all edged with Box, but their usual occupants have given place to food products.

"This bed," said Mr. Dixon, "which used to be a mass of Ageratum, is now Cauliflower Walcheren; here last year we had a striking bed of Calceolarias—now it is filled with Cabbage Earliest of All, which will soon be turning in; another bed of Calceolarias now has Dwarf Beans, Wythes' Early Gem and Progress, which will be ready for picking next week. Some of the Beans are inclined to run, but by pinching them we shall keep them dwarf. I had to beg hard to be allowed to keep some of the bedding plants for stock, so we have a few plants of Geranium Paul Crampel and Marguerite Mrs. F. Sander, while the bed of Calceolarias has been edged with Sutton's Sugar Bean, a strong grower, which fruits early, though it was sown a month later than the others."

"How often do you take up and replant the Box edging?" I inquired.

"Some parts of it were done thirty years back" was the answer; "but others have never been touched. So far as we can trace, the scroll beds of Box were planted a hundred and eighty years ago, and have never been replanted."

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ROSES FOR A TOWN GARDEN.

Stopping only for a few minutes to admire the fine shrubs in bloom in front of the house, we next visited the north lawn. Here the Roses are planted, and here it might be said that Caroline Testout holds her court, for without doubt it is the Rose of this garden. It occupies both sides of a long row, backed by Ramblers and Wichuraianas, and is planted freely in many beds. I asked how many plants there were, and Mr. Dixon answered:

"Two thousand. They were planted twenty-four years ago, have always done well, and are still vigorous."

"What other varieties do you find thrive here?"

"Snow Queen is very free-flowering; Madame Abel Chatenay is very good; so is Grace Darling; and Hugh Dickson comes well in colour. Earl of Warwick is one I can recommend; and Lady Ashtown would be excellent if it did not mildew so badly."

"And what are your principal failures?"

"Well, as you see for yourself, Kœnigin Carola is not wanted where Caroline Testout is grown, for it is poorer in habit, not so free, and the colour is similar. Lady Hillingdon is a poor doer—in fact, so are all the Teas, for we had a collection of them, but very few survive. General MacArthur is not satisfactory; and Lyon Rose is another with poor growth."

"You seem to have success with pillar and Rambler Roses," I suggested.

"Yes; we have a good show of these. Amy Robsart, one of the hybrid Sweet Briers, fairly roots in the hedge of Laburnum; Zephyrine Drouhin, the thornless Rose, always gives plenty of fragrant flowers; and for pillars and large bushes Gruss an Teplitz wants beating. One of our beds of Dorothy Perkins is twenty feet through, and is a fine sight when in flower. But all our Rose beds want more attention than we can give them in these times. It is two years since we were able to do anything to them, except to prune, which is done by our girl gardener."

Time was now pressing, and I could spare but a few moments to go through the Japanese garden, where many of the Bamboos were throwing up suckers, and others wanted thinning, though the Hydrangeas and Viburnums were looking well, having been trimmed last autumn by Mr. Dixon himself. So, too, in the shrubbery, some of the choice Magnolias and ornamental Oaks were sadly in want of thinning, and the Azaleas and Rhododendrons were carrying their seed pods. Across the old pleasure ground we went, where the grass, which was formerly kept so short, is now going for hay, and I asked how many acres would, under normal conditions, be mown.

"There are twelve acres of short grass, and a further ten acres which might be called optional; but it is all going this year, for we cannot possibly mow it, and beside this, hay is wanted, and our men are cutting it."

We ended our tour on the south front, where the big Water Lily pond is now a wonderful picture.

"The Lilies," said Mr. Dixon, "were not divided this spring, as they should have been, and by autumn the leaves will be so crowded that they will be out of the water."

"But still," I remarked as I wished him good-bye, "you are doing remarkably well under the circumstances." W. J. CHITTENDEN.

(Next week, the gardens at Buscot Park, Faringdon, Berks, will be described).

PINK CLARKIA.

In reading my GARDEN LIFE of June 16th, under "Gardening Experiences" I see Clarkias highly spoken of. I would like to suggest to other readers to grow them as pot plants in the greenhouse. I did so this spring, and am delighted with the result. They are perfectly beautiful in the drawing-room—Salmon Queen is the admiration of all.—A. I. E. B.

Gardening Experiences.

A free subscription for one year (value 10s. 6d.) is offered for the most interesting contribution to this column. The contribution must be original, and should, as far as possible, be descriptive of the writer's gardening practice. Mark the envelope "Experiences," and address to the Editor, "Garden Life," Hatton House, Great Queen Street, London, W.C. 2.

THE FERTILISATION OF FRUIT BLOSSOMS.

So much has been and is being done as regards this important subject, that a little experience of my own may help those who have not the time or sufficient experience to do the work. Where young trees have been planted it is quite necessary—if there is not time to fertilise artificially—to attract bees to do the work for you. This season, especially, very few flowers were in bloom during the blossoming period of fruit trees, and, of course, in the case of young trees there were very few blossoms on the fruit trees themselves. To attract the bees next season, especially in a new garden, or where very few flowers are grown, plant, a few yards away from fruit trees, a patch of Brussels Sprouts. After the picking season of the sprouts is over next spring, do not pull them up, but allow them to blossom. The result will be that, during the blossoming of the fruit trees, a few yards away there will be one mass of yellow bloom, which will attract to it the bees in thousands, and consequently to the fruit trees themselves.—Harpley House, Worcestershire.

(Prize Letter.)

EXPERIENCES OF FAILURES.

From time to time, through the kindness of our Editor, we have accounts of the experience of readers of GARDEN LIFE, and many very helpful hints I have gathered from this source.

I well remember, some years ago, a friend drawing my attention to a note in the paper, from a correspondent, describing how he had succeeded in getting Narcissus triandrus to flower and do well. His plan was to plant these tiny bulbs on the edge of the paths. I had never had success with mine, and was glad to try a new plan, and was amazed at how well it looked. That hint gave me the clue to the difficulty—not that these subjects must be on a path, but that they require similar conditions—a gritty, unbroken soil, moist but well drained.

But nearly always the correspondent tells of how success has been attained. Now, I want to tell of how I have failed, in hope that somebody may be able to tell me why. It is in the rock garden that my difficulties lie. I know well that many very beautiful and desirable subjects are admittedly difficult. When I was given the two Shortias, I received my treasures in fear and trembling. And though I spared no pains to suit their requirements, one (uniflora) declined to be satisfied; the other has thriven well, and this year has a fine batch of flowers, and is flourishing.

ASTER ALPINUS.

In like manner I was distressed, but not surprised when Gentiana verna, after giving a good account of itself for a couple of seasons, began to dwindle slowly away. I recognised it as "the common lot" in its case; but when a hardy subject like Aster alpinus behaves badly one feels ill-used. Five years ago this spring I got a fine clump from one of our best nurserymen in Yorkshire. The plant was well set with buds, and was lovely that season—one of the prettiest sights in the rock garden. I left it where it was first planted, in a moist, sheltered spot, and not exposed to the hottest sun. To my surprise, it seemed to grow up out of the ground, and got brown and leggy; and though I kept on top-dressing and covering it, by the spring following it appeared dead. It did revive, however, as the season went on; and as I had by this time found that it should be divided and replanted after flowering, I thought I would be all right, for the new growth was quite strong and good. But I have never suited it, and though I have now a fair number of healthy-looking plants, they seem to come on each season just too late to flower. I had, I think, one bloom on the lot last year, and two this year. I wonder what is wrong? I have tried several aspects, and both rich and poor soil.

POTENTILLA NITIDA.

Puzzle number two is Potentilla nitida. It thrives well, and yet never gives a flower. I have it in the hottest, driest spots, and often "glaze" some of the plants in winter, but all to no purpose. Our soil is light, the position is high and exposed, and it puzzles me to know why it is so refractory. This season the growth is particularly fine: perhaps it is going to repent at last, and reward me. I know it is not always a satisfactory bloomer, but as far as I can judge it has all the conditions necessary here.

AQUILEGIA GLANDULOSA.

A great disappointment comes third in Aquilegia glandulosa. I have had this plant for four seasons. It has shelter, but not shade; a fine depth of light, peaty soil; never has been disturbed since first planted; is top-dressed each spring; and protected with a zinc ring to save its fresh shoots from the depredations of the slug. And there, year by year, it grows finely, the foliage the picture of health; but not a single flower has it ever blessed me with. I see in catalogues it is often mentioned as liable to "go off." It shows no inclination to anything of the kind here, and A. cærulea evidently is well satisfied, for it flowers better every season, and we have had it quite a long while.

PRIMULA ROSEA.

One other disappointment—Primula rosea. One season I had it in great condition, but it had to be moved, as that part of the garden was re-made, and it has only existed since, though I have made every effort to give it just the same position. We have no running water to "put its feet in," but there is no difficulty in getting moist and sheltered spots, so I cannot understand why it fails. Primroses do particularly well here, seeding themselves, and appearing in every nook and cranny.

I suppose everyone has his own particular history of failures. I once remarked to a very experienced and most successful gardener that I was sure he seldom lost anything. He looked at me almost with contempt as he said, rather bitterly, "If you only knew the half of what we lose!"—H. S. W.

NAPHTHALENE-LIME.

One of the very best mild materials for the summer disinfection of the soil is what I call naphthalene-lime, or, more shortly, naphtholime. It is made of naphthalene, salt, and good quicklime, and from experiments I have carried out myself, and others which I have witnessed, it appears to stimulate the crops as well as drive away soil pests.

To make it, take one stone of the very best fresh ground quicklime, four pounds of rough salt, and to these add from two pounds to four pounds of napthalene. If the crude naphtha is used, two pounds will be sufficient, but if the less smelly, purified material be obtained, double the quantity will be required. Mix these all together, and store in a strong, air-tight tin.

This material may be dusted over the ground during the growing season very freely, and it may be forked into vacant ground after early Peas have been taken off it, and it ensures a good crop following. About an ounce per square yard may be used. For very bad, pest-ridden land, and for cleaning land in winter, something stronger is needed, and this is found in the proprietary soil fumigants advertised in this paper.—EXPERIMENTER.

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Obituary.

WILLIAM DODDS. — This veteran Dahlia-raiser and exhibitor died recently at his residence at Bristol, at the advanced age of ninety-two, having outlived nearly the whole of those who had personal knowledge of him forty years ago, when in the very heyday of his popularity. Coming south more than half a century ago from his native country, Scotland, he became under-gardener to Colonel Baker at Salisbury, subsequently rising to the position of head gardener, and remained in Colonel Baker's service for a period of thirty years. More than half a century ago the county of Wilts was famous for its activity in improving the Dahlia. The brothers Cove and Squibbs, at Salisbury; Wheeler, at Warminster; Heale, at Calne; with Skillman, at Marlborough, were all noted dealers and exhibitors, and Mr. Dodds, having a desire to raise seedlings, found himself in congenial company, and, assisted by the active interest of his employer, he began to raise seedlings with considerable success, his varieties being sent out by his old friend, John Keynes. Dodd's Mary, a light ground flower tipped with purple, made a great reputation in its day. Not only did Dodds raise seedlings, but he was also a skilful cultivator and exhibitor, giving a good account of himself at Dahlia shows. On the death of Colonel Baker, he went as head gardener to Sir Greville Smythe at Ashton Court, Bristol; but while taking a warm interest in his favourite flower, practically his career as an exhibitor was finished. Dodds remained at Ashton Court for some years, and then went into retirement at Bristol. He made a point of coming to London once a year to attend the annual exhibition of the National Dahlia Society at the Crystal Palace, and acted as a judge until prevented by growing infirmities and deafness. But few remain who had knowledge of him when in the height of his successes as an exhibitor. His death lessens by one the number still living who acted as jurors at the great International Horticultural Exhibition held at South Kensington in 1866. One of his oldest personal friends was Mr. H. Eckford, of Wem, who was for a time under Mr. Dodds when at Colonel Baker's. *R. D.*

The Garden, 1901 (59), p. 16

OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM DODDS.

THIS old Dahlia grower and exhibitor, who made a great reputation half a century ago as a raiser, died a short time since at Bristol at the advanced age of ninety-two. Coming south from Scotland—of which country he was a native—in 1847 he went into the garden of Colonel Baker, at Salisbury, and in a short time he became head gardener, occupying that position for the space of thirty years. Colonel Baker was a great enthusiast with the Dahlia, and at that time it was being rapidly improved, and Mr. Dodds threw himself into the work of raising new varieties with considerable ardour, and not a few of his productions were put into commerce by his old friend, the late John Keynes. As an exhibitor and cultivator he took a high position. Leaving Salisbury on the death of Colonel Baker, he went as head gardener at Ashton Court, Sir Grevette Smythe's seat at Bristol, where he remained until he went into retirement. Until his infirmities prevented him, he came every year to London to act as judge at the exhibition of the National Dahlia Society at the Crystal Palace, meeting there old associates like Mr. H. Eckford, who was under Mr. Dodds at Colonel Baker's for a time. Mr. Dodds may be said to have outlived his contemporaries, and men who do that are speedily forgotten.

Gardeners' Chronicle, 1886, i, p. 248

Obituary.

MR. D. DOIG.—The horticulturists of Scotland and many on the other side of the border will regret to learn that this long well-known gardener has passed away. He died at his house, Rossie Priory Gardens, a few days ago. Nearly a year since he was seized with paralysis, and in June last he was laid aside from active duty, but took a keen interest in the work at the gardens to the last day of his life. He was born at Kirkinch, parish of Meigle, in 1821, and served his time as an apprentice under Mr. James Kidd, who was gardener at Rossie Priory for fifty years. Mr. Doig also prosecuted the study of botany, and was well acquainted with the wild plants of Britain. After serving his apprenticeship he was gardener to various gentlemen, and on the retirement of Mr. Kidd, twenty years ago, he was appointed head gardener at Rossie Priory, the seat of Lord Kinnaird, where he gave great satisfaction. His services were often in requisition at horticultural exhibitions, and he was widely known as a writer in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* and in other horticultural and botanical journals.

of the Royal Horticultural Society; Mr. Philip Crowley, Treasurer of the R.H.S.; Mr. H. E. Williams, Past Master of the Fruiterers' Company; Mr. J. Butcher, Solicitor to the Nursery and Seed Trades' Protection Society; the Rev. F. H. Gall, Messrs. T. W. Girdlestone, Harry J. Veitch, J. Herbert Veitch, C. T. Druery, Henry J. Pearson, H. Wallis, C. E. Pearson, Geo. Prince, H. Herbst, H. Turner, George Bunyard, W. J. Jefferies, A. F. Barron, Joseph Cheal, &c. There was a selection of vocal and instrumental music, kindly given by some amateurs, which had been arranged by Messrs. Bunyard and Turner, and a most pleasant and successful meeting was enjoyed by all present, the only matter of regret being that the venerable and venerated Chairman announced his intention owing to increasing years to retire from his office, which he has found latterly to be somewhat of a burden. The announcement was received with universal regret. He has been Chairman since the formation of the Club, and has always shown great interest in its welfare. The toast of the Royal Horticultural Society was proposed by Mr. Harry J. Veitch, and responded to by the Rev. W. Wilks, who spoke encouragingly of its prospects, and was glad to bear witness to the fact mentioned by the Secretary, that the first step in the improvement of its position was made at one of the dinners of the Club, when the outside Committee was nominated, and he hoped that both the Society and the Club might go on and prosper.

CULTURE OF GREENHOUSE RHODODENDRONS.

[Prize Essay read by Mr. R. G. WATERMAN, Woolton, before the Members of the Woolton Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Society, February 5th, 1891.]

(*Continued from page 132*).

COMPOST AND POTTING.—These details require the attention of intelligent and practical workers. When it is stated a plant may be kept in the same pot for seven, ten, or even more years it is sufficient to prove that the work must be carried out in the best possible manner. Although they vary considerably in growth and appearance their requirements as to soil are similar. Good selected peat, with all sour portions removed, may be broken up into pieces the size of walnuts, and for very large plants double that size; to this add fully one-fourth of sharp silver sand and a little broken charcoal, to be carefully and thoroughly mixed. Pots should be selected of good shape and well burned, which will be less liable to become green, which is obnoxious to the eye and detrimental to the health of the plant. The pots and crocks alike should be scrupulously clean, and in arranging the drainage select well fitting pieces to cover the holes, placing the hollow side downwards; follow carefully with piece after piece until sufficient is arranged, which should be from 1 to 3 inches in depth, according to the size of the pot. A layer of sphagnum or rough moss over the drainage will prevent the soil being washed down or blocking a free water course. A portion of the roughest of the material can be put in next to the depth required, making it firm, and everything is in readiness for the plant, which must undergo close inspection.

The ball or root should be like the compost, just a happy medium between wet and dry. If the ball or potting soil be soddened or wet the whole will become an impervious mass, in which the young rootlets cannot thrive, as an open porous mixture is one important item towards success. If too dry it will be impossible to thoroughly moisten it after potting, which means death to all the fine fibres that may come in contact with it. If there be any doubt that the plant may be dry at the bottom or centre of the ball place it in a tub of water, just covering the rim of the pot, and let it remain an hour or so, and then after a day or two it will be in safe condition for repotting. Like all other hardwooded plants these require firm potting, using a blunt-pointed stick for a rammer at intervals until the pot is sufficiently full which should be within three-quarters of an inch in small pots to 1½ inch in those of very large size.

No rule can be laid down as to how often a plant should be repotted. Whilst in a young state a small shift may prove beneficial every year or two, but in large specimens seven or ten years will be sufficient. Old plants may remain in the same pots while they continue to make fair growth and are in good health. After potting the plants may stand a day or so before watering, and if a sprinkling of sand be scattered on the top it will wash down the sides if there is the slightest crevice. When planted out in beds or borders the above instructions should be followed. The most approved times or seasons for repotting are spring, early autumn, or immediately after the young growth is made, those especially advised being after the growth is completed for the Java section, and early autumn for the Himalayan and their allies.

THE TEMPERATURE.—That of a greenhouse is required for the general collection, not less than 55° while making their growth, which can be reduced to 50° afterwards, and in the winter to 40°. These are extreme minimum temperatures. The Javanicum type will require 5° higher than those named. After the growth is completed ventilate freely to ripen the young growth. In the case of young plants a span-roofed frame at this juncture will prove an admirable position. Syringing will prove very beneficial during the season of growth, refreshing the plants and producing a humid atmosphere which they much enjoy.

INSECTS.—Rhododendrons are fairly free from these pests. At times mealy bug will prove troublesome by getting under the scales of the flower buds. If such is the case, great care must be exercised while the foliage is young and tender, but when it is ripened and hard stronger measures can be resorted to in the form of insecticides. Fir tree or lemon oil, Gishurst compound or petroleum mixed at regulation strength and dropped on the buds will have the desired effect, a washing of clean water to follow the operation. Scale occasionally gets a foothold, but a careful sponging with one of the above-named mixtures will make itself felt. Some of the woolly foliaged varieties, such as Edgeworthi, are more difficult to manage, but determination will win the day.

FEEDING AND WATERING.—An occasional supply of soot water, or a sprinkling of Standen's manure will prove of service if the pot is full of roots and the growth puny and weak. The general management as regards watering is very similar to most hardwooded plants, a plentiful supply during the season of growth, but limiting the amount somewhat after that period, or a second growth may start, which will probably mean the loss of a crop of flowers, and a tendency to weak immature wood. Special care should be taken when the plants are placed on ash or earth spaces to prevent worms entering the holes at the bottom of the pots, which will soon mean defective drainage, sour soil, and unsatisfactory plants. A slate, or some other hard flat surface should be placed for the pots to stand on, or for large specimens three small pots placed in triangular form will prove a secure base.

TRAINING.—All Rhododendrons require some attention in this matter. The strong growers must be watched, or leggy plants will soon be the result. Nuttalli, and those of like growth, must be pruned back occasionally while young, or the growing buds rubbed off; otherwise the plants will represent a series of broomsticks with a tuft of leaves at the point. Veitchianum and Countess of Haddington should be watched, and occasionally a shoot may require stopping, or a tie may be given to keep the plant in bush form. Lady Alice Fitzwilliam, fragrantissimum, Gibsoni, Edgeworthi, and others of similar character will require supporting, which can be done by wire frames in pyramid or globular form. This section can also be utilised as climbers, or for covering walls, where their large evergreen leaves prove effective even when not in bloom. Many of the Java section will require some slight support, which should be done with as few sticks as possible, and fine ties.

SELECTION OF VARIETIES.—Although no mention is made of this matter in the title, yet it appears requisite, for to have a thorough knowledge of the cultural requirements of any class of plants it is essential to have a full acquaintance with their habits, size, and any peculiar traits they may possess, and for this purpose the species may be divided into two sections—the Java, or perpetual flowering, and the Himalayan. In the first named we have the brilliant and beautiful hybrids, for which we are chiefly indebted to Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons of Chelsea, and Messrs. Fisher, Son, & Sibray, Sheffield; and in addition to those well known in our gardens we have R. balsaminæflorum varieties, with exquisite double flowers which have been compared to the Tuberose, Gardenia, &c. The three varieties in commerce bear white, yellow, and rose coloured flowers. Among the stronger growing varieties the following are recommended:—Dalhousiæ (an epiphyte), Falconeri, fulgens, Maddeni, Nuttalli; and for moderate-sized houses the following will be found suitable:—Veitchianum, fragrantissimum, Lady Alice Fitzwilliam, Edgeworthi, Virginale, and others.

THE LATE MR. JOHN DOMINY.

WE hear with much regret that Mr. John Dominy died at the age of seventy-five on February 12th, after two days' illness, from inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy. The following account of his career, with the portrait, was given in this Journal in 1880, when, after a term of forty-three years' service with Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, he retired on a substantial annuity. He was born at Gittisham in 1816, and in due time was apprenticed to Mr. Guscott, gardener to the Misses Putt, Pomeroy House, Gittisham, Devon. At eighteen years of age—namely, in 1834—he went to Messrs. Lucombe, Pince, & Co.'s Nursery at

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Exeter, and remained there three months. From thence he removed to Messrs. Veitch's nursery in the same town, and remained there until June, 1841. He then went as head gardener to J. Pellagor, Esq., Redruth, and remained in that capacity four and a half years. During that time he took between seventy and eighty prizes for fruit, vegetables, and flowers. He returned to Messrs. Veitch's Exeter Nursery, working in conjunction with the late Mr. James Veitch until his removal to London, and he remained at Exeter with Mr. James Veitch, senr., twelve years. During his stay at the Exeter Nursery he commenced his first attempts at the hybridisation of Nepenthes and Orchids, the results of which have now become so widely known. In 1864 he removed to London to take charge of the Royal Exotic Nursery, Chelsea. On Mr. Dominy leaving Exeter he was presented with a silver tankard and cream jug, value £20, by the Devon and Exeter Horticultural Association, "in acknowledgment of his valuable services to the Society during his connection with Messrs. Veitch," who also presented him with a cream jug to match "in commemoration of his having been the first successful hybridiser of Nepenthes and Orchids in Europe." He also had the large silver medal of the above Society "for his perseverance and success in raising the first hybrid Orchid," this medal being dated 1858, and refers to Calanthe Dominii, the result of a cross between C. masuca and C. furcata. About twenty-nine hybrid Orchids, Nepenthes, and Fuchsias were also raised during Mr. Dominy's service at Exeter and Chelsea. In late years he has been a member of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, at whose meetings he was a regular attendant.

FIG. 28.—THE LATE MR. JOHN DOMINY.

AMERICAN AZALEAS AND AZALEA MOLLIS.

These beautiful and floriferous plants are worthy of more extensive cultivation, as few are so easily forced during the early spring months or give a better return for the labour bestowed upon

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Gloucester Spinster who died 4 August 1891 at Cheltenham was proved at **Gloucester** by Daniel Pegler of 3 Clare-street Plumber the Nephew the sole Executor.

DOMINÉ Charles.

Personal Estate £171 10s. 3d.

18 April. Administration of the Personal Estate of Charles Dominé late of 67 South-Lambeth-road in the County of **Surrey** Estate Agent who died 23 April 1875 at 67 South-Lambeth-road left unadministered by Eliza Dominé Widow the Relict was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Maria Pymm (Wife of George Pymm) of 79 Carlton-street Kentish Town in the County of Middlesex the Niece and only Next of Kin. **Former Grant** Principal Registry June 1875.

DOMINÉ Eliza.

Personal Estate £357 18s. 9d.

21 February. The Will of Eliza Dominé late of Lillington House New-lane Lymington in the County of **Southampton** Widow who died 29 December 1890 at Lillington House was proved at **Winchester** by William Grant Sandell of 2 Albion-place in the Town and County of the Town of Southampton Shipping Agent the sole Executor.

DOMINEY Sarah.

Personal Estate £157 5s. 2d.

9 March. Administration of the Personal Estate of Sarah Dominey late of Lytchett Minster in the County of **Dorset** Spinster who died 21 February 1891 at Lytchett Minster was granted at **Blandford** to Sophia Talbot of Lytchett Minster Widow the Sister and one of the Next of Kin.

DOMINY John.

Personal Estate £5,959 14s. 5d.

2 April. The Will of John Dominy formerly of 11 but late of 12 Tadema-road Chelsea in the County of **Middlesex** Gentleman who died 12 February 1891 at 12 Tadema-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by George Dominy of 21 High-street Southampton in the County of Southampton Manager of the Capital and Counties Bank Limited the Son one of the surviving Executors.

DOMINY John James.

Personal Estate £2,049 6s. 2d.
Resworn December 1891 £2,249 6s. 2d.

30 April. The Will of John James Dominy late of 38 Croudace-road Fulham in the County of **Middlesex** Bank Accountant who died 7 March 1891 at 38 Croudace-road was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Martha Anne Dominy of Moreton House London-road Cheltenham in the County of Gloucester Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DOMMETT Abraham.

Personal Estate £222 5s. 3d.

17 February. Administration of the Personal Estate of Abraham Dommett late of Love-lane Oldswinford in the County of **Worcester** who died 24 January 1891 at Love-lane was granted at **Worcester** to Ellisson Dommett of Love-lane Widow the Relict.

DOMMETT John.

Personal Estate £146 19s.

6 November. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Dommett late of 17 Barlow-Moor-road Didsbury Manchester in the County of **Lancaster** Fruiterer who died 30 March 1889 at 17 Barlow-Moor-road was granted at **Manchester** to Mary Ann Dommett of 42 Park-road Dukinfield in the County of Chester Widow the Relict.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Don, George (1798–1856), *botanist and plant collector*
by William T. Stearn
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Don, George (1798–1856), botanist and plant collector, was born at Doo Hillock, Forfarshire, Scotland, on 17 May 1798, the eldest of the five sons of George Don (1764–1814), clockmaker turned nurseryman, who discovered many highland plants new to Scotland, and principal gardener (1802–6) at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. David Don (1799–1841) was a younger brother. After horticultural experience in the nursery of Messrs Dickson at Broughton, near Edinburgh, Don worked from 1816 to 1821 as foreman gardener in the Chelsea Physic Garden. In December 1821 he began a voyage with Captain Edward Sabine to Madeira, Sierra Leone, São Tomé, the West Indies, and Brazil, his task everywhere to collect seeds, plants, bulbs, and herbarium specimens for the Horticultural Society's garden. He returned in February 1823 having successfully assembled many new plants but, as he violated an agreement not to publish on what he had collected, the society dismissed him in 1825. He published, in 1827, *A Monograph of the Genus Allium*, a preprint from *Memoirs of the Wernerian Society* (6, 1832, 1–102). This and his 'Review of the genus *Combretum*' in *Transactions of the Linnean Society* (15, 1826, 412–41) made evident his botanical ability and he was commissioned to prepare *A General System of Botany and Gardening* (4 vols., 1831–8), an excellent work, but one which was financially unsuccessful and never completed. He later provided the botanical section for the *Encyclopaedia metropolitana* (2, 1843). Don was elected an associate of the Linnean Society of London in 1822 and a fellow in 1831. He died, unmarried, in Kensington on 25 February 1856.

WILLIAM T. STEARN

Sources *Cottage Gardener*, 16 (1856), 152–3 · *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London* (1855–6), xxxix–xli · H. R. Fletcher, *The story of the Royal Horticultural Society, 1804–1968* (1969), 95–6
Archives Linn. Soc., corresp. · Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, daybook [copy] · Royal Horticultural Society, London, journal

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William T. Stearn, 'Don, George (1798–1856)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/7792, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

George Don (1798–1856): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/7792

The Garden, 1873

We also regret to have to announce the death of Mr. James Donald, for many years gardener at Hampton Court, a situation to which he was appointed by Lord Llanover, then Sir Benjamin Hall, and which he has filled with so much credit to himself. Mr. Donald was fond of natural history and had a good herbarium, as well as a tolerable collection of geological specimens. His knowledge of British plants was extensive, so much so that when foreman in the plant department at Chiswick, some thirty years ago, he offered 6d. to any of the young men in the garden who would bring him a native flowering plant which he could not name. He had long been ailing, but at last died somewhat suddeuly from heart and lung disease.

DONALD James.

Effects under £300.

20 January. The Will of James Donald late of The Palace Hampton Court in the County of **Middlesex** Superintendent of the Palace Gardens who died 13 December 1872 at "The Palace" was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Caroline Donald of "The Palace" Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DONALD Robert Peel.

Effects under £200.

27 September. The Will of Robert Peel Donald late of 49 Grove-street and of 16 Groat Market both in the Town and County of **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** Commission Agent who died 13 September 1873 at 49 Grove-street was proved at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** by George Marshall Steel Donald of 53 Side Newcastle-upon-Tyne Silversmith and Pawnbroker the Brother the sole Executor.

DONALD William.

Effects under £100.

22 December. The Will of William Donald formerly of 17 Walbrook in the City of London Stationer but late of 1A Princes-street Finsbury in the County of **Middlesex** Stationer's Assistant who died 22 November 1873 at 1A Princes-street was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Jane Donald of 1A Princes-street Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DONALDSON John.

Effects under £100.

9 May. The Will (as contained in Writings marked A and B) of John Donaldson late of 107 Church-street North Shields in the County of **Northumberland** Master Mariner who died 8 October 1865 at 107 Church-street was proved at **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** by John Donaldson of 89 Linskill-street North Shields River Policeman the Son an Executor. The **Probate** of the Writing marked A granted at Newcastle-upon-Tyne August 1872 having been revoked.

DONALDSON Mary.

Effects under £450.

29 January. The Will with a Codicil of Mary Donaldson late of Botcherby in the Parish of St. Cuthbert Carlisle in the County of **Cumberland** Widow who died 2 January 1873 at Botcherby was proved at **Carlisle** by John Hamilton of Botcherby Gardener and Thomas Mowbray of the City of Carlisle Builder the Executors.

DONE Richard Sutton.

Effects under £1,500.

7 January. The Will with a Codicil of Richard Sutton Done late of Bickley Hall in the Parish of Malpas in the County of **Chester** Farmer who died 28 June 1872 at Bickley Hall was proved at **Chester** by Richard Sutton Done of Bickley Hall Farmer the Son and Elizabeth Done of Bickley Hall Widow the Relict two of the Executors.

DONEY John.

Effects under £200.

22 May. Administration of the effects of John Doney late of the Parish of St. Cleer in the County of **Cornwall** Water Bailiff a Widower who died 1 May 1873 at St. Cleer was granted at **Bodmin** to John Doney of St. Cleer Labourer the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

DONEY Joshua.

Effects under £1,000.

8 December. Administration of the effects of Joshua Doney late of Doublebois in the Parish of Liskeard in the County of **Cornwall** Merchant who died 21 August 1873 at Doublebois was granted at **Bodmin** to Sarah Doney of Doublebois Widow the Relict.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Donn, James (1758–1813), *botanist and gardener*
by S. Max Walters
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Donn, James (1758–1813), botanist and gardener, was born in Perthshire. He began his horticultural training under William Aiton at Kew, and was appointed curator of the university botanic garden in Cambridge in 1794, in which post he remained until his death in 1813. His name is associated with a remarkable publication, *Hortus Cantabrigiensis*, the first edition of which Donn published in 1796. In the preface he explains that his book 'is not simply a catalogue of the plants actually grown in the small Walkerian garden, but contains also [plants] that are yet required to render the collection more worthy of [the botany student's] notice'. This book ran to thirteen editions, the last one dated 1845, and became, long after the original author's death, a standard reference work for both botanists and gardeners, giving compact information on the world's flora, native or exotic, as represented in British gardens. The preface to the tenth edition by John Lindley explains that Donn himself greatly enlarged the scope of his book from the fifth edition, so that it ceased to be in any way limited to what he grew in the Cambridge garden.

Donn owed his appointment at Cambridge to Sir Joseph Banks. He greatly extended the plant collections in Cambridge, especially with gifts from Kew. There are several testaments to Donn's skill in cultivating plants. Thus the entomologist William Kirby recorded in his journal his impressions of a visit to the garden in July 1797: 'Mr Newton of Jesus accompanied us to the Botanical Garden, which, by the abilities and industry of Mr Don [*sic*], the Curator, is now in excellent order; the collection of plants is greatly augmented, and the labels are in general accurate' (Freeman, 106). Donn became a fellow of the Linnean Society in 1812. He died in Cambridge on 14 June 1813.

S. MAX WALTERS

Sources B. Henrey, *British botanical and horticultural literature before 1800*, 2 (1975), 237–9 · S. M. Walters, *The shaping of Cambridge botany* (1981) · *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* (18 June 1813) · J. Freeman, *Life of the Rev. William Kirby, M.A.* (1852)
Archives U. Cam., department of plant sciences, herbarium specimens

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S. Max Walters, 'Donn, James (1758–1813)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/7816, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

James Donn (1758–1813): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/7816

Art. XIII. *Obituary.*

Died, at Hull, on the 17th of December last, William Donn, C.M.H.S., Curator of the Botanic Garden of that place, which situation he held since its establishment sixteen years ago, and discharged the duties thereof to the entire satisfaction of the subscribers. It is but justice to the memory of Mr. Donn, to say that his knowledge of plants, and their mode of cultivation, was equal to that of most men of his day. His experience in horticulture commenced in Scotland, where he was born in Fifeshire, in 1787. He lived some years at the late Dr. Swainson's, of Twickenham, and afterwards at Sion House, under the late Mr. Hoy: thence he went to Hull. Mr. Donn was the nephew of the late Mr. Donn of Cambridge.—*B. Jan.* 1828.

duced into this country a hundred and twenty years ago—in 1789. For some reason or other it has dropped out of cultivation here, but does that make it new? The new shoots are said to have an excellent flavour, and as they start into growth very early, they can easily be forced throughout the winter.

Naturalised Crocuses.

April 29th.—Lord Avebury includes two species of Crocus (C. nudiflorus and C. vernus)

MR. T. DOWN.

among native plants. It is true that they do grow wild in certain parts of the country, but they came originally from Western Europe, and have merely become naturalised here. The conditions under which they came to produce their annual corms, the new on top of the old, must have been different from those which exist in England. Though all the material of the old corms is used up in the growth of the year, it seems rather a waste of labour. The nectar plentifully secreted at the bottom of the tube, though useful in attracting insects, often leads to the destruction of the flowers in gardens, for, in order to get at it, sparrows peck them to pieces. Possibly, a grain of some unsavoury compound dropped inside might act as a deterrent.

How Eelworms Destroy Plants.

April 30th.—Some years ago a French botanist propounded the theory that bulbs or tubers had a bacterial origin. It would, of course, be very difficult to prove, and was, no doubt, suggested by the fact that insects, bacteria or fungi, frequently do cause abnormal growths at the points attacked, whether on the stems or on the roots. Such growths may be actually beneficial, as in the case of the nodules on the roots of leguminous plants, such as Peas, for they result from the operations of the bacteria which "fix" the free nitrogen in the atmosphere, and so render it available for the plants. But there are others which are the forerunners of death—those, for example, which are sometimes found on the roots of the Tomato and the Melon. The plant is growing well, when more or less suddenly the leaves begin to flag—at first generally during the hottest part of the day. The cause is attributed to drought or excessive heat, and shade and water being followed by revival, the idea is supposed to be correct. But gradually the trouble gets worse; it becomes permanent, even night bringing little relief; and eventually the plant dies. If it is then taken up, nodules of various sizes, sometimes a quarter of an inch through, will be found on the roots. They have been caused by eelworms, organisms so small that they can be seen only under a microscope, but terribly destructive. The soil will probably be full of them, and will be a source of danger for the whole garden unless it is disinfected by saturating it with a strong solution of carbolic acid. Of course, it must not be again planted for several months afterwards.

Uses for Bulbs.

May 1st.—One excellent way of using Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips, and other bulbs is to grow them in pots in the conservatory in spring, and, when they have finished flowering, to plant them out in odd corners of the garden. In this way many places which would otherwise be neglected may be made beautiful in the course of a few years, and, as one wanders round, the eye meets many delightful surprises. If there is a bank at the base of the surrounding hedge, it is an admirable site for bulbs which have served their purpose in pots.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

The Gardens at Basing Park, Alton.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. T. DOWN.

THE gardens at Basing Park, which I visited in March, by the courteous permission of the owner, Mr. William Nicholson, J.P., owe much to a delightful position, and to careful attention. On my arrival, the head gardener, Mr. Down, suggested that we should begin by inspecting a portion of the gardens which is now in process of development. It is called a wild garden, but, with many natural charms, it has lately received important and interesting additions; and for all practical purposes it forms a continuation of the beautiful and extensive shrubberies.

"We do not go in for modern styles," said Mr. Down, as we proceeded up the slopes, "but do the best we can to preserve the charms of the gardens on old-fashioned lines, introducing new varieties, and taking, of course, full advantage of the best-known methods of cultivation."

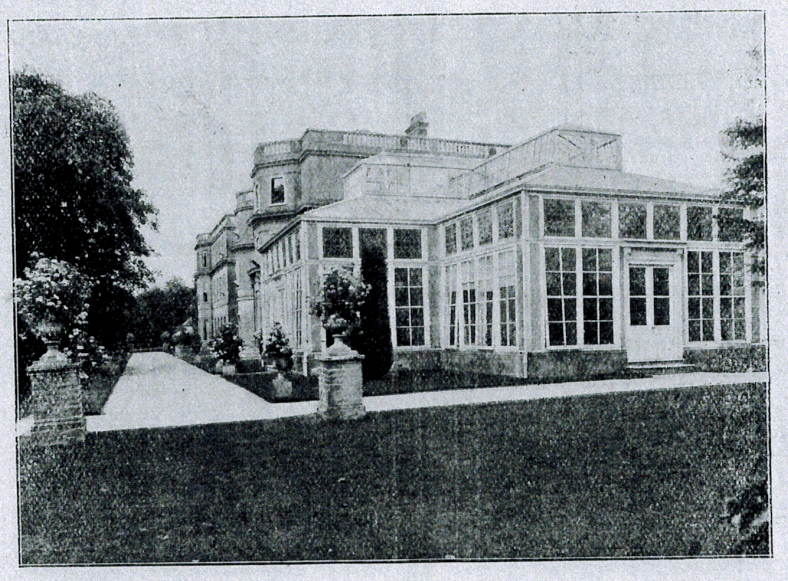
"What is the nature of the soil?"

"Clay. It is very dry in summer, and very wet in winter. Conifers do well, as you can judge for yourself."

"You have some fine specimens of Abies?"

"Yes, there is a very fine specimen of grandis, and other notable specimens are A. orientalis, A. cephalonica, and A. Albertiana. Cupressus are represented by Lawsoniana and gigantea, Pinus by insignis, and Sequoia by sempervirens. The younger specimens of Conifers include Abies concolor, A. Smithiana, A. grandis, A. Nordmanniana, A. fulgens glauca, and Sciadopitys verticillata."

"I see you have a number of Rhododendrons. Do you give them much assistance?"



THE CONSERVATORY AT BASING PARK.

"We trench the ground, and add peat and cow manure. The varieties comprise a number of the newest and several of the older, including Pink Pearl, Charles Dickens, Duchess of Connaught, Frederick Waterer, Giganteum, John Henry Agnew, John Waterer, Kate Waterer, Lady Godiva, Michael Waterer, Mrs. Tom Agnew, Mrs. William Bovil, Nobleanum, Prince Camille de Rohan, Sefton, The Queen, Titian, and Catawbiense. In order to brighten the Rhododendron beds in summer, we have a few Dorothy Perkins Roses, which show up well against the foliage of the Rhododendrons. In the same way we mix Liliums with Azaleas in the summer. Last year we had fifty-two flowers on one spike of Lilium tigrinum."

"Do you use peat for the Azalea beds?"

"Both peat and loam. A quantity of manure is also used. We put five loads on the large bed of Azaleas, which is five yards wide and thirteen yards long. It was only planted in April of last year. The Liliums are taken from the pots in which they are grown."

The Newer Shrubs.

"When did you start your clumps of Bamboos?"

"Four years ago. The varieties which are doing specially well are Arundinaria metake, Phyllostachys viridi-glaucescens, and P. nigra. Just about here we are going to naturalise a quantity of Anemone japonica, which thrive under similar conditions."

"You might, please, indicate some of the newer shrubs?"

"Clethra canescens, Buddleia variabilis, B. variabilis Veitchiana, and B. magnifica, Cornus macrophylla, Clerodendron trichotomum, Eucryphia pinnatifolia, a fine plant of the New Zealand Lace-bark tree, Plagianthus Lyalli, Escallonia Langleyensis, and Exochorda grandiflora. The varieties of Berberis grouped together are stenophylla, Darwinii, japonica, aquifolium, Wallichiana, buxifolius, and b. nanus, vulgaris, and aristata. Menziesias (Irish Heath) are planted in masses."

"I notice that some of your shrubs have suffered from the recent severe weather."

"It played serious havoc with the Escallonias, Azara microphylla, Choisya ternata, Olearia Haastii and Gunniana, Euonymus Griselinia, Laurustinus, Pittosporum Mayanum, Abelia rupestris, Erica arborea, and Podocarpus Totara; and it absolutely killed Carpenteria californica, Cæsalpinia japonica, the Metrosideros (Bottle-brush), and Loropetalum chinense."

Apples on Mounds.

"You have an orchard adjoining the shrubberies, full of standards."

"With young trees on mounds, and old trees planted on the level; but they all yield good crops. Bush Apple trees are grown in the walled-in garden. It may interest you to know that for all Apple trees on mounds the stations are thoroughly dug, but holes made. The trees are then placed in position, and a mixed compost of loam, lime-rubble, and wood ashes is mounded up over the roots. The mounds are about ten feet in diameter and are enlarged as required. We find that the results of this system are very satisfactory."

The Rosery.

At this point we crossed the road, and entered the pleasure grounds, close to this entrance being a pretty little Rosery, with a fountain in the centre, and a bank of Rhododendron Doncaster—a scarlet variety—at the back.

"Are the Roses mixed?" I asked.

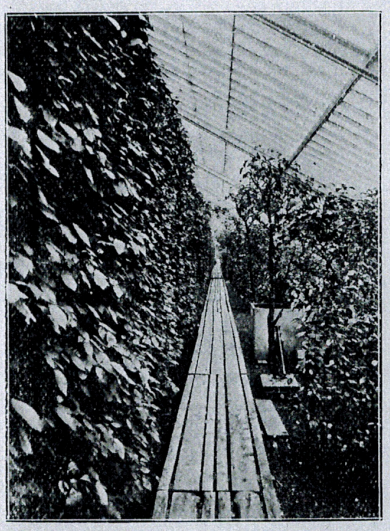
"Many of them, but in one bed Frau Karl Druschki and Captain Christy are planted alternately; in another, pink and white Maman Cochet; and there are beds of Madame Abel Chatenay and General Jacqueminot. Then Duke of Edinburgh and Richmond are grouped together; and there are beds of Killarney, Papa Gontier, and La France. Some of these varieties are planted in the Rose beds on either side of the walk to the orchard house, where Roses alternate with Irish Yews and standard Portugal Laurels. Under the front of the orchard house are Lilies of the Valley, with Asters and Scabious on either side."

"Then, there is the long walk in front of the orchard house?"

"It is a hundred yards long, the feature being the clipped Laurels, the common Yews grafted with Golden Yews, and the clipped Portugal Laurels. Behind these are plants grown for cutting flowers, in separate beds, such as Larkspurs, Antirrhinums, Nigellas, Phlox Drummondi, Lupins, Cornflowers, Statice, and Gypsophila. Just here are some old standard Pears, covered with climbing Roses Hiawatha, Alberic Barbier, Lady Gay, Ards Rover, and Lady Waterlow; these were only put in twelve months ago. Speaking of flowers grown for cutting, elsewhere we have quantities of Salpiglossis, Gladiolus, Montbretias, Nemesias, and Stocks, of which about two thousand were grown last year, all planted for that purpose."

The Culture of Alpines.

Passing on to the front lawn, I was much impressed with the rockery, which was only made last May, and here we spent a considerable time.



The Fruit House at Basing Park Gardens.

"The most important point in Alpine culture," said Mr. Down, as we noticed the plants coming into flower, "is thorough drainage. As to construction, the main portion of the rockery is made of Purbeck rock, which is a limestone, and the compost consists of road-grit, sand, loam, a little well-decayed manure, and leaf-soil, with lime-rubbish added when required. The nice group of hardy Cyclamen now in flower was planted in a mixture of peat, leaf-mould, sand, and lime-rubbish."

"And the Ericas also in flower?"

"They were planted in peat. The varieties are mediterranea and carnea. The clumps of Lithospermum prostratum are almost always in flower. This plant detests lime, so we use very sandy peat for it. Saxifrages Burseriana and Elizabetha are also in flower. We are very careful about soil and aspect for particular plants. Thus, a group of Ramondia pyrenaica is planted in shade and peat at the side of a wall. In fact, one portion of the rockery is constructed with sandstone and peat for peat-loving plants, such as Rhododendrons hirsutum, ferrugineum, and kamschaticum, Azaleas rosæflora, Daphnes, Cypripediums spectabile and Tibeticum, Shortia galicifolia, Campanula pulla, Tricuspidaria Hookerianum, Philesia buxifolia, and Dianthus alpinus."

"The treatment of any other varieties would be helpful."

"Androsace sarmentosa we cover with glass, to keep out winter rain. Androsace lanuginosa does well planted in very sandy soil, to which peat is added. Gentiana verna is planted here and there all over the rockery, in order to give a splash of its lovely blue over the whole. This is an idea of Colonel Nicholson, M.P., who takes a keen interest in rock plants. With Miss Gertrude Nicholson, he personally superintended and assisted in making the rockery. The Sphæralcea is very pretty hanging over rocks. It does well in any soil, but is not hardy. Cuttings rooted in autumn, wintered in a cold frame, and planted in April or May, make fine plants in a few weeks. There are many varieties of Thymus, notably lanuginosa, which is pretty hanging over rocks."

The Italian Garden.

"Just beyond the rockery," continued Mr. Down, "we have taken up a large Cupressus, and put in its place a bed of hardy Fuchsias. Facing this is a bank of Pentstemons, which we grow in masses of distinct colours. They are wintered in cold frames, cuttings being struck in September, and planted in April where they are to grow and flower, the ground being deeply dug and heavily manured. Now we come to the Italian garden, which is adorned on the south side with Rhododendrons, in front of which, and running over in the summer, is a mass of Tropæolum speciosum, which is admired as much as anything in the gardens."

"How do you fill the beds with Box borders in summer?"

"The colouring is yellow, scarlet, orange, and white, the flowers being Begonias Lafayette, Heliotropes Madame du Buzzy and President Garfield, and white Phlox, a carpet bed in front having Alternanthera, Mesembryanthemum, Alyssum maritima, and Begonia Miniature Crimson Gem."

Noticing on the lawn some fine specimens of Cedar of Lebanon, Taxodium distichum, Cypress, and the Venetian Sumach, and on a long wall near the mansion a number of shrubs, including Garrya elliptica, Wistaria sinensis, Choisya ternata, Myrtles, Hydrangeas, Ceanothus Veitchi and Gloire de Versailles, Cydonia, Clematis and Jasminum, I enquired how the vases on the terrace, which seemed to be a feature, are filled.

"No less than five hundred plants are required for these. We use chiefly Ivy-leaved Geraniums Souvenir de Charles Turner and Madame Crousse, with Geraniums Achievement, and Fuchsias Madame Aubin and Olympia, which blend well with the rose-coloured Begonias. We have also four vases filled with Phlox Drummondi."

"That is quite a novelty; do you find them a success?"

"So great a success that we have had them for eight years; they show a great mass of colour, and are most useful, but, of course, they have to be fed well for the purpose."

Features of the Conservatory.

"You have a noble conservatory, and some good climbers on the roof."

"The climbers include Lapagerias rosea and alba, Tacsonias, Habrothamnus, Plumbago capensis, and Bougainvillea glabra."

"What is the name of the plant with the flesh-coloured flower?"

"Luculia gratissima. It is beautifully scented, and lasts in flower about eight weeks, but it needs a good deal of shade. The plants in flower include Narcissus, Polyanthus, Hyacinths in variety, Freesias (one raceme with thirteen flowers), a number of Lachenalia Nelsoni on a marble bust (a mass of golden flowers in winter), Cineraria stellata (which are coming into flower), Camellias (white, pink, and blush, all on one stem, which are very much appreciated because they do not drop), and a large

batch of Primula kewensis. Then there are some fine specimens of Tree Ferns which are a handsome addition to the conservatory. Just outside is our other formal flower garden, with a fountain in the centre, and a number of vases. The latter are filled with Wallflowers, and in the water are several choice varieties of Water Lilies."

"What is your scheme of summer bedding?"

"In the circular beds we plant Geraniums Niphetos (white), Begonias (rose colour), and pyramid Heliotropes, seven or eight feet high. The carpet bedding is much the same as in the Italian garden, except that we use, in addition, dwarf Iresines and single Lobelias."

The Orchard House.

"How long has your orchard house been planted?"

"The plants are all about six years old, except that of Stirling Castle Peach, which is eight years old, and from which we got three hundred fruits last year. Half the house is devoted to Peaches and Nectarines, with Cherries at the back, and the other half to Plums and Pears. For at least the last four years we have begun picking fruit in June, and continued to the middle of November."

"What are the varieties of Pears in the orchard house?"

"Doyenne du Comice, Glou Morceau, Belle Julie, Marie Louise, Marie Benoist, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Fouqueray, Comte de Lamy, Josephine de Malines, Knight's Monarch, Marguerite Marillat, Nouvelle Fulvie, Pitmaston Duchess, Williams's Bon Chretien, etc."

Root-pruning Peaches.

"Do you grow many varieties here of Nectarines and Peaches?"

"The Nectarines are Downton, Dryden, Humboldt, Pitmaston Orange, Precoce de Croncels, and Spencer. The Peaches are Bellegarde, Dymond, Early Alfred, Hale's Early, Peregrine, Early Alexander, and Stirling Castle. All the trees in this house are mulched in summer."

"How often do you root-prune Peaches and Nectarines?"

"Every two years for the first few years. Loam, with lime rubble, is freely used, being the staple soil; and during the growing season the trees are well watered and syringed. They are never allowed to become dry either in winter or summer, except when they are maturing their fruit. Basic slag is used as a winter dressing, with kainit and bonemeal. Cherries are kept a little drier at the roots, and, as soon as fruit is fully developed, syringing is discontinued to prevent cracking. The varieties are Early Rivers, Black Tartarian, Bigarreau Napoleon, and Bigarreau."

From the orchard house we naturally made our way to the fruit garden, where a large cage containing Gooseberries immediately attracted my attention.

"They are all dessert varieties," said Mr. Brown, "of which Langley Gage, to my taste, is the sweetest, and Whitesmith still one of the best."

"You might, please, describe the training."

"The Gooseberries are palmate-trained, and cordons are planted against iron supports, which are split at the top to allow the wire-netting to fit in, and serve the double purpose of supporting the trees and the top wire-netting against snow. The leaders of the cordons are trained to a height of six feet, and instead of spurring closely (as usual), the side-branches, which are mainly disposed, are allowed to extend eighteen inches to two feet, and afterwards kept spurred. This is an idea of my own. The fruit looks very pretty, hanging from the thinly-disposed branches, is easy to gather, and sun and air are freely admitted. Before the ground was planted, it was trenched and manured, and in dry weather the trees are mulched. Red and Black Currants are also grown under the cage. Boskoop Giant is the favourite Black, and the Reds are La Versaillaise, Raby Castle, Red Dutch, and Fay's Prolific."

"How long do you keep your Strawberry plants?"

"Only three years, a third of them being discarded annually."

Sweet Peas and Chrysanthemums.

"How do you grow Sweet Peas?"

"In rows and clumps, in trenched and heavily manured ground. Three layers of farmyard manure are used, and superphosphate is worked in during February and March. If the summer is dry, periodical waterings with sulphate of ammonia are given. The Marquis, Evelyn Hemus, and a few other new Sweet Peas are being tried this year. We sow a few in autumn, winter them in a cold frame, and plant out in April, for early cutting. The others are sown in March and April."

"Do you go in largely for Chrysanthemums?" I enquired, as we passed the frame grounds, and entered the houses.

"About six hundred are grown for cutting and conservatory decoration. The predominating colours are white and pink, but yellows and crimsons are used; also a few Pompones and singles."

"Your Malmaison Carnations are looking very healthy."

THE GARDENER'S LODGE AT BASING PARK.

"They do remarkably well in this little house, and we have cut as many as a gross at once. The favourite varieties are Old Blush, Princess of Wales, Horace Hutchinson, and Maggie Hodgson. Duchess of Westminster, Prime Minister, King Oscar, Lady Grimston, Nell Gwynne, and Iolanthe are grown only in small quantities."

"What about Cannas?"

"We grow them in pots, and one bed only is planted out annually. Cannas are at their best in fine, warm weather. The varieties used for bedding are Queen Charlotte, Mrs. Strohlein, Duke Ernst, Alphonse Bouvier, and Elizabeth Ho s In the Orchid houses, the features are Cœlogyne cristata, Cattleyas, and Dendrobium nobile, of which, as you see, we have a number in flower. Rather a feature is also made of Calanthes Veitchii. In one of the propagating houses we have a batch of Schizanthus Wisetoniensis, which is splendid for cutting."

How Cyclamens are Grown.

"And a fine batch of Nerines?"

"Yes, and the best of these is, I think, Fothergilli major. The principal Pelargoniums are Edward Perkins, Kingston Beauty, Sunbeam, and Madame Thibaut. Then we grow about two hundred winter-flowering Geraniums for colour, the scarlet including The Sirdar and Scarlet Tunis; the pink, Zenobia and Phyllis; and the white, Dr. Nansen and Eucharis."

"What is your system with Cyclamen?"

"We do not keep the plants more than two years, and use them largely for decoration. Cyclamen generally flag the first day, but if they are dipped in hot water, and the ends cut off, they will last a considerable time. We grow about two hundred in 5-in., 6-in., and 7-in. pots. They are all Sutton's strain, and chiefly white and pink. They begin to flower in October, and go on till April."

"I notice that you grow Pines."

"We get a fair number of good fruits, the varieties being Smith Cayenne, and Queen. As to other inside fruit, you see we have several Vineries. In the early house, Black Hamburgh and two rods of Foster's Seedling are grown; then there is a young house of Muscats, with two rods, inarched on Foster's Seedling, for trial against shanking; a late Vinery with Gros Maroc; and the latest of all with Lady Downe's Seedling. Beyond the Vineries is a Peach house, with one Peach and three Nectarines (Early Rivers, Lord Napier, and Pineapple), which, I think, you will consider are well set."

Notable Vegetables.

"Your vegetable garden is some distance from the main garden."

"About four hundred yards away, and it is enclosed by an Arbor-Vitæ hedge. One of the most important vegetables is Onions; a large quantity is required, and they do well in this heavy soil."

"When do you sow?"

"I have no fixed date for sowing, but believe in getting the seed in as early as possible. This year it was sown the second week in February, as the ground was then in excellent condition. I am glad to say that upon examination the seed does not appear to have been injured by the severe weather, and now they are showing well. Part of the crop is sown in a cold frame early in February, and the young plants are planted out as soon as they are large enough to handle. This is both economical in seed and labour, because it saves weeding and thinning in May. All weeds are kept in check by the Dutch hoe, and the varieties grown are Ailsa

Craig, Veitch's Maincrop, Sutton's Long Keeping, and Bedfordshire Champion."

"What about Potatoes?"

"Early Potatoes only are grown in the garden, the main crop being raised on the farm. The first crop of Peas is grown in a cold frame. This year we use Langley Gem in place of Chelsea Gem. Early Giant and Duke of Albany are two favourite kinds. The ground is always deeply dug and heavily manured for Onions and Peas."

"How do you grow Seakale?"

"In rows, the varieties being Beddard's Improved and Lilywhite. Some of the Seakale is lifted for forcing. but the bulk of it is forced by fermenting material, long boxes being placed over the rows, and a loose board fitted on the top. The ground requires draining for Asparagus to do well. Of Carrots, Matchless and Model are favourites. Celery is grown in large quantities in the usual way, the varieties being Early Rose, Solid White, and Standard Bearer."

Mr. Down's Career.

"Where did you commence your gardening career, Mr. Down?"

"My first five years of experience were gained in Mr. Edgecumbe's market garden, near Malvern, where Peaches and Nectarines were grown for Covent Garden in pots. Strawberries and French Beans were also forced for Covent Garden, and Strawberries and Raspberries were the principal outdoor crops, though Apples and Pears were an important feature. I was next for a short time at Elm Grove, Walton-on-Thames; and then in the Palm house and aquatic house at Kew. From Kew I went to Lathom House Gardens, Ormskirk, where I found a soil that could grow almost anything. At the end of three years I proceeded to Croxteth, remaining there also for three years, the last two being spent in the inside fruit department. My next appointment was as general foreman at Headington Hill, Oxford, where we used to exhibit largely; and then I became head gardener at Lyons Hazlehatch, County Kildare."

"That was your first appointment as head gardener?"

"Yes, and I remained at Lyons until the death of Lady Cloncurry, who was devoted to her garden. Then, after four and a half years' service, I was offered and accepted the post of head gardener to her aunt, Mrs. Strickland Constable, Wassand Hall, Hull, which I filled for seven and a half years. As my prize cards show, I exhibited with much success at Wassand Hall, especially Chrysanthemums and hardy fruit. I won the challenge cup at Beverley for eighteen Japanese blooms the first year it was offered, and at Hull Chrysanthemum Exhibition, then reputed to be one of the best shows in the country. For the rest, my prizes include four silver cups for Chrysanthemums in classes for eighteen blooms of Japanese, and classes for eighteen Incurved. In February, 1901, I came to Basing Park."

ALFRED WILCOX.

A VERY successful exhibit of early English vegetables grown out of doors on the intensive culture system was held at the St. George's Hall, Canterbury, on April 24th, under the auspices of the Anglo-French Stour Valley Gardening School, of Westbere, Canterbury. Various medals and certificates were awarded, and there was a numerous and influential attendance.

THE spring exhibition at the Horticultural Hall, Boston, closed on Sunday, April 3rd, after a phenomenal run of eleven days. The "gate money" amounted to nearly 7,000 dollars, the Massachusetts Horticultural Society being about 5,000 dollars in pocket as a result of the event. The great feature of the show was a wonderful Japanese garden, for the design and construction of which Mr. J. F. M. Farquhar was honoured with a special diploma for distinguished service.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 353.—VIOLETS.

DEAR KATE,—We all love Violets, and most of us might have plenty of them in our gardens, unless we live in a city, where, I am told, they will not flourish, for they need pure air. This is the time to make a Violet bed, if you have not already done so; April is better, but the spring is late this year, and much work has been put a little late by the dreadful weather of March; but don't lose any more time now, if you wish for early Violets next autumn. The border for Violets should be well dug, and the soil mixed with plenty of leaf-mould or quite old manure (the contents of last year's hotbed, for instance); also crushed mortar from an old wall, or, failing that, slaked lime. Violets do best in a light but rich compost: heavy clay soils need an admixture of sand, burnt vegetable refuse, soot, or charcoal, to lighten them, but these things are not necessary in a light gravel soil.

VIOLET MARIE LOUISE.

Planting Violet Runners.

Having made your Violet bed, get in the plants without loss of time. They should be rooted runners, and, to secure the best possible plants, the runners should be pegged down into a little rich top-dressing in January or February, when they will have made strong roots by this time, and be ready for transplanting. Each should be placed one foot from its next neighbours, and it is best to "puddle them in," *i.e.*, to make a small hole for each with a trowel, fill this with water, and place the plant in this before it sinks away, filling up the hole with fine good soil, and making the Violet firm in this. It is of great importance that the leaves should not droop at all, and unless you can plant your Violets in wet, dull weather, it is better to shade each of them for a few days with an inverted flower-pot during bright sunshine, taking the pots off at night and during rain. In a week or two, if they were well planted, they will have taken to the fresh soil, and be quite independent; but they should not be allowed to want for water during a drought.

Here, however, I must give you a word of caution. A light sprinkling given every evening is far worse than none, for it results in a hard crust of soil, baked daily by the hot sunshine, which effectually prevents the dew from penetrating to the roots of the plants, and also interferes with the beneficent action of the sun in drawing moisture through the soil to the help of he roots. A constantly loosened surface soil is far better in most cases than watering; but if it should be necessary to supply water, it must be in copious quantity, so as to soak the roots thoroughly, after which you can loosen the surface soil with great advantage, and the plants will need no more water for some days. Mulching, too, with leaf-mould, old hotbed stuff, or even with fresh good soil, helps them greatly through a dry time; but if you never allow the surface soil to harden (and, of course, keep down all weeds in forking it up), the Violets will need little else, if growing in a well-prepared bed to start with. Here (in South Devon) we only care to grow the double Violets under frames in winter, as the enormous flowers of the single kinds (Princess of Wales, etc.) appear to be perfectly hardy; but probably in a colder district they may need the protection of glass after October.

The best double varieties are Neapolitans, early and very fragrant; Marie Louise, in a

F.G. Drew

HORTICULTURE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, READING.

IT is nearly eight years ago since the late Earl of Onslow, in the capacity of President of the Board of Agriculture, opened the Horticultural Gardens of University College, Reading. The teaching of horticulture was organised two years earlier. It was then that Mr. Alfred Palmer generously offered his garden, already well stocked and equipped, for the use of the College.

The site in London Road, six acres in extent, was subsequently presented to the College by Mr. Palmer, and here, in due course, the existing buildings in connection with the faculty of science, and the departments of fine art, commerce, and of agriculture and horticulture, were erected.

In 1903 the College authorities, by arrangement with Messrs. Sutton and Sons, took over five acres of land contiguous, together with the glass and other buildings standing on it, and these form the horticultural garden existing. In the autumn of the same year the College purchased Lane End Farm, Shinfield, for the purposes of practical teaching and experimental work in agriculture. In 1906 and 1907 eleven of the one hundred and fifty acres acquired were planted with fruit, and passed into the charge of the Lecturer and Practical Instructor in Horticulture.

The present instructor, Mr. F. G. Drew, has now filled this post for nearly three years. Previous to taking up his duties at Reading he had enjoyed a wide and varied experience, obtained in some of the best nurseries and gardens in the kingdom, including the oversight of the gardens at Wych Cross, Forest Row, which he helped to create.

On the occasion of my visit to Reading last month, I learnt that the growth of the department, and the development of horticultural education, compels the College to contemplate further extension. The College authorities believe in thoroughness, and it is certain that whatever their ultimate policy, it will lack nothing in this respect. As Mr. Drew says: "A prudent and well-considered scheme will commend itself, while an indifferent one, or one of a patchwork nature, will utterly fail to arouse either enthusiasm or support." The exigencies created by the growth of other departments and faculties seem to indicate that such extension must take place in proximity to the fruit station.

The Culture of Small Fruits.

"What is the nature of the soil at Shinfield?" I asked Mr. Drew, in the course of our conversation.

"Heavy loam over London clay. It is land that repays for deep and thorough cultivation, but it is land that must be handled at the right time."

"Does it grow small fruits well?"

"Yes. Strawberries, Raspberries, Currants, and Gooseberries are very satisfactory, provided the manure cart calls sufficiently often. In 1910-11 we had good crops in spite of wet and drought. Last season we sold over two tons of Strawberries, and between two and three tons of Black and Red Currants, and of Gooseberries about one ton. In 1910 we gathered a ton of Raspberries. Last season, owing to the drought, the crop was about four hundred-weight less. Loganberries have an increasing sale, and I think they are equally as profitable as Raspberries, if not more so."

THE FRUIT FARM OF THE UNIVERSITY.

"Do you grow many kinds of Strawberries?"

"We depend chiefly on Royal Sovereign. Givon's Late Prolific we are trying. We have also a number of varieties kindly presented to us by Messrs. Laxton, which we are giving a fair trial, both at Shinfield and at the garden in Reading."

The Best Apples.

"But your principal feature is the larger fruit?"

"Apples especially; but, so far, the returns have not been large, as the trees are young, and we want to form our trees before cropping them. I may say the same of Plums. As to Pears, we are trying a few varieties, but so far we have failed to obtain a crop from any single tree. The subsoil is unsuitable for Pears, and even the use of the Quince stock does not get over the difficulty."

"Are you an advocate of severe pruning?"

"No; not as generally understood. We prune somewhat severely in the early years of growth, but once having originated a sufficient number of shoots to form a well-shaped head, with branches thinly disposed, we prune less, and rely more on summer pinching and winter thinning of shoots. For once vigorous trees, or rather for trees which do not show fruit buds liberally when growing strongly, I advocate careful lifting of the strong roots, and encouraging surface roots by manurial dressings. It is not such an expensive operation as many think. Besides, if it is a question of either lifting or to be satisfied with unsatisfactory crops, and dirty fruit, which are not worth putting on the market, commonsense says raise the roots. It certainly has a marked effect on the health of the trees. You would, in some cases, hardly recognise the fruits of root-lifted trees, and of unlifted trees of the same variety, as being the same."

"Do you spray the trees?"

"Probably few growers of similar extent have sprayed as much as we have in the past two years, and at the present moment it is a difficult matter to find a trace of scab in the whole plantation. Scab is our greatest trouble, but the fine summer no doubt was a great help in exterminating it. On the light soil of the garden at Reading we have not yet seen scab."

"What spraying fluid do you use?"

"For scab we rely on Bordeaux mixture, and the lime-sulphur or Oregon wash, as it is termed sometimes. Bordeaux mixture needs considerable care, and much damage may be done to both leaves and fruit. If we find the lime-sulphur wash equally satisfactory we shall discard Bordeaux mixture, on account of the less liability to scorching and russeting with lime-sulphur. We think, too, that lime-sulphur wash is not so detrimental to the general health of the tree."

"What is your best variety of Apple?"

"Well, it is rather early yet to say definitely. Newton Wonder promises to be as good as any kind, but last year was a Newton year. The Apples coloured brilliantly, are as clean and sound as a bell, and entirely free from bitter pit. We grow Cox's largely, but I do not think the farm soil is ideal 'Cox' land. However, they were good this year. Other kinds we grow are Worcester, Ecklinville, King of Pippins, and Transparent. We may, however, regraft the last two with Bramley's Seedling."

"What is your system of planting?"

"As to arrangement, the bush Apples are planted twelve feet each way, and the standards eighteen feet. The former are intercropped with Gooseberries and Currants, which will eventually be cut out as the Apples extend, and occupy the space."

"Do you manure heavily?"

"Not so heavily at the fruit station as on the lighter soil of the garden, where lack of moisture is the chief difficulty. We employ both stable manure and artificials for vegetables and small fruits. The larger fruits have as yet needed no manure."

Profitable Vegetables.

"What vegetables flourish best here?"

"The heavy land suits Celery, Sprouts, and Savoys remarkably well, and Onions also; but we have to raise the Onions in boxes. Onions were a very profitable crop this year to those who 'did' their land well, and put out good plants. Forty bushels from a plot nine yards by fifty, realising four shillings and sixpence

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per bushel, may be considered satisfactory. Several bushels obtained as much as six shillings, and we have had as much as seven bushels from a single pole."

"Do you sow outside in spring?"

"The pricking out system is, I think, better than sowing outside in spring, particularly where there is much difficulty in obtaining a good seed-bed early; but the plants must be pricked out thickly, or the bulbs grow too large, and do not realise as good a price. Three inches between the plants is quite sufficient, and provided students are careful in hoeing, ten inches between the rows."

"What about Peas?"

"The heavy land also suits Peas. We grow about half an acre, and stake all the early varieties. I think the finest large-podded early kinds pay for staking, provided it is not too elaborately done. The labour must, of course, be kept to a minimum. Appearance counts a good deal in marketing Peas."

The Work of the Students.

"The students, I presume, spend a good deal of time in the garden?"

"I think, if you examine their time-tables you will see that during the College terms rather more than one half of their time is spent at practical work, in addition to ten weeks of the vacations, when, of course, there are no lectures. The strong feature in their first year's work is the raising and cultivation of hardy fruit trees, together with the culture of vegetables.

"Naturally," continued Mr. Drew, "in two years it is impossible for them, or anyone under similar circumstances, to attain any great degree of technical skill in the varied operations connected with horticultural practice. There is, of course, a good deal of difference in individuals in this respect. A person who had but this one object in view would be better advised if he made friends with, and worked alongside a good garden labourer, than come to us. He could then concentrate his attention on the operation itself, without any mental distraction as to why it was being done. Such distraction, at the moment, would be inimical to mechanical accuracy. A man who wanted to bore and lay a drain evenly would not be likely to make a brilliant job of it if he attempted at the same moment to wrestle with all the principles of sanitary science, or even one of them. He must do the latter part of the business, either before, or better still, afterwards. No good farmer would think of sending his son to an agricultural college to acquire dexterity in harnessing a horse, cleaning out a cow-stall, or making a scare-crow. Certainly our people are instructed in methods, but the measure of our success is not so much the skill they attain, as the degree to which they have been enabled to think clearly about them."

The Instruction Given.

"As to the course of instruction?"

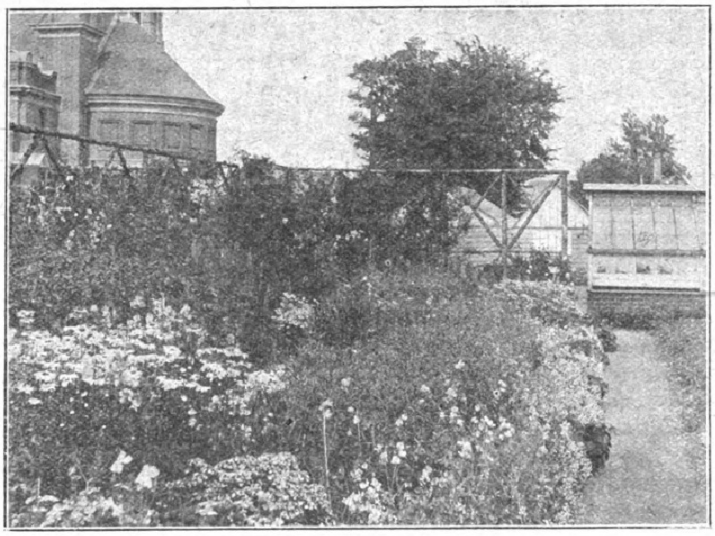
"The courses of instruction to be attended are at least two sessions, of forty weeks each. In the first year an elementary knowledge in the theory and practice of Horticulture is afforded. The syllabus includes the site of a garden, its aspect and shelter, the composition and classification of soils, the cultivation of the land, and drainage; the methods and results of digging, trenching, hoeing, raking, and rolling; the tools used in these operations, and the uses of manures and their modes of application. Then, there is the vegetable garden, as to which they are instructed in the propagation, culture, and management of green vegetables, roots, and tuberous and bulbous crops."

"You might give some examples."

"The green vegetables include salads and herbs; the Cabbage tribe, Spinach, Lettuce, Parsley, Mint, and Sage; the roots, Carrot, Parsnip, Radish, Turnip, Beet, Horse Radish, Salsify, and Scorzonera. The Potato, the Artichoke, the Onion, and its allies, such as the Leek, embrace tuberous and bulbous crops. We teach the culture of Asparagus, Celery, Seakale, and other stem and leaf crops; the Legumes, such as Peas, Broad, Dwarf, and Runner Beans, and other outdoor fruit-bearing vegetables, such as Tomatoes, Vegetable Marrows, and Cucumbers."

The Utilitarian Side of Gardening.

"Do you sell all the crops you grow?"



HERBACEOUS BORDER AT THE READING UNIVERSITY.

"Everything. In other words, we grow for teaching purposes, at a loss; and we grow for profit also. Quite a feature is made of the utilitarian side of gardening. Fruit, vegetables, marketable plants, and plants valuable for cut blooms are all grown in order to add to the income as well as to convince outsiders that we can grow for profit."

"Growing so many different things, I presume, militates against your success from a profit-making point of view?"

"Naturally, the number of subjects we grow for teaching purposes is a serious handicap to profitable production, and students do not come here with the idea of running a profit-making Tomato and Cucumber farm for the benefit of the College, neither is it our idea that they should. If it was, they would soon disillusion us on the point. They come here primarily, to learn, or rather to acquire a reasoned, common-sense attitude toward horticulture, and the details of horticultural practice. Still, many of our crops are most profitable. This plot, as you see, exactly six poles in extent, sown with Asparagus, realised, as the result of the sale of the crowns, and within one year, £7. Nine poles of early Cauliflower, yonder, produced £8 10s., and subsequently a crop of Brussels Sprouts, of which I have no account. Savoys made at the rate of between £50 and £55 per acre. The two plots in front of us each cropped successively with Cabbage, Celery, and Lettuce, gave a gross return of £25. Their combined area is just over seven hundred square yards. You will judge from these figures that there is ample margin for spade, manure, and a profit."

"Have you a good local market for your produce?"

"Most of our produce is disposed of in Reading. Although there is here but a limited demand for high-class produce at top prices, we have not yet had to go outside to any extent."

Student Labour.

"Does student labour worry you?"

"Do I look as if it did? I think I can say that the students are keen, and, as a whole, painstaking. But as I have already said, they come here to learn, and our object is to endeavour to fulfil the purpose for which they come."

"Do you cultivate flowers for sale?"

"Yes; we grow flowers, and they add considerably to the income. For teaching purposes we have, in addition, the use of the garden attached to the botanical laboratory, as well as that belonging to the new women's hostel, St. Andrew's Hall. The hostels are a feature of the College, and it now possesses four — two for men, and two for women."

"What is the number of students you take at one time?"

"The average number is about thirty. A few do not take the whole of a course, but come in for a set of lectures on a particular subject."

"What is the proportion of women to men?"

"About equal, and, as a whole, they are, I think, the better workers."

"And their ultimate object?"

"Their objects are various. Some students enter in order to be able to teach horticulture, nature study, eventually; others, to be able to follow the work of their own gardens intelligently; some to run market establishments of their own; and others to take posts as gardeners. The same reasons prevail among the men, though we find fewer taking up teaching than is the case among the women."

"I take it that you attach most importance to the severely useful phase of horticulture?"

"We emphasise the utilitarian side of horticulture, because the greatest demand for instruction lies in that direction; but we do not ignore it from the æsthetic point of view, and are at this moment contemplating further provision for those who are not under the necessity of being interested in such objects, say, as the 'fragrant' Onion, or the 'noble tuber.'"

"What about the large incomes some women gardeners are reported to make?"

"I cannot say that the statement that some of our women students are making an income of a round £1,000 a year from market gardening is correct. Of course, some of them may have struck a vein of this 'golden soil' about which we have heard so much, but even so, from what I know of our women students, they would, I feel sure, with true business instinct, withhold any information on the point from

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myself or anyone, for fear others might exploit their 'claim' before they had exhausted it. But I think I may tell you this, that when they have arrived at that stage of their enterprise, there are a few with distinct literary ability, who may be trusted to see that a book on the subject might, on assay, yield more ore than 'golden soil 'itself. Most of them are aware that the success of a moderate or small undertaking or holding depends as much on their own personal labour and personal supervision as on anything; that it is a question of working 'while there is light.'"

"How many students did you start with?"

"The first year there were seven or eight. These, as I have already said, have grown to thirty, and following the application of the development grant to rural education, we can confidently look for a large increase. We may, too, look for additional men from among the sons of the better type of market grower and nurseryman, many of whom are beginning to see the advantage of such a training.

"You do not contemplate giving up your present quarters?"

"We should be sorry to leave London Road. The soil is light, and very responsive. It can be handled at almost any moment, and is therefore admirably adapted for working by student labour. The situation, too, is convenient, and it is pleasant to do most of our work under the shadow of the College."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week, the gardens of Captain Fryer, at Worthy Park, Winchester, will be described.

Correspondents will greatly oblige by observing the following rules when sending Questions for publication in these pages:—

1. Letters must be addressed to the Editor, GARDEN LIFE, Hatton House, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.
2. Only one side of the paper may be written on.
3. Not more than six questions may be asked at one time.
4. Fruit, Flowers, or Vegetables for naming, must be sent separately, and, if possible, packed in a tin or wooden box—cardboard boxes should on no account be used.
5. The full name and address of the sender must always be sent, but a nom-de-plume may be given for publication.
6. Letters can on no account be replied to through the post unless a special postal fee of 1s. is forwarded.

SWEET PEAS in Tubs.—Will you give me a list of twelve Sweet Peas suitable for garden decoration and cutting, including one similar in colour to Henry Eckford, which I like very much, but consider small flowered? Most of them will be grown in tubs, owing to lack of accommodation—one colour in each tub—so will you name them in the best colour arrangement? The following were grown last season, so I should like a change:—King Edward Spencer, Aurora Spencer, George Herbert Spencer, Henry Eckford, Evelyn Hemus, Maud Holmes, Lord Nelson, Zephyr, Asta Ohn, Othello Spencer. They were sown in pots on January 30th, transplanted April 18th, and in flower on June 9th, and did very well in tubs, only giving over rather early (S. S. R., Dublin).———I am afraid I cannot recommend a Pea similar in colour to Henry Eckford for garden decoration, as most varieties in that colour burn in the sun. Earl Spencer, Barbara, and Melba are all good growers, and much larger in the bloom, but they all want shading. Stirling Stent is rather better in respect to standing the sun, but the flowers are decidedly smaller. In place of a salmon I should be inclined to try Mrs. W. J. Unwin, which is a grand stripe. If you grow your tubs in a row, you might start with this variety, and run them left to right as follows:—Mrs. W. J. Unwin (salmon stripe), Jack Tar (deep blue), Hercules (pink), Tennant Spencer (mauve), Thomas Stevenson (orange), Isabel Malcolm (cream), Lancashire (cream-pink), Scarlet Emperor (scarlet), Elsie Herbert (white-ground Picotee), Loyalty (bright blue stripe), Constance Oliver (deep cream-pink), and Colleen (bicolor). These are all very good growers and profuse bloomers. Your date for sowing is good. Do not stint manure water when blooming, and keep all stale blooms picked off, and they ought to keep going some time.—THOMAS STEVENSON.

Treatment of Budded Briers.—I have successfully budded a few Briers, but am in doubt as to their after-care. (1) What protection, if any, do H.P. and H.T. buds need during winter? (2) What is the best method of tying up shoots when buds start into growth? (W. C. G., Letchworth.)——(1) No protection at all is necessary during mild, open weather like the present. If the Briers are low, you can protect the buds by earthing them over. In the case of standards, tie bracken or hay over the buds, in the event of frost of any duration setting in. (2) Short stakes may be used for dwarfs, or the Briers themselves may be used as supports, also in the case of standards. As the buds begin to grow, you can rub off the buds on the Brier above the Rose buds, but retain the shoots for support as long as they are necessary.

Eighteen Sweet Peas for Exhibition.—(1) I have the following Sweet Peas (seed saved from my own plants last season):—Etta Dyke, Maud Holmes, Helen Lewis, Earl Spencer, Mrs. H. Bell, Miriam Beaver, John Ingman, Marquis, Prince of Orange, Primrose Paradise, Masterpiece, and Picotee. I want eighteen varieties for exhibition. Will you tell me if I need throw any of the above out and replace, and also what varieties to add? (2) Which is the better Sweet Pea, Prince of Orange or Thomas Stevenson? Can you tell me of a clearer pale blue than Guy Hemus? (F. C., Diss.)——(1) You might very well continue to grow all but Miriam Beaver, Prince of Orange, and Picotee, adding, to make up eighteen varieties, Thomas Stevenson, Mrs. C. W. Breadmore, Elsie Herbert, Elfrida Pearson, Nubian, Anglian Blue, Scarlet Emperor, Prince George, and Spencer America. (2) From the bunches exhibited and the trials I have seen, Thomas Stevenson is decidedly the better Pea. Also, I think Anglian Blue is to be preferred to Guy Hemus, as it is rather deeper in colour.—THOMAS STEVENSON.

Forked Beetroot and Exhibition Onions.—(1) Last year my exhibition Beetroot was forked and coarse. Can you tell me the cause of this, and the cure? There was a good depth of soil, and no recently-added manure. (2) Which do you consider is the darkest coloured Beetroot in cultivation, and best suited for exhibition? (3) My land is a good deal infested by wireworms, and as I should like to grow some first-class Carrots, is there any artificial preparation which I could mix with the soil with which I fill the holes I make before sowing the seed? (4) Would Onion seed, if sown in a cold frame now, make good exhibition bulbs by the end of August? I mean to thin them out to the necessary distance, and remove the glass by degrees until I can take it off altogether, leaving the plants to mature in the same place as sown. (5) Last year I bought some prizewinning Potatoes at a show, and I think they are too large to set as they are. Should I cut them in two, or cut all the sprout holes out, except one, and plant them as they are, or keep all the sprouts broken off, except the main one? (6) Is there any special kind of Sweet Pea which, with good cultivation, grows four blooms on each stem invariably, or is it cultivation which produces them? (Subsoil, Whitby.)———(1) The end of April is early enough to sow Beet. Your soil may be hard and lumpy. It should, of course, be trenched two feet deep at least, and, if lumpy or stony, you can get good exhibition roots by boring holes with a dibber, and filling them with a sifted compost of light soil, leaf-mould, wood ashes, and sand. Make the compost firm, and sow three or four seeds on the top of each hole, and pull up all but the best seedling when two inches high. (2) Pragnell's Exhibition is one of the best, but the colour is best preserved by frequent selection of the best roots of each variety from year to year by the seedsmen. Dell's Black is another, but we do not think the roots are better than Pragnell's. (3) Use one of the soil fumigants, such as Kilogrub. Trapping by means of Carrots and Potatoes, buried in the soil, will also reduce the pest. (4) The plan you propose is a good one, though not so effective as a heated house. Harden them off to stand full exposure by the end of April, if the weather is settled then. We believe they would grow better if the frame is removed altogether, for the benefit of the foliage, after that date. It is worth trying. (5) You can cut them in half, making sure of a good sprout to each. Rub off the extra sprouts. There is no necessity for gouging them out, because you can always pull out superfluous stems when well above the soil. The top sprout is the strongest. (6) Four flowers are not invariably the case, perhaps, with any variety. Some are more inclined to produce four than others, but good cultivation is the most reliable factor in the case.—ED.

Burning Clay Soil.—Last season was not a very successful one with me as regards vegetables, but I am now bastard trenching a good part of my garden, which will better enable me to withstand similar climatic conditions. The advice as to autumn sowing of hardy annuals has been a revelation to me, especially with Cornflowers; the size of the bushes and the continuous blooming have been splendid, and every amateur ought to give it a trial. I have, this winter, burnt a portion of my garden, which was heavy clay land, overrun with Lily (wild Convolvulus), and other weeds, which choked a few Gooseberry bushes, which had not been cultivated on a single standard, and which I found it impossible to keep clear. This was a heavy job with the torrential rains, to which we have been subjected. This has now the appearance of frost-crumbled bricks; this I have dunged with stable manure, and spread about six inches of road-sweepings over all. What would you suggest putting into it? It is on a good slope facing eastwards, and sheltered by a wall on the north, and receives the sun up till midday, when it is shaded by a tall building. I thought of using a portion as a seed-bed for flower and vegetable seeds, as likely to be free from vermin, and planting the rest with Potatoes. The last season was good for flowers, many of which seeded, and became self sown, so that there was quite a crop of seedlings early in the autumn; a good many of these I pricked out into a nursery bed, and protected with Pea sticks. I now notice some Hollyhock seedlings which I have pricked out and given the shelter of a cold frame. Will these flower the coming season? (Learner, Cowes.)———The effect of burning part of a clay soil is to improve its mechanical condition, enabling the roots of plants to penetrate it freely and deeply. This is a great advantage gained, but it would not be good policy to carry it too far, because it destroys all the vegetable matter in the burned portion. You may occasionally be able to get clay from another source to burn, and that would bring about the same effect. It may, however, be regarded as of little account, provided you have a great depth of soil to fall back upon, but even in that case it would be economical of the existing fertility of the top soil, if you use the subsoil only for burning. The mixture you now have will be suitable for both flowers and vegetables. The soil will be distinctly improved for Potatoes, which like a light, open, and rich soil, so that you need not hesitate in planting them, if you prefer them to other vegetables. The afternoon shade caused by the building will be disadvantageous to Potatoes, which like open situations. Leeks, Carrots, and Parsnips would be good crops for these conditions, and others can be grown with varying success. The Hollyhocks will most likely flower in autumn, if you plant them in a sunny position in March or early in April. Their flowering is a question of strength, and even if they fail to flower this year, they will make grand plants for the next. As a rule, autumn-sown Hollyhocks bloom the following year, and if they had a greenhouse in winter to keep them growing slowly, their flowering would be certain. Thanks for your appreciative remarks.—ED.

Unsatisfactory Chrysanthemums.—I am a fairly successful Chrysanthemum grower, but I do not think that more than a third of my plants finish up to the mark. I have got about two hundred and seventy cuttings in. I started early in December, and all look well, and many are rooted already. Cold treatment only. I have appended my list of varieties, and as I only grow ninety-nine plants, it is hard to know which to discard and which to grow the most of. I exhibit both groups and cut. Master David and Master James, last season with me, had immense eyes. The growth throughout was perfect, and the blooms immense. I grew eight of each, and the plants came from three different places, and I cannot put the failure down to the season, as although I saw many more like mine, I saw others done remarkably well. I took the buds, natural first, David, and natural second, James. Do you think the feeding might have been at fault? Should both be grown without any forcing? I cannot master Mrs. N. Davis or the Hon. Mrs. Lopes. I follow H. J. Jones' method of stopping. Could you, in selecting from my list, class them as varieties which want plenty of forcing, and those which are best when not forced? (Pomper, Leytonstone.)———This is a letter from a Chrysanthemum

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James Drewett
Gardeners' Chronicle 1874, n.s. 2

The name of Mr. Drewett is well known in the world of horticulture, being very prominently associated with the production of some of the handsomest Muscat Grapes which have perhaps ever graced an exhibition table. We now present his portrait to our readers, as that of one of the veterans amongst British gardeners.

Mr. James Drewett was born in the year 1803 in the neighbourhood of Bristol, and entered on his horticultural career in the gardens at Himley Hall, Staffordshire, the seat of the Earl of Dudley and Ward. In 1825 he came to London, and was employed over a period of seven years in the Royal Forcing Gardens at Kensington and Cumberland Lodge, and in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Mr. Drewett has held three head situations; the first as manager of the estate, gardens, woods, &c., for the late D. Baillee, Esq.; the second as gardener to Sir W. Heathcote, Bart., at Hursley Park near Winchester, Hants; the third with the late Thomas Cubitt, Esq., at the Denbies, near Dorking, Surrey. This latter situation he entered in 1850, and has held to the present time. During this period very extensive ground-work operations have been carried out under his direction, and much planting has been done; while a new kitchen garden and fruit orchard have been formed. Mr. Drewett designed the range of forcing-houses at this place, and planted the Vines, which are assisted by heated chambers under the outside borders. It is these Vines which produced the fine samples of Frontignan, Canon Hall Muscat, and Muscat of Alexandria Grapes, which were so much admired at the metropolitan exhibitions in 1857 and in succeeding years, and which were, moreover, so successful in obtaining first prizes.

We learn that Mr. Drewett will shortly retire from the management of these gardens, of which he has been the director for nearly twenty-four years, and that he will be succeeded by his foreman, Mr. Beesley.

amateurs' class; Mr. H. James, of Castle Nursery, Lower Norwood, being 2d in the former class; and Mr. C. Rann, gr. to J. Warren, Esq., Handcross Park, Sussex, 2d in the latter.

GREENHOUSE AZALEAS

were exhibited in the form of large specimens, and in capital condition. The contest for the premier position in the class for nine large specimens was between Mr. G. Roach, gr. to R. Thornton, Esq., The Hoo, Sydenham Hill, and Mr. Turner, of the Royal Nurseries, Slough, the 1st prize being awarded to the amateur. Mr. Roach was the only exhibitor in the amateurs' class for Azaleas, and received the highest award.

Mr. Turner and Mr. Roach also competed in the class for eighteen Azaleas in 9-inch pots, the first-named being easily 1st, with superb specimens, in beautiful variety. The best of them were—Apollo, Baron N. de Rothschild, Comtesse de Flandres, Grandis, Jean Vervaene, Louise Pynaert, Mdlle. Marie Lefebvre, fine white variety; Mdlle. Marie van Houtte, Marquis of Lorne, Mrs. Turner, Reine des Pays Bas, Roi de Hollande: these should all be in the most select collection.

ORCHIDS.

The competition for these was very spirited, many well grown specimens being exhibited.

In the class for nine distinct Orchids, Mr. J. H. Hill, gr. to H. Little, Esq., Hillingdon, near Uxbridge, obtained the 1st prize. He had two good varieties of Cattleya Mendelii, Dendrobium thyrsiflorum, many spikes; Cattleya Mossiæ, nine fine flowers; C. Leopoldi, a handsome Lycaste Skinneri, Aërides Fieldingii, a large pan of Cypripedium ciliolare, and one of Odontoglossum crispum. Mr. Salter, gr. to J. Southgate, Esq., Selborne, Streatham, was a good 2d; Cymbidium Lowii had two fine spikes, Cœlogyne pandurata, with its singular green and black flowers, had two spikes; Dendrobium Falconeri was also fine. Mr. H. James was 3d.

The best specimen Orchid was sent by Mr. S. Cooke, gr. to De B. Crawshay, Esq., Sevenoaks; it was a well grown specimen of Vanda suavis with four spikes and fifty-five flowers. Mr. Salter was 2d, with a fine Dendrobium Falconeri.

In the amateurs' class for six Orchids, Mr. Cooke was well 1st, with, amongst other fine things, a Cattleya Mossiæ, eleven splendid blooms; a Vanda suavis, two spikes; Epidendrum vitellinum majus, &c. Mr. Salter was 2d. Mr. A. Luff, gr. to R. R. Hyatt, Esq., Hitherset, Leigham Court Road, was a good 3d; he had a fine Phalænopsis amabilis, and a good plant in fine bloom of Cattleya gigas.

Collections of not less than forty Orchids "arranged with a few Ferns and Palms for effect," made an interesting exhibition. Mr. Salter easily gained the 1st prize, followed by Mr. H. James and Mr. A. Luff. Odontoglossum polyxanthum, Cattleya Mendelii, C. Mossiæ (white form), Lælia purpurata, &c., were fine in Mr. Salter's collection, Mr. James showing fine forms of Odontoglossum crispum and O. Pescatorei.

FINE-FOLIAGE PLANTS

were very large in size, and most of the specimens were well cultivated. The whole of the 1st prizes were awarded to Mr. Rann, who grows this class of plants to a large size, and maintains them in good condition. His Cycas revoluta was a splendid specimen, so also was C. circinalis and Croton albicans, distinct and good. In the class for six specimens his Bonapartea stricta was very pretty; Gleichenia Mendelii well furnished to the base, and Croton Queen Victoria rich in colour.

Mr. J. W. Penfold, fgr. to the Rev. Canon Bridges, Beddington, also exhibited good foliage plants.

Mr. J. R. Bird, gr. to H. Causton, Esq., Lodgemore, Alleyn Park, Dulwich, was awarded both prizes for Crotons; the plants were large in size, though not so well coloured as the smaller specimens from Messrs. Hooper, of Covent Garden, who obtained the 2d prize in the open class; Mr. Wakeham being 2d in that for amateurs.

Messrs. Hooper were 1st in the open class for Dracænas, and Mr. Bird in that for amateurs. They made a good feature in the show.

Caladiums made a grand display of rich and varied colour. Perhaps no finer specimens were ever exhibited than the nine huge plants which gained the 1st prize for Messrs. Laing, of Stanstead Park, Forest Hill. The most distinct of them were Leopold, Robert, candidum, albo-luteum, Souvenir de Madame Bernard, Mithridate, and Madame Marjolin Scheffer. Mr. J. Sharpe, gr. to F. Hatchett, Esq., Parkfield, Lee, S.E., was a good 2d.

FERNS

were well exhibited by Mr. Penfold; his six specimens comprised Davallia Mooreana, D. polyantha, both of large size; D. fijiensis, Adiantum cardiochlæna, with large massive fronds: the 1st prize was awarded, Mr. J. Wakeham also exhibited well in the open class for nine specimens, beating Mr. James.

Several miscellaneous collections of plants were exhibited, which added greatly to the interest of the exhibition, particularly the hardy plants from Mr. J. Vander Rees, of Tooting; Messrs. Paul & Sons, of Cheshunt; and Messrs. Carter, of High Holborn. Messrs. W. Paul & Son, of Waltham Cross, and Mr. Rumsey exhibited excellent cut Roses; Messrs. Barr plants and cut flowers, Messrs. Hooper a good group of Tree Carnations, and Messrs. Jackman pot Roses.

FIRST-CLASS CERTIFICATES

were awarded to Mr. V. Rees for SAXIFRAGA MACNABIANA.

Mr. F. Perkins, for VOLONTÉ NATIONALE ALBA PELARGONIUM.

Messrs. Laing, for BEGONIAS FORMOSA, LADY HULSE, SIR PETER LUMSDEN; and also for NEPENTHES MASTERSIANA and N. MASTERSIANA "red variety."

And to Mr. J. Ford, for CALCEOLARIA GOLDEN PLUSH, a neat dwarf-growing variety.

Law Notes.

IS A HOTHOUSE A BUILDING?—The adjourned hearing of the case against Mr. Haynes, nurseryman, of Penge, reported in our issue of May 23, was taken at the Lambeth Police Court, before Mr. Chance, on Thursday week. Mr. E. B. Haynes, nurseryman and florist, of Penge Nursery, Beckenham Road, appeared to answer an adjourned summons taken out at the instance of Mr. G. Elkington, surveyor of Penge, with regard to the non-payment of a fee of £1, alleged to be due in surveying a greeenhouse or hothouse upon the defendant's premises, according to the terms of the Act of Parliament dealing with the erection of buildings. Upon the first hearing the defendant declined to admit that the structure in question was a building within the meaning of the Act. The defendant still contended that, according to the meaning of the section of the Act, the erection in question was not a building, and pointed out certain decisions given by magistrates upon the point. Two cases had been so decided in this court. He further contended that as a trade adjunct the structure could not be termed a building according to the terms of the Act.—Mr. Chance said, according to the terms of the section of the Act, it was clear a greenhouse, so far as all sashes, doors, and frames were concerned, would be exempt; but the other part of the section clearly showed, where there was a foundation of brickwork, &c., that it would come under the terms of such Act. The Act distinctly pointed out that greenhouses were exempt under certain circumstances.—The defendant said he had purchased the structures in question for £5, and the surveyor knew nothing about it until it was placed upon the ground, and now he wanted £1 for fees. A discussion then followed as to what fees were allowed under the Act, supposing the structure in question should be considered as a building. Mr. Chance said no doubt there was a great difficulty in deciding what really was a building, but it was to his mind clear that greenhouses would be exempt under certain conditions, but not where brickwork was used in the construction.—The defendant said doubtless that was Mr. Elkington's best point, but five magistrates had decided in favour of the points raised.—Mr. Chance said he had decided against it. He had full respect for the decision of his colleagues, but he certainly could not agree with them entirely. He was against the defendant upon the points raised, and certainly must look upon the structure in question as a building within the meaning of the terms of the Act. Under all the circumstances, he must therefore order the defendant to pay the amount claimed. He made an order upon the defendant to pay the amount claimed, but declined to grant anything beyond the ordinary costs.

Obituary.

JAMES DREWETT.

ON Wednesday, May 20, was laid in his last resting place, at the Norbiton Cemetery, Kingston-on-Thames, all that remained of one that belonged to the good old English school of gardeners, Mr. James Drewett, late of The Denbies, near Dorking, who died on the 14th inst. at Kingston-on-Thames (where for the last seven years he has lived in retirement with his brother), at the ripe age of eighty-five. He carried his age wonderfully well, and up to a few weeks before his death he took his daily long walks in the neighbourhood, with the firm step of a man much less advanced in years. He retained his faculties to the end, and passed peacefully away, highly honoured.

For twenty-five years the deceased was in charge of the gardens of G. Cubitt, Esq., at the place abovementioned, retiring from them about eleven years ago, on a comfortable stipend from his late employer. In a series of notices and portraits of British gardeners published in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, Mr. Drewett's labours were thus referred to:—"The name of Mr. Drewett is well known in the world of horticulture, being very prominently associated with the production of some of the handsomest Muscat Grapes which have perhaps ever graced an exhibition table. Mr. James Drewett was born in the year 1800, in the neighbourhood of Bristol, and entered on his horticultural career in the gardens of Himley Hall, Staffordshire, the seat of the Earl of Dudley and Ward. In 1825 he came to London, and was employed over a period of seven years in the Royal Forcing Gardens at Kensington and Cumberland Lodge, and in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

"Mr. Drewett has held three head situations, the first as manager of the estate, gardens, woods, &c., of the late D. Baillee, Esq.; the second as gardener to Sir W. Heathcote, at Hursley Park, near Winchester, Hants; the third with the late Thomas Cubitt, Esq., at The Denbies, near Dorking, Surrey. This latter situation he entered in 1850, and has held it to the present time. During this period very extensive groundwork operations have been carried out under his directions, and much planting has been done, while a new kitchen garden and fruit orchard have been formed. Mr. Drewett designed the range of forcing-houses at this place, and planted the Vines which are assisted by heated chambers under the outside borders. It is these Vines that produced the fine samples of Frontignan, Canon Hall Muscat, Muscat of Alexandria Grapes, which were so much admired at the metropolitan exhibitions in 1857, and in succeeding years, and which were moreover so successful in obtaining first prizes."

MRS. HERBST.

We regret to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Herbst, at Richmond, on last Saturday, May 23. It appears that during a thunderstorm (of which she always experienced a dread) she was stricken with an attack of apoplexy, from which she never rallied, and died on the same evening. Mr. Herbst was, previous to coming to Richmond, Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Rio de Janeiro, and it was there where Mrs. Herbst, during a violent thunderstorm, experienced a severe shock, which she could never forget. Mrs. Herbst was in her fifty-second year.

MR. GEORGE BAKER.

By the death of Mr. Baker, of Reigate, the National Rose Society has lost a most useful supporter and constant exhibitor, and Reigate will have sustained a great loss, and especially the district Rose Association, which he had assisted in raising to a very high pitch of eminence. His communications to the *Rosarians' Year Book* will have endeared him to a wide circle of readers. In the last issue of the *Year Book* a valuable article on Rose pruning appeared, which ended with a premonition of what has actually happened.

MR. W. J. EPPS.

The death is announced of Mr. W. J. Epps, of Somerley View, Ringwood, which occurred on the 18th inst., in the sixty-eighth year of his age. Mr. Epps was formerly in business as a nurseryman at Maidstone, and became well known as a cultivator of Cape Heaths; he was also one of the first raisers of seedling Fuchsias.

The Weather.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AT BLACKHEATH, LONDON,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1885.

Month and Day.	Barometer. Mean Reading Reduced to 32° Fahr.	Barometer. Departure from Average of 18 years.	Temperature of the Air. Highest.	Temperature of the Air. Lowest.	Temperature of the Air. Range.	Temperature of the Air. Mean for Day.	Temperature of the Air. Departure of Mean from Average of 50 years.	Hygrometrical Deductions from Glaisher's Tables 6th Edition. Dew Point.	Hygrometrical Deductions. Degree of Humidity. Sat. = 100.	Wind. Average Direction.	Rainfall.
May	In.	In.	°	°	°	°	°	°			In.
21	29.21	−0.53	62.9	39.1	21.8	48.4	− 5.5	44.7	87	S.	0.10
22	29.14	−0.61	56.0	44.0	12.0	47.3	− 6.8	46.1	96	E.; W. SW.	0.37
23	29.55	−0.20	61.2	42.5	18.7	49.9	− 4.4	44.7	84	W.; S.W.	0.11
24	29.80	+0.05	63.0	42.5	20.5	51.0	− 3.6	41.8	71	W.NW	0.00
25	29.84	+0.09	62.5	42.0	20.5	48.3	− 6.7	47.5	97	S.W.; S.S.W.	0.11
26	29.79	+0.03	66.2	47.0	19.2	54.7	− 0.5	51.3	88	S.W.	0.00
27	29.80	+0.03	71.5	49.8	21.7	59.0	+ 3.6	52.0	78	S.W.	0.00
Mean	29.59	−0.16	63.0	43.8	19.2	51.2	− 3.4	46.9	76	S.W.	0.69

May 21.—Heavy rain in early morning, dull morning, fine afternoon.
— 22.—Rain nearly all day.
— 23.—Fine bright morning, thunderstorm from 11.55 to 12.30 P.M., fine afternoon.

DREW John.

Personal Estate £172 6s. 8d.

16 January. Administration of the Personal Estate of John Drew late of Her Majesty's Ship "Arab" a Gunner in the Royal Marine Artillery a Bachelor who died 6 October 1878 at **Sea** was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Tom Henly Drew of Devizes in the County of Wilts Brewer's Assistant the Brother and one of the Next of Kin.

DREW John.

Personal Estate £2,227 14s. 10d.

1 June. The Will of John Drew late of Duffield in the County of **Derby** Gentleman who died 16 March 1885 at Abergeldie House Promenade Southport in the County of Lancaster was proved at **Derby** by Sarah Wagstaff Drew of Duffield Widow the Relict William Ratcliff of Quorndon in the County of Derby Gentleman and Charles Rowe of Bradshaw-street Derby in the County of Derby Bootmaker the Executors.

DREW Martha.

Personal Estate £397 5s. 5d.

2 February. The Will of Martha Drew late of 31 Bexley-street Clewer in the County of **Berks** Widow who died 12 January 1885 at 31 Bexley-street was proved at **Oxford** by John Copas of 67 Bexley-street Gardener the Nephew and Sarah Jane Pridie of 31 Bexley-street Widow the Executors.

DREW Mary.

Personal Estate £2,000.

26 October. Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Drew (Wife of William Tyndall Drew) late of Beverston in the County of **Gloucester** who died 21 July 1885 at Beverston was granted at **Gloucester** to the said William Tyndall Drew of Beverston Farmer.

DREW Samuel James.

Personal Estate £62 12s. 8d.

15 September. The Will of Samuel James Drew late of Mart-lane Stourport in the County of **Worcester** Baker who died 8 June 1885 at Mart-lane was proved at **Worcester** by Drusilla Drew of Mart-lane Laura Drew of Northgate-street in the City of Gloucester and Julia Drew of Mart-lane Spinsters the Neices the Executrixes.

DREW Thomas Hodgson.

Personal Estate £1,749 15s. 3d.

17 July. The Will of Thomas Hodgson Drew late of 25 Heywood-street Cheetham and of 13 Lever-street both in Manchester in the County of **Lancaster** Manufacturer's Agent who died 7 April 1885 at the Royal Infirmary Manchester was proved at **Manchester** by Thomas Howard Drew of 25 Heywood-street Merchant's Salesman the Son one of the Executors.

DREWE Matilda Harris.

Personal Estate £1,311 0s. 3d.

2 May. The Will with a Codicil of Matilda Harris Drewe late of 40 Queen's-crescent Queen's-road Reading in the County of **Berks** Widow who died 13 March 1885 at 40 Queen's-crescent was proved at **Oxford** by Sarah Chase Widow and Eliza Compigné Chase Spinster both of 62 London-street Reading the Executrixes.

DREWETT James.

Personal Estate £105 8s.

9 June. The Will with a Codicil of James Drewett formerly of Denbies near Dorking but late of 1 Bethel-villas Canbury-Park-road Kingston-upon-Thames both in the County of **Surrey** who died 14 May 1885 at 1 Bethel-villas was proved at the **Principal Registry** by John Drewett of 1 Bethel-villas retired Gardener the Brother one of the Executors.

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Dugdale, Richard [*called* the Surey Demoniack] (*b. c.*1670), *demoniac*
by A. C. Bickley, *rev.* Richard D. Harrison
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Dugdale, Richard [*called* the Surey Demoniack] (*b. c.*1670), demoniac, was the son of Thomas Dugdale of Surey, near Whalley, Lancashire, who was a gardener and servant to Thomas Lister of Westby, Yorkshire. An otherwise obscure individual, Dugdale owed his contemporary notoriety to a series of pamphlets published in the late 1690s concerning his alleged possession and exorcism. According to these pamphlets, Dugdale and his father approached the dissenting minister Thomas Jolly on 29 April 1689, informing this divine that in July 1688, when about eighteen years of age, Dugdale had attended a rush-bearing at Whalley where, having drunk to excess, he ‘offered himself to the Devil, on condition the Devil would make him a good dancer’ (Jolly, *Surey Demoniack*, 2). Dugdale subsequently quarrelled and fought with one of the revellers, and having returned home began to experience a ‘burning pain’ in his side. Jolly was further told that during subsequent nights Dugdale had been alarmed by the door to his room opening and a mist entering, followed by various supernatural appearances, and that he had become subject to violent fits and an uncontrollable urge to dance. Despite the ministrations of a local physician the fits had continued and increased.

Jolly was convinced that Dugdale's illness was attributable to demonic possession, and initiated a series of meetings at which he and a number of other nonconformist ministers prayed and fasted for the exorcism of Dugdale. Dugdale's fame spread throughout the county, and several thousand people attended these prayer meetings, held at a variety of locations in and around Whalley. Such crowds were attracted by reports of the startling physical manifestations of Dugdale's possession, some of which were detailed by the dissenting ministers and, in declarations before local magistrates, those who attended these meetings. In addition to violent fits of rage and anger, it was claimed that Dugdale foretold future events; spoke languages of which he was ignorant, on occasion with two voices at once; was at times wildly blasphemous, and at others preached sermons. Progress towards curing Dugdale proved slow, however, and by September 1689 the demoniac was threatening to seek other remedies and had complained to his father's landlord, Sir Edmund Assheton, third baronet, of Whalley Abbey, of his frustration at the ineffectiveness of the dissenters' ministrations. Though Dugdale's fits and the dissenters' prayer meetings continued, Assheton arranged for Dugdale to be given a ‘physic’ on 25 March 1690. Dugdale's symptoms ceased from this date, though the nonconformist ministers claimed that this was due to the effects of their final prayer meeting on 24 March rather than the medicine administered the following day.

Despite uncertainties as to the nature of Dugdale's affliction and the reason for its apparent cure, the young man's plight attracted the interest of such leading figures as Richard Baxter and Increase Mather, both of whom, it was claimed, wished to quote the case in their works upon witchcraft. Publication of such details did not, however, occur until the appearance in 1697 of *The Surey Demoniack*, which prompted the Anglican clergyman Zachary Taylor to publish *The Surey Imposto*

(1698), a critique of both the claims made for Dugdale's actions and the behaviour of the dissenting ministers, which in turn led to further pamphlets on the topic.

Little more is known of Dugdale's life. *The Surey Demoniack* claimed that shortly after his exorcism Dugdale married and returned to his duties as a gardener, and all the pamphlets generated by this controversy agreed that down to the late 1690s Dugdale had not suffered a significant recurrence of his malady of the late 1680s.

A. C. BICKLEY, *rev.* RICHARD D. HARRISON

Sources [T. Jolly and J. Carrington], *The Surey Demoniack, or, An account of Satan's strange and dreadful actings in and about the body of Richard Dugdale of Surey, near Whalley in Lancashire* (1697) · Z. Taylor, *The Surey impostor: being an answer to a late fanatical pamphlet entituled 'The Surey Demoniack'* (1698) · T. Jolly, *A vindication of the Surey Demoniack as no impostor, or, A reply to a certain pamphlet publish'd by Mr Zach. Taylor, called 'The Surey impostor'* (1698) · M. F. Snape, '"The Surey impostor": demonic possession and religious conflict in seventeenth-century Lancashire', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, 90 (1994), 93–114 · J. Westaway and R. D. Harrison, '"The Surey Demoniack": defining protestantism in 1690s Lancashire', *Unity and diversity in the church*, ed. R. N. Swanson, SCH, 32 (1996), 263–82

Likenesses woodcut, BM; repro. in Taylor, *Surey impostor*, frontispiece · woodcut, BM; repro. in Z. Taylor, *Popery, superstition, ignorance, and knavery confess'd and fully proved on the Surey dissenters* (1699); facsimile, 1793, NPG

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A. C. Bickley, 'Dugdale, Richard (*b. c.*1670)', rev. Richard D. Harrison, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk:2167/view/article/8184, accessed 10 Nov 2014]

Richard Dugdale (*b. c.*1670): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/8184

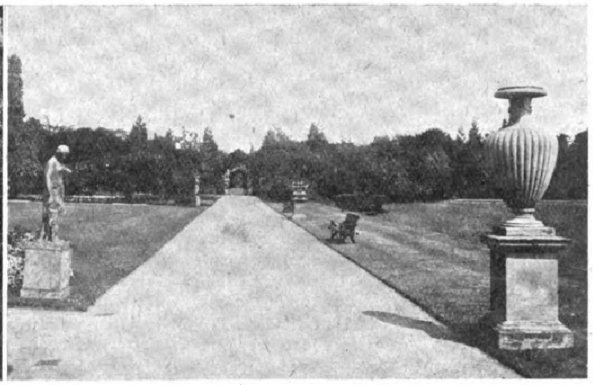
A. Dumbleton

THE GARDENS AT CHIPSTEAD PLACE, SEVENOAKS.

AMONGST historic residences in the fair county of Kent, Chipstead Place is entitled to a foremost place. It dates back from the reign of King John. The name is said to be derived from the fact that the fish merchants of Rye and other ports on the South Coast made it one of their stages on their way to London, and held a market of fish there. As a result of this custom the name of Chepstead, or Chepe—from the Saxon "ceapan," to trade or cheapen—was given. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the residence was occupied by Robert Cranmer, who was buried in Chipstead Church. Later it came into the possession of the Polhills—a family well known in the county—one of whom married Elizabeth Ireton, a grand-daughter of Oliver Cromwell, whose memory is perpetuated in the steep ascent over the Downs. Since April, 1911, it has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Duveen, under whose care it has gained new beauty and interest. When I inspected the gardens under the auspices of Mr. A. Dumbleton, who has been in charge of them since Mr. Duveen acquired the lease, they were looking their best.

Situated in the most lovely part of a delightful district, the Chipstead Place of to-day is a noble mansion. Approached through an imposing gateway, the house is almost obscured from view by a wealth of luxurious trees. Here the outside feature is an avenue embracing both shrubs and trees, which terminate in a wide stretch of lawn and pleasure grounds, dotted with specimen Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and beds of various plants. Conspicuous in this direction is the sunk garden, which has been so well conceived and carried out that it is almost impossible to tell where the lawns end and the park begins. The statuary, thanks to a judicious arrangement, enhance the attractions of the scene.

CHIPSTEAD PLACE, SEVENOAKS.



THE TERRACE, CHIPSTEAD PLACE.

THE TERRACE BEDDING.

At one end of the terrace, immediately in front of the principal windows of the house, is a series of beds, and I asked Mr. Dumbleton to describe the combination.

"They are filled," he replied, "with Zonal and Ivy-leaved Pelargoniums, Heliotropes, Ageratums, and Lobelias. Of the Zonals, you will notice that Paul Crampel is used in abundance, and that Madame Crousse is first favourite amongst the Ivies. The arches of Rambler Roses, we think, break the flatness that might otherwise have arisen, and the employment of them as a circular temple is generally considered effective. The small plants of Taxus baccata, which are used in some of the beds, were included in order that their rather sombre foliage might throw the brilliancy of the flowers into greater relief. The whole of the beds are edged by Box, which is always kept neatly trimmed. You may like to mention that at one corner of the lawns there is a striking display of Rose General McArthur, which is rendered all the more attractive by the presence of Viola Kitty Bell as ground work."

Making our way towards the Arboretum, which contains a representative collection of specimen trees, I enquired the dimensions of an Abies Douglassi, which dominated the situation.

"I can only tell you that it has branches measuring thirty-nine feet from the trunk. Amongst others of the more prominent occupants of the Arboretum are some Cedrus glauca, Liquidambar styraciflua, Liriodendron tuliptera, Thuja lobbii, and Abies orientalis. The Copper Beeches add their glowing colour to the scene, and in fact, the effect of colour is one of the most pleasing features of an Arboretum. Colour, of course, is always a matter of great consideration, and the stretch of Antirrhinums, which forms a long border, was selected for massing purposes. The varieties include Fiery Belt, Scarlet Flame, Goldcrest, and Crimson. They were sown in January, and kept very sturdy."

"The result gained appears to be a capital object-lesson in the value of Antirrhinums, which are not always appreciated as much as they should be. I must also congratulate you upon the beauty of the high Box hedge, which divides the Arboretum from the orchard."

THE ROSE GARDEN.

"We do our best to make that hedge one of the features of the place, and to keep it all the year round in a healthy condition. Another feature is the Rose garden, which is purposely placed in a quiet spot some distance from the Arboretum. Absence of formality has throughout been aimed at, the Roses for the most part being arranged in one impressive mass, though several of a variety are planted together."

"I observe that here, too, General McArthur is in splendid form."

"Yes; it is usually a good doer, but here it is really superb. Other varieties which specially thrive in the Rose garden are Hugh Dickson, Lyons, Sunburst, Madame Melanie Soupert, and Lady Hillingdon. The boundary on one side consists of a tall Sweet Briar hedge, and on the other of a wall covered with climbing Roses. You may be interested to learn that on the 30th of May two of these Roses were in full bloom, namely, The Dawson and Reine. The best climbing Roses include Marie Henriette, Veilchenblau, The Farquhar, White Dorothy, Wedding Bells, Francois Guillot, Crimson Rambler, Felicite et Perpetue, Dorothy Perkins, Francois Foucard, Hiawatha, Euphrosyne, Thalia, Mrs. Flight, Evangeline, Paul Transon, The Garland, and Princess Marie.

"All the plants in the border of Decorative Chrysanthemums close by were cuttings in the early spring. Amongst the most satisfactory are Nina Blick, Hector, Polly, Rio de Blancs, Wells' Scarlet, Normandie, Market White, Leslie, Goacher's Crimson, and Firefly."

THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

Entering the Kitchen Garden, the appearance of both vegetables and fruit indicate the existence of a genial soil, and wise management.

"I can only tell you," continued Mr. Dumbleton, "that not a single sowing of any crop has failed. Peas are all planted on one large plot, and afford a very fine chance for comparison. The first sown of the taller sorts were Carter's Early Morn, Early Giant, and Early Duke. But more notable than these is the border, with its wonderful crop of Eight Weeks. This is quite a week or two in advance of the other early

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varieties. The mid-season and late Peas are Harvestman, Duke of Albany, International, The Gladstone, and Autocrat."

"When do you sow your Onions?"

"Both in autumn and in spring. The spring crop is sown in boxes under glass, and planted out early in April. Those sown in autumn, particularly Ailsa Craig, Ronsham Park Hero, James's Keeping, and Record, promise a fine harvest; and those sown in spring are, I think, in advance of the general run."

"Have you many varieties of Potatoes?"

"We grow in large batches May Queen, Sharpe's Express, Sharpe's Victor, Early Favourite, Sir John Llewelyn, Eclipse, Royalty, Duchess of Cornwall, Snowball, Goldfinder, Up-to-Date, and Dalhousie. Carrots, Beets, Parsnips, Broad and Runner Beans, are all extensively grown, and we find no serious difficulty in making them flourish."

"And you make full use of the walls surrounding the kitchen garden."

"You mean in respect to trained fruit trees? Kent has long held the distinction of being the finest growing county in England, and the crops carried by the fruit trees in this part of it do not appear to contradict the fact."

Not only the crops, but the cleanliness sof their appearance, impressed me, and I asked how it was done.

"By persistent syringing and spraying. Locality has really very little to do with it. Most of the trees are young, and we go in for various shapes, chiefly bush, cordons, and espaliers."

THE BEST APPLES.

"Which do you consider the best varieties of dessert Apples?"

"James Grieve, Rival, Wealthy, Charles Ross, King of Pippins, Ribston Pippin, Allington Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Wyken Pippin, Langley Pippin, and Cox's Orange Pippin. Culinary kinds do equally well, or even slightly better. At any rate, Bramley's Seedling, Bismarck, Foster's Seedling, Gloria Mundi, Annie Elizabeth, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Lord Derby, Newton Wonder, Lane's Prince Albert, Tower of Glamis, Lady Henniker, Warner's King, and many others are carrying crops considerably above the average.

"Pears are in great request, and a very comprehensive collection has been planted. The most important of the varieties are Santa Claus, Doyenne du Comice, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Beurre Hardy, Beurre Bosc, Beurre Alexandra Lucas, Charles Ernest, Durondeau, Beurre Superfin, Williams's Bon Chretien, and Pitmaston Duchess. Plums, Cherries, Raspberries, and Peaches all do well on the walls; and Strawberries occupy a very large plot with very satisfactory results. Whenever the opportunity occurs we try to supplement the useful with the beautiful, and the herbaceous border, backed by a high wall, is thickly planted with the most choice varieties, interspersed with annuals."

PEACHES IN FORCE.

"The fruit houses must be on a considerable scale?"

"The Peach houses alone are one hundred and eighty-five feet in length. The varieties grown here are Violet Hative, Duke of York, Bellegarde, Royal George, Thomas Rivers, Barrington, Lady Palmerston, and Princess of Wales. Besides these, there are grown in the orchard house, Waterloo, Royal George, Early Grosse Mignonne, Hale's Early, and Dymond. Some little time ago there was trouble in respect to Peach cultivation, but since I established root pruning and making up the borders there has been no difficulty. Nectarines are not grown so extensively, but Stanwick Elruge and River's Orange look particularly well."

"Then there are the Vineries."

"Of which we have three. The first contains Foster's Seedling, Black Hamburgh, and Madresfield Court; the second, Muscat of Alexandria; and the third, Lady Downe's. In connection with the Vineries, the large house of herbaceous Calceolarias deserves to be indicated. Melons are grown in large quantities, and there is a house full of ripe and partially ripe fruit of extraordinary size."

AN OLD-FASHIONED CONSERVATORY.

"There remains the conservatory."

"It is one of those old structures, rarely seen, except in ancient places. Camellias still flourish on the walls, but leave plenty of room for flowers in season. Just now it is the day of the Schizanthus; of late plants of Primula obconica; and of Canterbury Bells, which are between four and five feet high. Carnations, particularly the Tree varieties, are grown extensively; and Chrysanthemums, large Japanese, Singles, and Decorative varieties in large batches. Thirteen hundred of the latter are grown, and the varieties are very up-to-date. Amongst them are Francis Rowe, Reg. Vallis, Mrs. G. Drabble, Lady E. Letchworth, Miss Rodwell, President Viger, Bob Pulling, Francis Jolliffe, White Queen, Thorpe's Beauty, Miss R. E. Roope, His Majesty, Thomas Lunt, Master David, H. E. Converse, Alice Lemon, Master James, W. Turner, King George V., Ada Kitchingham, and Rose Queen. The Singles include Juno, Caledonia, Mrs. A. Middleton, Sandown, Radiance, Autumn Tints, Phyllis, M. Lloyd, Hilda Paice, Mrs. J. Peed, E. Forbes, Mrs. F. D. Humphries, Sylvia Slade, Metta, and White Pagram. Other favourite plants are Plumbago rosea, Begonias (both summer and winter-flowering varieties), Cinerarias, Gloxinias, Malmaison Carnations, Primula sinensis, and Gardenias.

"So far as my own work is concerned, it is a great help to me to know that Mr. and Mrs. Duveen are both gardeners at heart, and are always ready to afford me the utmost assistance and encouragement."

ALFRED WILCOX.

A HANDSOME GREENHOUSE SHRUB.

An Evergreen Plant that is both Beautiful and Uncommon.

Many an owner of a greenhouse desiring to get "off the beaten track" in his selection of plants, will be glad to make the acquaintance of Clethra arborea minor. This is a dwarf, close-growing form of C. arborea, and is very suitable for cultivation in comparatively small pots, as it averages only two feet in height. It comes from Madeira, and is a decidedly handsome evergreen shrub, with pure white blossoms, which are borne in profusion in late summer and autumn. C. arborea itself is taller, and being of free growth, in a few years attains to a considerable size, and is consequently very useful in a greenhouse or conservatory of fairly large proportions.

This plant belongs to the Ericaceæ, and therefore does best in a peaty compost. Large plants may be potted in a mixture of turfy loam and peat, with a little leaf-mould and a liberal amount of sand; smaller plants may have three parts of peat to one of loam, with sand.

When well established, with the pots full of roots, weak liquid manure will be found very beneficial; while, being evergreen, the plants should never be allowed to become very dry at the root.

They may be propagated by means of cuttings of half-ripened wood, taken in July or August, and inserted in pots of sandy peat in a propagator, or under a handlight. Pot them off singly when rooted.

FORCING STRAWBERRIES.

How to Obtain the Luscious Fruit in Early Spring.

Now that the days are lengthening, and the sun may soon be expected to increase in power, a batch of Strawberries in pots may be brought indoors and started into growth. Examine the pots, and select those plants that are well rooted, and whose crowns are plump and firm.

STARTING THE PLANTS.

The best place to start the plants is a brick pit, filled with gently fermenting leaves or tan. The ordinary hot-bed of manure will be too strong, as it is only necessary to ensure a night temperature of about forty-five degrees. Plunge the pots almost to the rims in the material, which should be so built up that the plants are a few inches from the glass. Give air freely on all mild days, with just enough water to keep the foliage fresh. When the flower-buds are ready to expand the supply may be increased a little, but it should not be given freely until the fruit is set and beginning to swell.

Do not let the roots grow through the bottom of the pots into the plunging material, because, when coming into bloom, the plants should be removed to a sunny and well heated house, where they can stand on a shelf close to the glass. At this time, too, a constantly moist atmosphere must be maintained about the plants, by damping the paths and other surfaces frequently. When the blossoms are expanded they must be artificially fertilised, a camel-hair brush being used for this operation. Keep the plants well supplied with water and weak liquid manure while the fruit is swelling.

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ome Richardias. Instead of growing vigorously, s they ought to have been doing for the last few nonths, leaf after leaf has been turning yellow, nd, in consequence, green-fly has been per-istently attacking them. As soil and roots were ll right when examined, I felt that the cause nust have something to do with the foliage; but what it was I could not for a long time discover. Now, however, it is plain enough. I find that when the soil in the pots was top-dressed, the eaves were washed with an insecticide, one of he many offered for sale with soft soap as their basis. I do not know what tests manufacturers make of their preparations before placing them on the market, but my experience of some of these insecticides is that, if used at the strength recommended (as this, I am told, was), they are very apt to injure the leaves of a good many plants. Again, it is essential that they should be washed off after they have done their work—say, in the course of twenty-four hours—and this is not always stated in the directions. Unless it is done, the soft soap, or the sticky substitute for it, clogs the pores in the leaves, and practically suffocates the plants. Personally, I prefer fumigation to spraying or sponging; it is safer, and less troublesome. If for any reason insecticides, or fungicides, must be used, they should be applied weak and often, rather than strong. Out of doors they may possibly be less injurious, but, even there, spraying with Bordeaux mixture has proved disastrous to Peach-trees. This fact has for some years past been the subject of investigation at the United States Experiment Station at Tennessee, and it has been found that the leaves of the Peach have the power of absorbing copper, the principal ingredient in Bordeaux mixture.

May 9th.—Here is something which may be useful to housewives as well as to gardeners. According to the Bulletin issued by the Experimental Station in Colorado, Pyrethrum powder, made by crushing the dried flowers of certain kinds of Pyrethrums, has proved a very effective insecticide in America. One ounce of the powder is mixed with three gallons of water, and the mixture is sprayed in the air of a greenhouse, or of a room—not, of course, all of it, or anything like all, but enough for the purpose, which can be ascertained by a few experiments. It is best done in the evening, the room or greenhouse being then closed up for the night. In the morning, it is said, every fly, mosquito, and other similar insect will all be found on the ground. Many will still be alive, but it is an easy matter to sweep them up and destroy them. This sounds a very simple way of clearing flies out of a room. If it is equally efficacious in ridding a greenhouse of green-fly, it will be much better than fumigating or ordinary spraying. Two questions of importance which it suggests are: Does it succeed with wasps? And is it harmless to Grapes—and to the eater of the Grapes? In the autumn my Vinery swarms with wasps, and I have tried every known means of keeping them out, and of killing them, but all to no purpose. If Pyrethrum powder will do this, it will be a boon to me, and to many others in similar plight. If it can be procured in this country—and I believe it can—I shall certainly try it; but at first, at any rate, I shall keep the spray low, so as to avoid the Grapes.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)

FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 85.—Mr. George Duncan, F.R.H.S., at The Gardens, Warnham Court, Horsham.

Before I paid my visit to the gardens at Warnham Court, I was warned that I should be too late to see the Daffodils at their best, and too early to see the Tulips in all their glory. Yet the Daffodils presented a brave show, and the Tulips were unfolding their leaves in the most promising manner on the afternoon Mr. Duncan showed me round. This occupied a good deal of time, for the gardens, though only a small portion of the large estate which Mr. C. J. Lucas owns, are both extensive and full of interest, while the houses are numerous, and their contents well worth lingering over. When I had made many notes, and we had at any rate inspected the most notable features, we returned to the pretty and pleasantly situated cottage in which Mr. Duncan resides. In this instance I was not in doubt as to which of the features is considered to be entitled to priority, for the rock garden at Warnham is one of the finest in the country. Mr. Duncan admitted that he was proud of it, though he was concerned to assure me that its charms, like others in the gardens, are largely due to the knowledge which Mr. Lucas possesses of horticulture, and to the enthusiasm with which he sanctions improvements.

"When was the rock garden made?" I inquired.

"Nine years ago, by Mr. Backhouse, of York. About fifty trees, chiefly Oaks, were cut down in order to provide space for it, and for the wild garden adjacent. The rockery covers quite half an acre of ground."

"Which of the Alpine plants do you think flourish most?"

"The Dianthus family, a very large one, does exceedingly well. Daphnes, Campanulas, Saxifragas, Sedums, Primulas, and Gentianas also invariably thrive. The Soldanellas Mr. Lucas brought from within walking distance of the Lake of Geneva, and he also obtained from Switzerland a number of the more lovely Gentianas, as well as the yellow Auriculas. I have been to Switzerland with him on two occasions, and brought home sufficient to plant the rockery round my house, which Mr. Lucas calls 'The Little Alps.'"

"You have a quantity of Ramondias?"

"Yes; they are grown in the chinks of the rocks, and flourish in the shade. We have had a very fine show of Anemones this year; the later varieties still last well."

"Which variety do you prefer?"

"I like Appenina, the blue, particularly, and Robinsoniana (the pale levender) is also very pretty. In summer Gypsophilas hang down the stones, and are very effective. We have Androsace in three varieties: the white, with pink eye, the pink, and the pink with white eye. Other plants grown in the rockery are Veronicas in variety, and Linums. Coloured Maples, kept cut back, help to maintain the character of the rockery. There are two pools, one at the bottom full of Marliac Lilies, and another adjoining the wild garden."

"I gather that the name is a reflex of the contents?"

"Our object certainly is to justify the title. The wild garden contains a number of different flowering shrubs, which are allowed to ramble at their will. We planted Honeysuckle, with Sweet Brier below. One of the features is Eremurus himalaicus. The plants have suffered a good deal from the cold spring, but the spikes, with their star-shaped flowers, are very attractive. Then we have different Lilies, including Tigrinums, and Clematis swarms up most of the trees. Close by is the hardy Fernery."

"When was that constructed?"

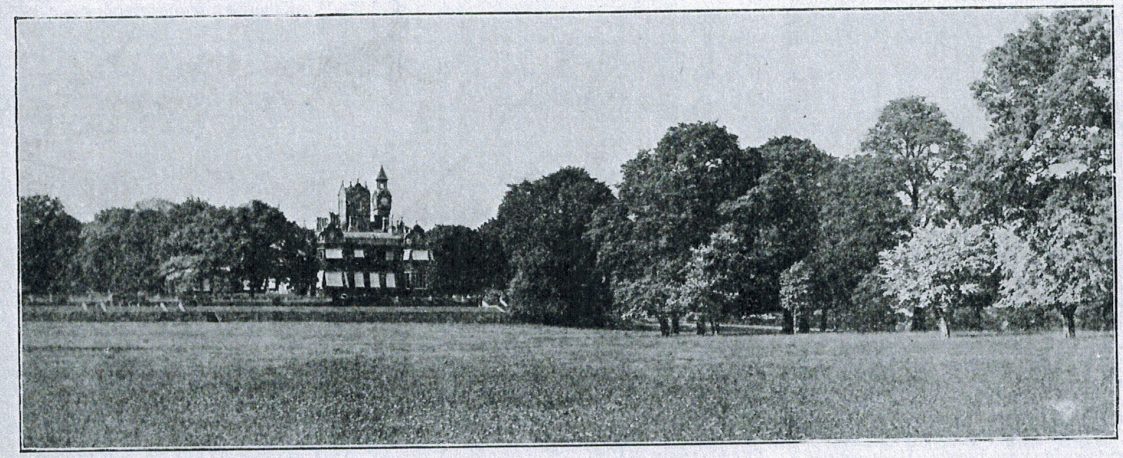
"Five years ago. It was formerly a pond, and was adapted for its present purpose. The collection consists entirely of British Ferns."

"And the Pinetums?"

"The smaller Pinetum was made twenty-four years ago. The collection of Conifers is exceptionally good, and up to date. I believe that Mr. Veitch has a standing order to send to Warnham anything fresh that comes out. By the way, Abies Veitchi is not happy with us."

"How do you account for that?"

"I suppose it is because the soil is all clay. As a matter of fact, a number of Abies, when they



Warnham Court, from the Park.

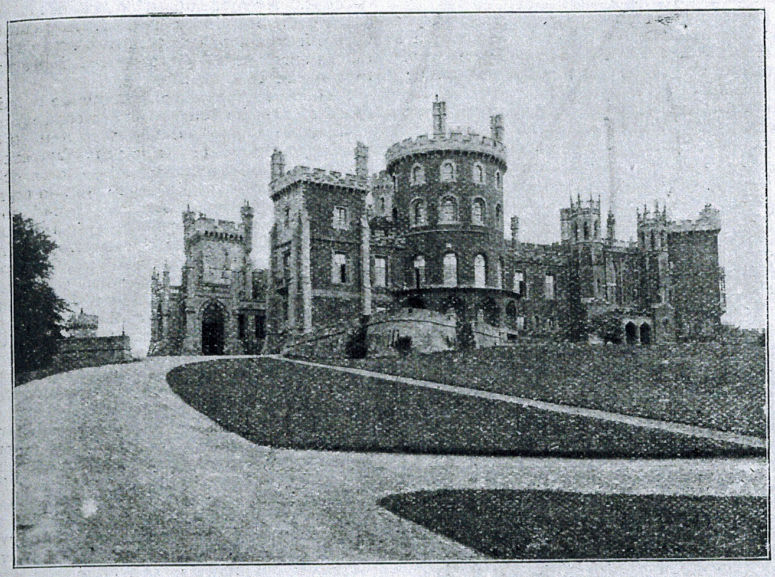
in the same ground two years in succession, and every affected root should be burnt. It is in the latter respect that owners of gardens, as well as farmers, so often fail. They are left in the ground, "because it does not pay to pull them up," though, as a matter of fact, it would be hard to find a more profitable investment. For the spores are in the roots and stems, and when the latter decay the former escape to the ground, and lie there in readiness to prey upon the next crop that appeals to their taste.

May 22nd.—Some time ago I read in a gardening book or paper—I forget the exact source—a statement which implied that fruit-buds might change into leaf-buds. It seemed to me incredible, but as there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy, I resolved to keep my eyes open. In early spring the Apple trees in this garden were well supplied with fruit-buds, but, except in the case of two or three trees, we have no blossom—literally none. Is this an instance of fruit-buds changing into leaf-buds? I do not think so; indeed, I will go further, and say I am sure it is not. For careful examination of what were the fruit-buds reveals the fact that, although leaves are actually issuing from the side, as they would do in any case, the centres are gone. Some of these centres appear to have been damaged by birds, but before that, I am inclined to think, they had been damaged and entered by insects, which are very prevalent on all the trees. In others I can distinguish the little stalks to which the embryonic blossoms were attached. As the ends are brown and withered, I suppose the mischief must be attributed to the severe weather in April. If so, the popular idea that fruit blossoms are not injured by frost unless they are fairly well developed at the time is a delusion; though, to be sure, the frost this spring was exceptional. Yet, even against it, in two instances which came under my notice, a very slight protection sufficed to prevent injury. The flower-buds on a number of Azaleas standing outside were all destroyed, with the exception of those which happened to be under the projecting end of an unused light. Also, while all the Raspberry canes in this district suffered severely, mine escaped almost entirely—I suppose, because the wire netting by which they are surrounded, for the purpose of protecting them against birds, took the keen edge off the wind.

May 23rd.—A week or two ago I noted down some interesting French methods of propagating Roses from cuttings. I find that they are not confined to Roses; nor, indeed, do I see why they should be. In the "Revue Horticole" there was a description of a similar method of propagating Nicotiana colossea variegata, the object in both cases being quite the same—to induce the formation of a callus before complete severance took place. The shoot is cut through one-third at first, then another third a few days later, and finally, a few days later still, taken off, and inserted in sandy soil and treated in the ordinary way. Altogether, the idea seems an excellent one.

H. C. Davidson.

(To be continued.)



Belvoir Castle from the Drive.

In reference to the fruit show at Chiswick, on September 29th, 1903, we are desired to state that Class 52 is an open class, and not confined to amateurs. The schedule can be obtained by sending a postage stamp to the Royal Horticultural Society's office, 117, Victoria-street, S.W.

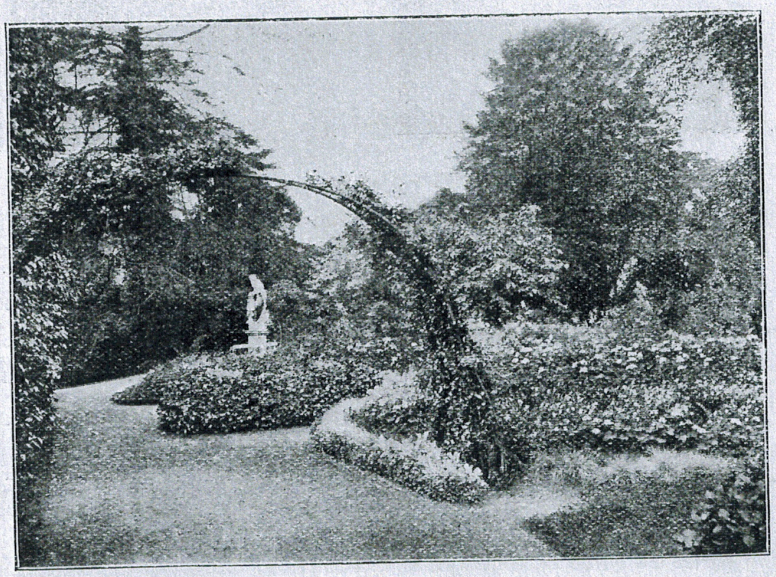
FAMOUS GARDENERS AT HOME.

No. 87.—Mr. W. H. Divers, F.R.H.S., at the Gardens, Belvoir Castle, Grantham.

For beauty of situation, the gardens of Belvoir Castle are unsurpassed by any others in the Midland counties. Everybody knows Macaulay's reference to "Belvoir's lordly terraces," on which the bonfire was lighted which sent the message of the arrival of the Spanish Armada on to Lincoln, and thence to the far North. Those terraces, and the fair domain of woodland and dell falling away from them on every side, have long since been made a treasure-house of all that is rare and beautiful in the world of plants. At least three generations of the noble owners of Belvoir have been lovers of gardening, and so it has come to pass that their combined efforts, aided by the best expert horticultural advice they could command, have resulted in one of the most wonderful collections of plants in the country.

There is probably no other private garden which is so well known as this one. To go to Belvoir is one of the most popular outings for the dwellers in Midland towns. At Belvoir they are allowed to wander about at their own sweet will. If there is one thing that the Duke of Rutland is more anxious about than another, it is that his lovely gardens shall be enjoyed by the people. So trippers go out there, from the crowded Midland towns, by the hundred, and take their fill of pleasure amid some of the loveliest surroundings in the country.

From Redmile, the nearest station to Belvoir, it is an uphill walk of three miles. On leaving the station, which has an imposing covered entrance, and an aristocratic look about its architecture generally, which stamps it as a station apart from other roadside stations (it was built, I was told, under the late Duke's supervision), it takes some minutes to get to the village. You enter it past an ancient church which stands by the side of a disused canal. Two or three equally ancient inns, one of which had hung out a notice that parties were "cated for"; some low stone-built cottages behind well-stocked gardens; a school-building that looked very small even for such a small village; and the last house,



A Corner of the Flower Garden at Belvoir Castle.

a substantial farmstead, set back at some distance from the road, with a wide intervening space of old-fashioned kitchen garden—these were the chief features till the open country was once more gained. Then the road made almost a bee-line for the wooded heights, at one extremity of which the majestic Castle formed the topmost point in the picture. A deep dip in the road made the way longer. Just beyond this I watched a heroic attempt at ploughing the wet clay; four horses, urged by two men, were drawing an ordinary plough at a snail's pace through the soil. The land was sodden after the recent rains, and almost unworkable. A newly-built lodge, in excellent style, gave entrance to the Park. The road deviated to the left, and got steeper. Trees closed in, and then, in a clearing, were to be seen a saw-mill and the estate buildings, and, a little farther, the Peacock Inn, where gardening enthusiasts sometimes stay for a week. The Castle towered close overhead. A gentle descent, past the stables, which a century ago were barracks, and then a part of the view was flanked by the walls of the kitchen garden. Through a shrubbery I reached the pretty house of Mr. W. H. Divers, who for nearly ten years has held the important position of head gardener at Belvoir.

It had been in my mind, for a very long time, to go to Belvoir when the spring garden, which is the chief of its many attractions, was at its best, and the earliest question was to ascertain if I had timed my visit aright.

Mr. Divers said that I had. "We expected the spring garden to be at its best," he added, "about April 20th, but the season is three weeks behind. This has made a very long season of it, and things have not come together quite so well as usual. The rain, too, has 'dashed' some of the flowers a little, as you will see."

"Has not the spring garden at Belvoir been established a long time?"

"Yes. Belvoir has been noted for spring flowers for ages. Years ago old Fleming and Ingram started the system of spring bedding."

"The show grounds must be of great extent?"

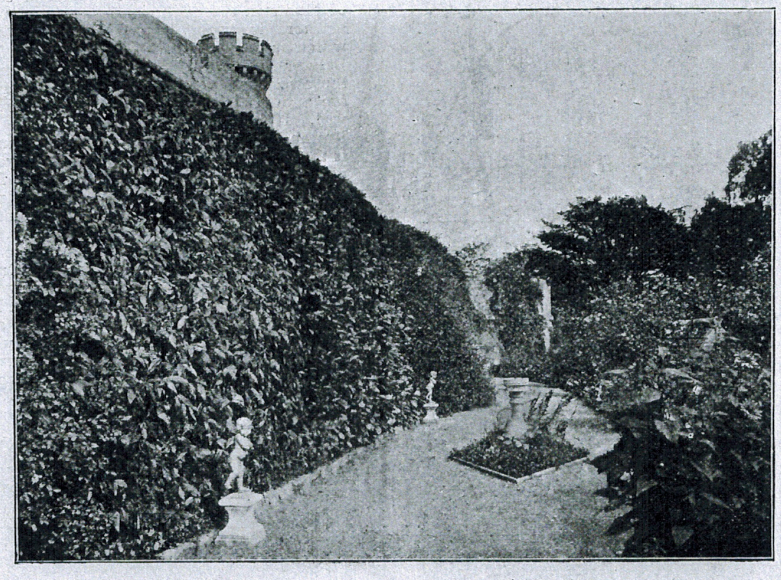
"They are; but it is such a difficult place to measure, being all up and down hill, and so irregular in shape that I cannot tell you the exact acreage. From my house to the end of the flower garden it is about a mile, and there is one walk two miles and a-half in length. The kitchen garden is just over fourteen acres, seven of which are inside the walls. There are sixteen gardeners, and seven other helpers. The Castle rises two hundred feet above the kitchen garden."

From Mr. Diver's house we went along a winding path, which meandered up the hillside. We stopped, from time to time, to look at the most interesting trees and plants, but, unfortunately, space will not allow of my commenting fully on all that I saw.

Expressing some surprise at the luxuriance of the growth of everything, my companion said that this was due to the sheltered position of the grounds, and to the fact that the soil, a blue lias clay, was of unknown depth. "It grows Rhododendrons and all peat-loving subjects," he said, "remarkably well. Down the main drive, to Grantham, there are some splendid specimens of the old Rhododendron ponticum."

I noticed various Narcissi growing in clumps in the grass.

"That is, in my opinion," observed Mr. Divers, "the best way to grow them. They should be grouped, not dotted about. The only disadvantage of growing bulbs in grass is that it makes the place look rather untidy up to June, as we cannot cut the grass until their blooming period is over. The Duke is very much interested in the spring garden. Many of the things have been brought home by him from abroad. Here, for instance, is a Photinia japonica (Japan Medlar), which came from the South of France."



A Terrace Walk at Belvoir Castle.

Close by was a fine specimen of Arbutus Andrachne, a native of Greece, which blossoms in March and April. It is not often seen growing as it grows at Belvoir. The flower is like a big bunch of Lily of the Valley.

In Janetta's Walk, named after the late Duchess, who died in 1899, Mr. Divers drew my attention to the "Manuka" (Leptospermum scoparium), a beautiful New Zealand shrub, which flowers here profusely. It is always regarded as a very tender thing, but at Belvoir it has been quite unharmed by frost.

Some magnificent Scotch Firs compelled my admiration. "Most timber does well in this blue clay," said my guide, and there is, besides, plenty of moisture. This shrub is worth noticing. It is the Rhaphiolepis, or Japanese Hawthorn, and flowers about July. Look at that Abies pectinata (Silver Fir), rising straight up from the hollow on our left. It is one hundred and fourteen feet high. That Tilia tomentosa (Lime Tree) was brought from Hamburg by the late Duchess, in 1898."

"It must be very difficult to cut the grass on these steep banks?"

"All our mowing has to be done with the scythe. On those arches we grow scarlet Honeysuckles, and three or four kinds of Clematis. Our soil, however, is rather too clayey for Clematis."

By this time we had reached the flower gardens. My first impression was of masses of soft colours, beautifully blended, and curtained by the fresh spring green, in innumerable shades, of the surrounding shrubs and trees. It was a picture of rare floral beauty.

I spent some time examining the beds in detail. One exquisite bed had in the centre Wallflowers (Salmon Queen), dotted with Tulips (Golden Eagle). Outside of this was Symphytum officinale. Then came Heucheras, Violas (Robinson's Standard), Phloxes (Newry Seedling), and an edging of Golden Feather. Another bed had for its chief subjects White Swan Tulips and Aubrietia Leichtlini (the latter was distributed from Belvoir, having come originally from the gardens at Baden-Baden). Another bed consisted almost entirely of Double Arabis and bright red Tulips (Elegans); another, of bright yellow Tulips (retroflexa), Phlox divaricata, and Old Clevedon Purple Pansies (this grand old thing is, unfortunately, not much grown now); another, of Veitch's yellow Polyanthus (this comes true from seed), and red and yellow Tulips (Keizerskroon); another, of Veitch's dark red Wallflower, dotted with White Swan Tulips; another, of purple Aubrietia and yellow Waldsteinia (Trifolia); another, of Proserpine Tulips (lightly feathered black on white), with variegated Crown Imperials amongst them; another, of Blue King Pansies (this comes very early) dotted with Cottage Maid Tulips; another, of Belvoir Castle yellow Wallflowers, and Duchesse de Parma Tulips (red and yellow).

In one bed there was a fine display of Couleur de Cardinal Tulips. This Tulip is one of the most beautiful that can be grown. Not only is the colour exceptionally brilliant, but there is a rich bloom all up the stem, and it is a Tulip that keeps its form remarkably well. The double white Arabis looked most effective. Referring to this plant, Mr. Divers said it was an old plant revived. At the same time, he thought it was one of the best introductions of recent years.

I asked if the Belvoir Castle Wallflower was Mr. Divers' own introduction.

"It has been grown here," he replied, "for years. It is a well-known thing, and you get it in the trade, but it is not always true."

Speaking of spring-bedding plants generally Mr. Divers strongly recommended Saxifraga muscoides atropurpurea, "a very nice, neat thing for edging, which lasts a long time." He was also very pleased with a new thing they were using as an edging, Waldsteinia, which I have already mentioned.

In the statuary garden, which we entered next, were two very tall Spruce Firs, one of them being about one hundred and twenty feet high. There was a great bank of Rhododendrons, of mixed colours, which would be in bloom later. The statues, of Ketton stone, were the work of Cibber, and are over two hundred and fifty years old. They were done for £35 each, including the stone. In this garden I was surprised to see some flourishing Palms.

"They are quite hardy," said Mr. Divers, "but we put a mat round them in the severe weather. It is the cutting winds that try tender plants more than the frosts, and here we are very sheltered from all winds. Another thing is that plants, when at rest, do not feel the cold so much. These Palms weigh about two hundred weights each, and are over nine feet in height. This is our latest garden. It does not get so much sun as the others. We have here a fine clump of Kerria japonica (Jew's Mallow), a beautiful spring-flowering shrub."

Beyond the statuary garden was a piece of wild garden, which gets well covered, I was told, with Ferns, particularly Lady Ferns. There were many Rhododendrons here, and some great specimens of the common Laurel, growing twenty-five feet high. Near to this is a spot

known as the Duchess's favourite view. The Castle is seen, across a well-wooded valley, half a mile or more away. From this point two sides of it are visible—the south and the west sides.

Referring to the wild Cherry trees, two fine specimens of which were growing at this place, Mr. Divers observed that the woods were full of them.

In the Duchess's garden, named after the Duke's mother, who planned it out, we spent some time. It has been added to at various times, and now comprises about eight acres. The form of many of the beds—some of these are bell-shaped—has never been altered. A favourite Wallflower, used for bedding purposes here, was Ruby Gem. Under a Cedar was a bed of these Wallflowers, edged with single white Arabis. In such a position I was surprised to see them doing so well, but Mr. Divers explained that they had been well watered in the middle of the winter. Close by was a nice bed of double Violets, Lady Hume Campbell, with an edging of Golden Feather. Mr. Divers considers Lady Hume the hardiest of the double Violets.

In a cross-shaped bed, a blaze of colour came from a mass of bright yellow Pansies (Bullion) in full flower. "They have been out like this," said Mr. Divers, "for a long time—quite ten weeks. Bullion has a rather delicate constitution, but it is a wonderful thing to flower." The edging in this case was crimson Daisies. Another bed contained a new Forget-me-not (Dyeræ), much larger than the ordinary one. "This is a seedling Pansy of our own," said Mr. Divers, pointing to a nice yellow flower; "we have named it Canary." Hereabouts stands a memorial pillar, the date on which is 1825, to the noble lady who planned the garden. It was this Duchess, a woman of extraordinary gifts, who designed the present picturesque Castle. The old one, as I saw from engravings which I was shown subsequently in the Castle itself, was a most common-place looking building.

I noted, in this part of the grounds, a Eucryphia pinnatifolia, from Chili, which has large flowers, like a Rose of Sharon; Cunninghamia sinensis, the broad-leaved China Fir, a very rare tree, planted in 1842; some fine specimens of Araucaria, or Chili Pine, better known, perhaps, as the "Monkey Puzzle"; a Tsuga (Hemlock Spruce), about a hundred years old; a couple of very healthy Palms, which had been planted by Mr. Divers, out of 6-in. pots; a beautiful bit of rustic work, an illustration of which appears in the new edition of the "Gardener's Assistant"; two sets of verses, inscribed on glass, by Fanny Kemble, one set written during a visit to Belvoir in 1842, and the other, on her next visit, in 1883; an Azara (A. microphylla, the best known of the species), which, when it is in flower, emits a powerful vanilla-like perfume; a Japanese Maple, supposed to be the finest specimen in the country; a curious Oak tree, growing horizontally from the hill side, instead of perpendicularly (Mr. Divers has some seed from it, to see if this character will be perpetuated); and a beautiful South European dwarf trailing evergreen, Lithospermum fruticosum, which has a bright gentian-blue flower, with reddish-violet stripes.

The view from this end of the gardens embraces the country north-east of Grantham, with Woolsthorpe village in the foreground, and the lake (one and a-half miles long) in the park just below.

We halted in front of a small Eucalyptus.

"That is E. coccifera," said Mr. Divers. "It is the only variety we can grow here, and we have tried eighteen varieties."

"I see several fine clumps of Bamboos in the hollows there. How do you get on with them?"

"Very well. Arundinaria japonica has been grown since 1882. A. falcata, the best known of all the hardy Bamboos, also does well. Bamboos want plenty of moisture. They don't mind the cold so long as they get plenty of moisture in summer. Of course, we have to give them a good deal of water in a dry season. We put the hose on, and let it run all day."

"Do you ever take up the Daffodils that are growing in the grass and in the wild garden?"

"No, we never disturb them. Some of them have been in the same place for twenty years. They do not deteriorate. They never have manure, or any attention at all."

Coming to the rock garden, I enquired if any particular system is followed in it.

"We keep the rockeries as distinct as we can. In one we grow white Arabis, in another Montbretias, in another Forget-me-nots, in another blue Arabis."

"Ferns seem to do well with you?"

"Yes, the woods are full of them. The Ostrich Fern, which grows vigorously here, has got a little touched by the frost. A cascade comes down through the rock garden sometimes. Just now the water is being held up."

"Tell me about your Rhododendrons, which, I know, are a great feature at Belvoir?"

"We often get the early kinds to flower about Christmas. On Easter Sunday they were looking grand. The three early varieties that we grow are R. Nobleanum, bright crimson; R. altaclerense, scarlet; R. Jacksoni, pink. Of the later varieties I should think we have fifty or sixty. Among the most interesting of the Himalayan varieties that we grow are R. Falconeri, the leaves of which are a glossy green above and russet-brown below, and the flowers yellow; R. Thomsoni, another beautiful thing, with blood-red flowers; R. niveum, yellow and lilac; and R. campanulatum, pale lilac. Some of these are eighteen feet long."

SALVIA PATENS.

Proceeding on our walk, we stopped to look at a Staphylea colchica (Bladderwort), a shrub which bears flowers like a bunch of white Lilac; a clump of Phyllostachys viridi-glaucescens, the finest of the hardy Bamboos; Bambusa tessellata, a Bamboo with purple-green stems, and remarkable for bearing larger leaves than any other species of hardy Bamboos; a Canadian evergreen shrub, Myrica cerifera (Candleberry Myrtle); a very sweet-scented evergreen shrub, Daphne pontica, which flowers in April and May; a very pretty Cornus sanguinea variegata (variegated Dogwood); and a New Zealand shrub, Veronica Traversi, which flowers late in the autumn. A fine effect is obtained in one place by growing variegated Maple amongst the purple-leaved Hazel.

A patch of Anemone Robinsoniana made a lovely sight. This variety is grown at Belvoir for one reason because the pheasants eat the roots of all the other varieties except this.

"The gardens are kept, I see, in as natural a state as possible?"

"Yes; that is our great aim. Even the steps are formed out of the rough rock."

"The planning of the spring beds must take you a long time?"

"Very few people have any idea of the amount of work involved. I change the beds every year, so as never to have the same bedding twice. I shall plan out next year's spring bedding in a day or two."

W. C. SAMBROOK.

LETTERS FROM A LADY GARDENER.

43.—BEDDING-OUT PLANTS.

DEAR KATE,—Bedding-out has had its day, and is no longer the fashion; yet, as you say, where there are small beds set in the grass, one must fill them with something, especially where, as in your case, you have lately taken a new house, and the beds are all bare and empty.

Now, if you go to the local nurseryman, he will, no doubt, suggest scarlet Geraniums (Zonal Pelargoniums), edged with Golden Feather (Pyrethrum), and this with blue Lobelia, but don't, on any account, be led into any such a dreadfully common arrangement. I don't say it is not pretty, or easily grown, for it is both; but when one has seen five million beds just alike, one doesn't care about the next that comes along.

The prettiest of all small beds on a lawn is one filled with tuberous Begonias, and if the weather is going on as it has begun this year, with one continual drip, and no particular sunshine, these flowers will do far better than Pelargoniums, which always lose their petals in a shower of rain, whilst Begonias like a damp season, and rejoice in a wet day. Then there is such a range of rich, delicate colours amongst Begonias; you can have salmon-pink in shades, or apricot, edged with crimson (a most brilliant bed), or white, shading to scarlet, or all the tints mixed together, if you like, and each will be sure to look well if you select good single varieties, and give them rich soil, without fresh manure, planting the tubers just below the soil, and mulching the bed later on (in July) with old hotbed stuff, leaf-mould, and a little soot, when they will go on blooming until the frosts of autumn cut them down, when you can store the tubers in a dry corner of the greenhouse (or even in a cellar, only beware the mice!) until March, when they can be started again, in boxes of light soil. They are not half the trouble that Geraniums are, for you need not take cuttings (although you can do, if you like, in June), and they are dormant in winter, taking scarcely any room.

You can raise these Begonias from seed, without fire-heat, at the end of June, to keep up a good supply of tubers, but of this I will tell you when the time comes to do it.

Another very pretty bed can be arranged with seedling plants of Nemesia Suttoni, which is in many brilliant colours, sometimes showing two or three distinct shades in one flower. But you must be sure to get sturdy, well-hardened plants, which were sown in warmth two months ago, and put them in, about eight inches apart, with an edging of the dwarf Nemesia (nana compacta), if you like, or Sedum sempervivoides, with its neat rosettes of foliage, and scarlet flowers, always makes a pretty edging. This plant is, however, a biennial, and not quite hardy, so that it has to be sown early every spring in warmth, and potted off singly, growing them on all that summer with plenty of moisture, but keeping them rather dry the next winter, when they will be fit for use the following spring. They are, as you will see, a good deal of trouble to grow, but the plants can be bought by the dozen, in pots, now, which is probably the best thing to do for an amateur, with limited space.

If your beds are large enough, they will be much improved by having taller specimen plants

flower really well they need a long growing period, and this can be managed only by starting them early under glass. The season outside is much too short for them.

June 9th.—Forty-one varieties of Potatoes were grown for trial last year at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. The high-priced Eldorado was not among them; Northern Star was, but does not appear to have distinguished itself. No first-class certificate was given, but General Buller, Syon House

MR. GEORGE DUNCAN.

Prolific, Sir John Llewellyn, Peckover, Queen Alexandra, and The Factor received, either during the year or previously, awards of merit. The last three were among the seven varieties which, on account of their heavy crop, fine appearance and freedom from disease, were ordered to be cooked, in order to test their table qualities. The other four were Daniels' No. 1, Great Central, Highlander, Monarch, and Sir Walter Raleigh. Of the Factor it is reported, "This variety maintains the high opinion formed of it by the committee in 1901, and was excellent in every respect." With so many varieties which are excellent to choose from, there is no excuse for growing worn-out and worthless Potatoes. It is said that the useful life of a variety does not exceed twelve or fourteen years at the outside. When that period is reached—before then, indeed—it should be discarded in favour of some younger and more vigorous variety. That is the best way to prevent an attack of disease, though even then it is not wise to abandon such safeguards as an annual change of soil, spraying, and so forth.

June 10th.—In many gardens the lawn is completely surrounded by paths. Personally, I like to see it—at any rate, on one side—come right up to the mixed borders. The effect is well shown in the illustration. This is a very beautiful lawn, one such as, unfortunately, we cannot all have, but the same principle may be applied to others. Paths are useful, and, indeed, necessary, but there are often too many of them in the garden. The flowers look far better when they spring from a setting of grass.

H. C. DAVIDSON.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 193.—MR. GEORGE DUNCAN, AT THE GARDENS, MERSTHAM HOUSE.

THE pretty village of Merstham, still retaining on one side a good deal of its old-world appearance, in spite of the erection of a few modern houses, is dominated by Merstham House, the historic mansion now in the occupation of Mr. Andrew Walker, with its splendid iron entrance gates and its very extensive pleasure grounds. Mr. George Duncan, the head gardener, lives close to the gates, and on the occasion of my visit, towards the end of April, I met him just outside his pretty house, so that we were able at once to begin the tour of inspection. A charming feature of the drive is a vista which was made in recent years, while, owing to the undulations and the general arrangement of the gardens, there is an absence of stiffness which is very delightful.

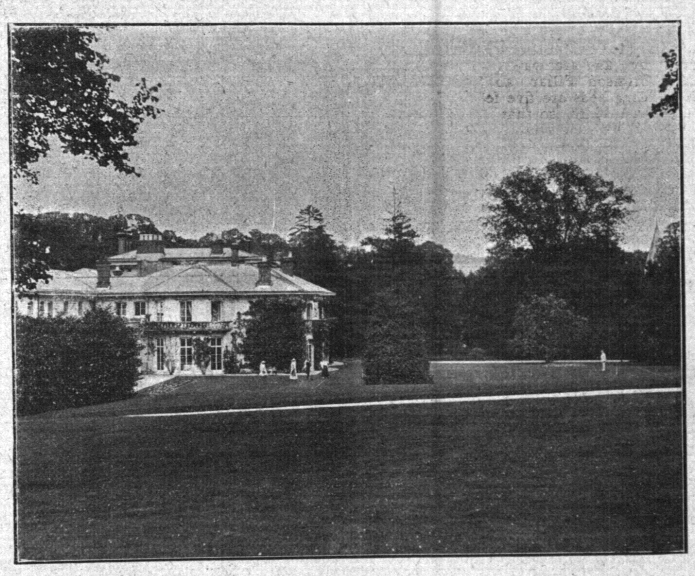
An excellent specimen of Cupressus attracting my attention, Mr. Duncan said,

"The Cupressus does very well here, and the soil, which is chiefly clay, also suits the Thuja Lobbii. Other evergreen ornamental trees and shrubs which thrive at Merstham are Cedrus deodara, Abies morinda and Abies canadensis, Yews, Laurels, Aucubas, and Rhododendrons."

"What about deciduous trees and shrubs?"

"The most notably successful include double Cherry trees, Tulip trees, Acer negundo variegata, Lilacs, of which there are great masses, the Persian Lilac being the most conspicuous, Ailanthus glandulosa (the Tree of Heaven), and Azalea mollis."

Turning aside to look at the Parish Church, which dates from 1018, and is in close proximity to the grounds, we spent a few minutes watching the swans on a pond near by. Here the



MERSTHAM HOUSE, SOUTH FRONT.

Cow-Parsnip (Heracleum giganteum) grows to an immense height, and in addition is a bed of Oriental Poppies, planted the year before last. Proceeding on to the lawn, on which stands a venerable Mulberry tree, possibly two hundred years old, propped, and still bearing fruit, I asked the length of a border planted in sloping patches, instead of in squares, with Violas in quantity, the effect, in consequence of the judicious blending of colours, being exceedingly good.

"Forty-three yards," replied Mr. Duncan. "The Violas will probably be backed with Hollyhocks and Marguerites, and edged with Alyssum procumbens."

"How many varieties of Viola are there?"

"About thirteen. We use Violas, as you will see, very much for mixed borders. Altogether, I suppose we have a score of varieties. The best, I think, are William Niel, Royal Sovereign, Redbraes Bronze, Redbraes White, Stobhill Gem, Lark, Venus, and William Haig."

"I suppose you find them easy to grow?"

"Very. We propagate in September and October, and plant out the first week in April. These varieties came from Edinburgh."

"Tulips are also, I observe, grown in masses?"

"Yes, there are six hundred in the oval bed, and about the same number in the long bed on the lawn. My great object is to have a mass of colour in each bed."

"And you seem to be highly successful. What Tulips do you specially recommend?"

"Among the best are: Dussart, Joost van Vondel, Keizer's Kroon, Proserpine, Chrysolora, and Princess Marianne. In the bed under the conservatory are Hyacinths, Daffodils, and Wallflowers, which in summer will be followed by Marguerites, Geraniums, and Calceolarias."

"Daffodils, too, are planted in borders and amongst the grass?"

"Yes, in considerable quantities. The varieties which do particularly well are Golden Spur, Horsfieldii, Emperor, Sir Watkin, Princeps, and P. Van Sion."

Entering the commodious conservatory, which is kept well supplied with bloom, I noticed the popular Rhododendron, Pink Pearl, just coming out, and Mr. Duncan said,

"I think that, of all Rhododendrons, Pink Pearl is the best. It has often struck me that

Rhododendrons might with advantage be grown more indoors. For instance, a few in tubs would be very showy."

"Your Camellias make a good background."

"They flower very freely. The varieties are chiefly the old white. We grow Ghent Azaleas in quantity for forcing, and in the winter we had a few nice specimens of Amaryllis, all seedlings. The warm end of the conservatory is used for Palms—Kentias, and Phœnix. My favourite is P. rupicola. The Malmaisons are just coming out."

"Magnolia grandiflora does well on the house?"

"Yes, and a Pyracanthus, which, though only planted three years ago, is quite fourteen feet high. It berries very nicely, but I shall have to net it, to prevent the birds from getting them. The Calycanthus occidentalis (which flowers about the first of August), Virginian Creeper, and Japan Honeysuckle are also grown on the house."

"Have you any idea of the age of the splendid Yew hedge close to the front door?"

"I should say that it is about the same age as the house itself, which was built about a hundred years ago. The hedge is from ten to fifteen feet through. Three years since, I planted about forty of the English Yews, to fill up."

On our way to the Rose garden, passing a brilliant bed of Tulips on the slant of the lawn, I inquired whether the bulbs of the latter are lifted.

"Yes, after they have flowered, I lift the bulbs in their sorts, covering them with ashes two or three inches thick, and I find that they are almost as good as I can buy. Some of the bulbs are three years old, and they are still doing well. I cannot ripen Hyacinth bulbs so well as the bought bulbs are ripened."

"Has the Rose garden been in existence many years?"

"No, when I came, four years ago, it was a mass of weeds. I cleared the ground, and planted Roses three years since last winter. The Rose garden consists of two pieces connected by an archway, the climbers being Paul's Crimson Pillar and Dorothy Perkins. The winding beds are five feet wide, with paths of the same width, so that one can walk round and cut flowers without treading on the beds. Mr. Walker is very fond of Roses, and takes a special interest in this little garden."

"You grow most of the leading sorts, I conclude, but which classes do the best?"

"Teas and Hybrid Teas. The soil is not the best conceivable for Roses, but they do pretty well, none the less. The Teas include Maman Cochet, Catherine Mermet, Jean Ducher, Anna Olivier, Madame Hoste, Innocente Pirola, Rubens, and Ernest Metz; the Hybrid Teas: Bessie Brown, Mildred Grant, Captain Hayward, Horace Vernet, Countess of Caledon, Caroline Testout, and Frau Karl Druschki. The standards are similar varieties."

"You have not named the Hybrid Perpetuals."

"They are, chiefly, General Jacqueminot, Duchess of Edinburgh, Prince Camille de Rohan, Duke of Teck, Mrs. John Laing, Comte Raimbaud, Earl of Dufferin, and John Stuart Mill."

"Roses," continued Mr. Duncan, "are the favourite flower here, and the other leading flowers are Carnations and Violets."

"Not Orchids?"

"No, and I think that ladies generally have a preference for the blooms of the flowers I have named. They are certainly much easier to grow. The Malmaison Carnations, which are grown in the little house, begin to flower on the 1st of May."

"How many Carnations of various kinds do you grow?"

"In addition to those in the house, about a thousand plants are grown in the borders. The varieties include: Malmaisons, Prime Minister, Nell Gwynne, and Uriah Pike; Trees, H. J. Cutbush and Sundridge; and Lady Nina Balfour, Red Border, Boadicea, Minerva, and Trojan, of the Border kinds."

"And Violets?"

"They are grown in frames, and outside. I suppose that there are about a thousand plants and a dozen varieties, of which Marie Louise, Mrs. J. Astor, Neapolitan, Lady Hume Campbell, and de Parme are the best doubles; and La France, Princess Beatrice, and A. Avellan the best singles. I divide the Violets up, and keep them in a shaded frame until they take better root."

"When do you divide them?"

"About the end of April, and I plant out a fortnight or three weeks later."

Quite a feature of the pleasure grounds is the glade, as seen through an archway of Yews, and here also are some excellent specimens of flowering Thorns and scarlet Horse Chestnuts.

Then, after inspecting a flourishing collection of Rhododendrons, mostly seedlings planted fifteen years ago, we reached the houses. In the Vineries are Black Hamburgh, two rods of Muscats, Lady Downe's Seedling, and Alicante. Mr. Duncan is known as a successful Peach grower, and in the Peach house, a new building which was put up a couple of years ago, I inquired the names of the best varieties.

"We only grow Royal George, Noblesse (one of the finest of Peaches), and Early Rivers' Nectarine."

"You have grown Peaches of considerable size, I believe?"

"Seventeen years ago, when I was at Warter Priory, in Yorkshire, I grew a Peach which weighed eighteen ounces, and measured sixteen inches in circumference. The variety was the Princess of Wales, which, of course, is a large-fruiting variety."

"What is your opinion as to the cause of the Peach dropping its buds?"

"I do not think, as some allege, that drought is the cause. I am not an advocate of dryness, but Peaches like to be moderately dry in the winter, when they are resting. Only last year I allowed a young tree of Early Rivers' Nectarine to get as dry as it could be, until it was almost in flower. Not a single bud was dropped, and there were two hundred and fifty-four good fruits on it. The cause of dropping must be sought elsewhere."

"You have a number of Pelargoniums in the Peach house?"

"We grow a quantity for cutting. There is an Ivy-leaf variety, Souvenir de Charles Turner, which I find about the best for bedding and also for pot work. There are about fifty of the Fancy varieties grown. Other plants used for the same purpose are sweet-scented Verbenas, Genistas, Freesias, Arums, and Calceolarias. The last are seedlings."

"When were they sown?"

"In June last year. During the winter I kept them in a cold frame. With careful watering—it is important to prevent damping—they can be got to flower for six or eight weeks in summer."

"You have not mentioned Chrysanthemums."

"We do not go in specially for them. There are between four and five hundred plants altogether, including about a hundred varieties of most of the leading sorts, with a few of those certificated last year. There are a number of bush kinds, but the majority are Japanese."

"What else do you grow in the frames at the entrance to the kitchen garden?"

"Potatoes—Sharpe's Victor and Duke of York. In the pit here we grow Tomatoes, Melons, Cucumbers, and Strawberries; also plants as fast as we can find room for them."

"How large is the kitchen garden?"

"About three acres, and it is regular in shape. The border near the frames is fifteen feet wide, with herbaceous plants below, and Wallflowers at the top."

"When did you plant the fine fruit archway in the centre of the garden?"

"Three years ago. It is two hundred feet long, twelve feet wide, and ten feet high. With the exception of ten Plum trees trained fan-shaped, all the trees are on the single cordon system, and include Apples, Pears, Plums, and Cherries. I may say that I firmly believe in the value of the extension system. I do not cut back the Plum shoots, and I think that, generally speaking, it would be better to use the knife less. It is frequently employed too often on fruit trees as well as on human beings."

"How many varieties of Apples do you grow?"

"About twenty-four. Among the best are Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, Lady Sudeley, Worcester Pearmain, Blenheim Orange, Peasgood's Nonsuch, Gascoyne's Scarlet, Warner's King, and Mere de Menage."

"And Pears?"

"The same number of varieties, of which I think the best are Williams's Bon Chrétien, Louise Bonne of Jersey, Triomphe de Vienne, Conference, Jargonelle, Doyenné du Comice, Le Lectier, and Beurré Diel. Of Plums we grow

The Gardener's Cottage, Merstham House.

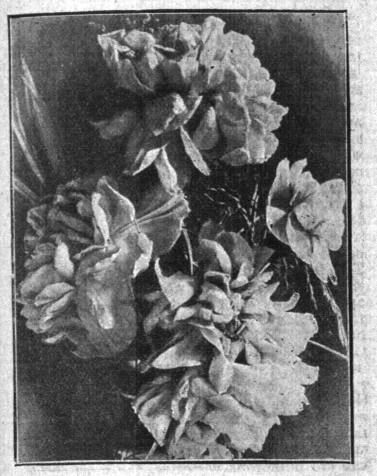
fifteen sorts, including Greengage, Reine Claude de Bavay, Denniston's Superb, Coe's Golden Drop, Early Orleans, Transparent Gage, Kirke's, Jefferson, and Bryanston Gage."

"Of course, you have Royal Sovereign among your Strawberries?"

"It is the most grown of any variety, but we also have Dr. Hogg, the Viscomtesse, and, for autumn fruiting, St. Joseph and St. Antoine de Padoue. With regard to bush fruit, we have Gooseberries and Currants. Some of the Gooseberries are trained on wires, fan-shape."

"Have you anything special in vegetables?"

"We grow quantities of the principal kinds, and double-crop all the garden. The Peas are Bountiful and William I. I have grown the latter for twenty years, and there is no Pea to beat it, in my opinion."



MALMAISON CARNATION—LADY ROSE.

As we strolled along the golf course, which extends for some seventeen acres, I asked Mr. Duncan to tell me something about his own career.

"I started my apprenticeship at Lauriston Castle, Kincardineshire. Next, I was under the veteran Mr. Lunt, who has been gardener at Ardgowan, Greenock, for more than fifty years. Then I went to Gosford, East Lothian, and thence as decorator and propagator to Wentworth Woodhouse. There I remained for two years. I was next foreman at Dupplin Castle, Perthshire, for eighteen months, and then at Blythewood, Renfrewshire, for a short time. My first appointment as head gardener was to Mr. C. H. Wilson, M.P., at Warter Priory, York. At the end of five years I went as gardener and forester to Letham Grange, Forfarshire, remaining seven years, and afterwards was head gardener at Overstone Park, Northamptonshire, for two years. In 1901 I came here."

"Have you done much showing?"

"When I was at Letham Grange I showed fruit; and also during the time I was at Warter Priory. I believe in young men shifting about, and visiting good houses between the shifts, so that they may learn as much as possible. Such success as I have met with I attribute largely to the fact that in my early days I exchanged visits so frequently."

"From what you have said, I infer that your employer here is keenly interested in your work?"

"He is not only interested, but encourages me in every possible way. The young men have a comfortable bothy, and cricket and other sports are provided for them. By the way, flowers are used largely in the rooms of the house. There are always from fifty to sixty vases to be filled."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 149.—STRAWBERRIES, MALMAISONS, AND BRIERS.

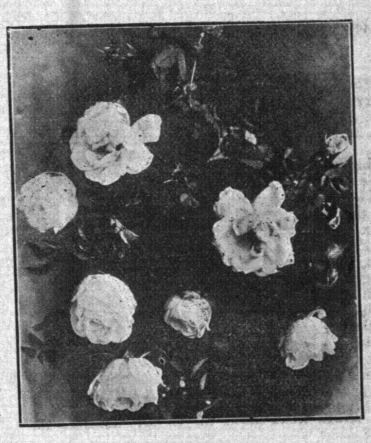
DEAR KATE,—This year should be a good one for flowers, as I see it has already beaten the record for sunshine, but everyone is crying out for rain for the Strawberries as I write. Our Strawberries, however, are already swelling, and show no sign of drought, but this is because they were well mulched at the end of March with cow manure, and under the straw, now clean and dry, there is still a layer of moist, rich food in which their surface roots feed, however dry the weather may be. Strawberries which are mulched in the autumn or the winter have none of this help left, and, therefore, are unable to produce large berries in abundance; besides which the armies of slugs which find such a comfortable home under the straw of a winter mulch (quite secure from the eye of the blackbird, who is always on the lookout for them), are apt to march out in battalions, and spoil the fruit, under the old system of covering the soil in winter, just when the purifying and fructifying effects of the frost and snow should be allowed to do their work on the ground without interference.

But yet I find that many gardeners in this neighbourhood cling to the old, mistaken idea, and mulch their Strawberries, Raspberries, Roses, etc., in the autumn, *hinc illæ lachrymæ* when the Strawberry season arrives, and the poor plants encounter a dry season.

Peas, too, want rain; but if well mulched on either side of the rows, piling up the soil as high as possible after one good watering, they will fill out their pods without difficulty. Watering without mulching is worse than useless in the case of Peas, unless the rain comes shortly after it, for the Peas will be as hard as bullets, and only half their size in a drought, if the lower six inches of their haulms are exposed to the heat, as these turn brown and shrivel away, so that the plant cannot obtain sufficient sap, whilst if that tender part is kept cool and moist (even with soil alone heaped up over it) the crop will fill out. We have tried this by experiments, and I am quite sure that mulching is far better than continual watering in dry weather, although it is a good plan to loosen the soil (if hard) first on the surface, then soak it with water or liquid manure, and cover it with loose soil, so as to allow the dew, which is always heavy in warm weather, to penetrate to the roots. A hard, baked surface (caused by the action of the sunshine on the soil after watering) is the worst possible thing for the roots of the plant below it, as it prevents the moisture below from rising to help the plant, and also keeps out the dew at night; therefore, if you have been watering diligently during the dry weather, the best thing you can do is to take a Dutch hoe and loosen the surface thoroughly between the plants, so as to give Nature a chance to help them.

In the conservatory we have some very beautiful Malmaison Carnations just now, of the newer varieties, which are very various in colour, and of enormous size. Lady Rose, in pale pink, produces a quantity of blossom, and is very lovely (I send you her portrait); Mercia is in rich salmon-pink, and Prime Minister in brilliant scarlet-crimson, and of perfect form. I find these Carnations do better in my new cool greenhouse than with fire heat, except in the depth of winter, when they are moved into a Vinery with enough warmth to keep out the frost for a few weeks; but they are almost hardy, and suffer much if shut up in close, heated air, from which, probably, the diseases which attack them proceed, just as we poor mortals become delicate and ill if we do not live in pure, fresh air. Some of my older plants have become leggy and untidy-looking; these will now be planted out and layered at once, the young plants being ready to be potted up at the end of September, and we shift them into larger pots in the early spring without disturbing their roots. Equal parts of good loam and leaf-mould will suit them, with a little soot and some charcoal in small lumps, but we always char the soil over a fire (or else let it become perfectly dry), to destroy possible wireworms and other insects which infest the roots of Carnations, and soon destroy them. Never shake out the soil in potting on a Malmaison, but merely remove the drainage (which should be ample, and have a wire-crock at the bottom of it) and the soil at the top (which is always exhausted), and pack the fresh compost round the ball of roots in a pot two inches broader than the last. Although the compost is made so dry to kill the insects, it should be used in a moist but not sodden state; you can easily add a little water and stir it up (just like a Plum-pudding) until of the right consistency. If the plants have any dead leaves about them, snip these off neatly with a pair of scissors, and keep them fairly dry (after one watering to settle the roots) until they begin to grow. Malmaisons should stand in the sunshine and the open air all the summer, and must never be overwatered; they like to be on the dry side both summer and winter, and must always have fresh air. Many gardeners do not know this, and kill them by over-kindness, keeping them in a warm, damp atmosphere, and watering them daily; they are not the easiest of plants to manage with others, for this reason, as they are almost sure to be overwatered in winter, when they need water very seldom, but should then have enough to moisten all their roots thoroughly, and be allowed to get dry again before their next watering. Unfortunately, if one tells a boy to give a plant but little water, he usually gives it none at all, or else a driblet daily; a deadly plan, which results in sour surface soil, starved roots below it, and consequent death. The only solution is to do it one's-self, and if you want to grow good Malmaisons, you must look after them.

The garden is full of Roses, and the Briers are in great beauty, Lord Penzance's Sweet Briers scenting the air, and the delicious little white Scotch Briers in masses in the shrubbery. Their scent is different from that of any other Rose, and most refreshing, with an "old-world"



SCOTCH BRIER ROSES.

fragrance impossible to describe. They give no trouble, growing and flourishing from year to year without much attention, and each June they are one mass of lovely little blossoms. The Austrian Brier, too, in rich yellow, is most effective; this is one of the parents (with the common Sweet Brier) of the Lord Penzance Sweet Brier,

The Garden, 1876

MR. J. DUNCAN.—We regret to hear of the death, on the 11th August, of Mr. James Duncan, of Calne, Wilts. Mr. Duncan was born at Aberdeen in 1802, and was brought up to the profession of a gardener. In 1849 he was appointed Director of the Botanic Garden, Mauritius, from which responsible office he retired in 1864. He very greatly improved the gardens under his charge, and sent many good plants to this country and also to the Australian Colonies.

DUNCAN James.

Effects under £10,000.

9 September. The Will with two Codicils of James Duncan late of Beaumont Villa Calne in the County of **Wilts** Gentleman who died 11 August 1876 at Calne was proved at the **Principal Registry** by James William Duncan of Calne Gentleman the Son one of the Executors.

DUNCAN John.

Effects under £1,500.

19 May. Administration of the effects of John Duncan late of Sunderland in the County of **Durham** Master Mariner who died in or since November 1875 at Sea was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Mary Duncan of Sunderland Widow the Relict.

DUNCAN Robert M.D.

Effects under £3,000.
Resworn April 1878 under £4,000.

11 October. The Will of Robert Duncan late of Tunbridge Wells in the County of **Kent** M.D. and Surgeon who died 30 July 1876 at Tunbridge Wells was proved at the **Principal Registry** by the Reverend Robert Duncan of Corporation-road in the City of Carlisle Clerk and John Thornton Duncan of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the City of London Esquire the Sons the Executors.

DUNCAN Rosalie Elizabeth.

Effects under £100.

23 September. Administration of the effects of Rosalie Elizabeth Duncan late of 233 Queen's-road Peckham in the County of **Surrey** Widow who died 19 July 1876 at 233 Queen's-road was granted at the **Principal Registry** to Frederick Allen of 1 Westwood-terrace Hollydale-road Peckham Chemist the Son and one of the Next of Kin.

DUNCOMB William.

Effects under £100.

5 October. The Will of William Duncomb late of Easton-on-the-Hill in the County of **Northampton** Gardener who died 22 May 1876 at Easton-on-the-Hill was proved at the **Principal Registry** by William Duncomb of Stamford in the County of Lincoln Baker John Duncomb of St. Martin's Stamford Baron in the County of Northampton Butcher and Thomas Duncomb of Easton-on-the-Hill Butcher the Sons the surviving Executors.

DUNCOMBE Thomas.

Effects under £1,000.

20 October. The Will of Thomas Duncombe late of the City of **Lincoln** Corn Dealer who died 16 June 1876 at Lincoln was proved at **Lincoln** by Jane Duncombe of Lincoln Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

DUNCUM Charles Esq.

Effects under £35,000.

16 October. The Will of Charles Duncum late of Broomfield Weybridge Heath Weybridge in the County of **Surrey** Esquire who died 23 September 1876 at Broomfield was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Elizabeth Duncum of Broomfield Widow the Relict and William James Duncum of Broomfield Esquire the Son the Executors.

DUNDERDALE John.

Effects under £200.

3 June. The Will of John Dunderdale late of 10 St. Austin's-road Preston in the County of **Lancaster** Porter who died 29 March 1876 at 10 St. Austin's-road was proved at **Lancaster** by Ellen Dunderdale of 10 St.-Austin's-road Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

ADVERTISEMENTS should be sent to the PUBLISHER.

Letters for Publication, *as well as specimens and plants for naming, should be addressed to the* **EDITOR, 41, Wellington Street, Covent Garden, London.** *Communications should be* WRITTEN ON ONE SIDE ONLY OF THE PAPER, *sent as early in the week as possible, and duly signed by the writer. If desired, the signature will not be printed, but kept as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor does not undertake to pay for any contributions, or to return unused communications or illustrations, unless by special arrangement.*

Illustrations.—*The Editor will thankfully receive and select photographs or drawings, suitable for reproduction in these pages, of gardens, or of remarkable plants, flowers, trees, &c.; but he cannot be responsible for loss or injury.*

Local News.—*Correspondents will greatly oblige by sending to the Editor early intelligence of local events likely to be of interest to our readers, or of any matters which it is desirable to bring under the notice of horticulturists.*

Newspapers.—*Correspondents sending newspapers should be careful to mark the paragraphs they wish the Editor to see.*

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14—Brussels Orchidéenne Meet.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17—York Floral and Hort. Fête (Roy. Hort. Soc. deputation). (Three days.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 18—Linnean Society. Colchester Rose and Hort. Show. Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund (Annual Dinner).

FRIDAY, JUNE 19—Roy. Bot. Soc. Lecture.

SALES.

THURSDAY JUNE 18—Clearance Sale of Greenhouse Plants and Garden Utensils, at Hollywood, Putney Heath, by Protheroe & Morris.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19—Imported and Established Orchids, at Protheroe & Morris' Rooms.

CORRECTED AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE ENSUING WEEK, DEDUCED FROM OBSERVATIONS OF FORTY-THREE YEARS, AT CHISWICK—**61°.1.**

The Royal Horticultural Society.

THE vitality of the Royal Horticultural Society is really astonishing. Who that remembers the evil days it passed through could have anticipated the measure of success it has attained since it made horticulture its first consideration, and abandoned those ruinous attempts to conciliate the fashion and frivolity of the town? To come to this present week, who could have anticipated, so soon after the Temple show, that the next ordinary meeting would be so extensive and so brilliant? The Drill Hall, which was adopted as a temporary meeting-place in default of any other, is now seen to be all too small in the summer season. The fortnightly meetings have developed into large shows. It may be ungracious to say so, in view of the magnificent exhibition of Tuesday last, but we fancy most plant-lovers would prefer the old fortnightly meetings, when it was possible to see and examine carefully the relatively small number of new and interesting plants that were brought together for the consideration of the experts. As things are at present, the exhibits are so numerous that anything like critical inspection is out of the question, especially when the number of committee and other meetings which are held on the same day is considered. To take one instance which attracted our attention: never we suppose was so extensive a collection of the species of Brodiæa brought together as was done by Messrs. WALLACE of Colchester on Tuesday last. How valuable this was for botanical purposes, how interesting from the point of view of decorative horticulture, but, as careful examination was out of the question, the opportunity was necessarily lost. The same may be said of some of the Orchids, the Roses, the Alpine plants, the Streptocarpus, and the Cinerarias shown by Mr. LYNCH. But, after all, the fine show of hardy shrubs, the specimens of Streptocarpus, the noble plant of Carpenteria in full bloom, the brilliant Roses, Pæonies, and Larkspurs—but are not all these duly chronicled in another column?

Among the special proceedings of the day we may note the presentation by the President of the Society of the Medals awarded by the trustees of the VEITCH Memorial Fund to the distinguished recipients selected for the honour. Unfortunately, M. H. L. DE VILMORIN was unable to be present by reason of a family bereavement; whilst the broad Atlantic prevented the presence of Professor SARGENT. The other two—Mr. MALCOLM DUNN and Mr. F. W. BURBIDGE—were happily present, and the applause with which they were greeted suffices to show that the trustees had exercised a wise discretion in their choice. The work done by all four of the medallists is too well known, and too highly appreciated by the horticultural community, to necessitate any lengthened comment; but we may appropriately avail ourselves of the words of the President in making the respective presentations:—

HENRI LEVÊQUE DE VILMORIN, "for distinguished services to scientific horticulture."—The head of the firm of VILMORIN, ANDRIEUX & CIE., of Paris, which originated more than 150 years ago, and was established in the same locality in which the principal offices now stand—the Quai de la Mégisserie, in Paris. M. VILMORIN's great-grandfather became the head of the firm in 1781, after his marriage with the only daughter of the former head, M. ANDRIEUX, and from thenceforth it became known under its present title. From him (PHILIPPE-VICTOIRE DE VILMORIN), the headship has descended to the present M. HENRI DE VILMORIN, under whose direction it has grown in importance still more rapidly than under his predecessors, and has extended its business relations to all parts of the world where agricultural and horticultural seeds are in request. Besides the central establishment on the Quai de la Mégisserie, it has extensive seed warehouses in the Rue de Reuilly, large nurseries at Verrières near Paris, and at Antibes on the Mediterranean coast, for the cultivation of choice flower seeds; also seed-farms for the production of vegetable and other seeds. In these various establishments upwards of 400 hands are employed. All the Vilmorins who have directed the firm have been distinguished not less by their scientific acquirements than by their sound practical knowledge of horticulture and its requirements, but none in so high a degree as he whom we honour to-day. Under their direction various useful treatises on horticultural subjects have been issued by the firm from time to time, and among these the recently-published *Les Plantes Potagères*, prepared under the immediate care of M. HENRI DE VILMORIN, is unquestionably the best of its kind that has ever been compiled; it is not only a work of the highest utility to the gardening public at large, but it also possesses great merit from a scientific standpoint. It is worthy of note that the firm of VILMORIN & CIE., under the able direction of its present chief, has not only effected great improvement in many of the ordinary vegetables, but it has also pressed into service edible plants previously neglected, and introduced others for the first time into cultivation. M. HENRI DE VILMORIN is the recognised chief authority on horticulture in France, he is premier Vice-President of the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France, he has travelled much and often, and has acquired an experience of horticultural matters probably unsurpassed by any living horticulturist.

F. W. BURBIDGE, "for eminent services to scientific horticulture."—Mr. BURBIDGE commenced his horticultural career as a student in the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Chiswick, whence he removed to Kew, where he attended the lectures on "Botany and Vegetable Physiology." While at Kew, he also attended the examinations in botany and horticulture held by the Society of Arts, at which he obtained several first-class prizes and certificates.

From 1873 to 1877 he was one of the most active of the staff of *The Garden* newspaper started by Mr. W. Robinson. During this period he wrote several works on gardening subjects, including *Cool Orchids* (1875), *Domestic Floriculture*, still the best of its kind in the English language; *A Monograph of the Genus Narcissus, and Cultivated Plants* (1877), an excellent text-book for young gardeners.

In 1877—1878 he went on an exploring mission to North Borneo for the Veitchian firm, during which he visited the little-known Sulu Archipelago. This mission resulted in the introduction of several plants new to British gardens, including Cypripedium Lawrenceanum, one of the finest of the genus. Mention may also be made of Burbidgea nitida, a Scitamineous plant previously unknown to science, and upon which Sir J. D. HOOKER founded the genus, "in recognition of his eminent services to horticulture" (*Botanical Magazine*, t. 6403). After his return, Mr. BURBIDGE published a narrative of his mission entitled *Gardens of the Sun*, a work of considerable literary merit, and which doubtless did much to secure for him the honorary degree of M.A., conferred on him by the Dublin University in 1888.

In 1879 he was appointed Curator of the Botanical Garden of Trinity College, Dublin, to which was added the Keepership of the College Park in 1894. Mr. BURBIDGE is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, a member of the Royal Irish Academy, a life member of the Royal Dublin Society, a member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, and an honorary life member of the Scottish Horticultural and Botanical Society.

MALCOLM DUNN, "for eminent services to horticulture and Forestry."—Mr. DUNN was appointed to the Dalkeith Palace Gardens in 1871 in immediate succession to WILLIAM THOMSON, one of the most successful Scotch gardeners of his time, and the best cultivator of the Grape-vine. By his untiring energy the high reputation of the Dalkeith Gardens was fully maintained by Mr. DUNN, and they are known far and wide to be among the best managed north of the Tweed.

Mr. DUNN's exertions in the cause of horticulture have not been confined to his own immediate sphere. In the same year in which he became head gardener at Dalkeith he was elected to the Council of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, a position he has held ever since with the exception of short intervals of one or two years at the end of every six years, the term for which every councillor is elected. He has also been on the Council of the Scottish Arboricultural Society since 1872, and has served twice during this period a three years' term as Vice-President, a position that involves many onerous duties. He was one of the originators of the great Forestry Exhibition held in Edinburgh in 1884, which contributed much towards bringing before the British public the importance of scientific forestry as applied to the profitable planting of trees on waste and other lands in this country. But Mr. DUNN's most enduring service to arboriculture has been the collecting of materials from which he compiled the statistics of Conifers published in the Report of the Conifer Conference of the Royal Horticultural Society held at Chiswick in the autumn of 1891.

Besides the official positions held by Mr. DUNN in the above-named societies, he is also a member of the Scottish Horticultural Association, instituted in Edinburgh in 1877 to promote the cultivation of florists' flowers (Chrysanthemums, &c.), of which he filled the office of President for the first five years. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, of the Edinburgh Botanic Society, of the Highland Agricultural Society, and several others.

Professor C. S. SARGENT, "for eminent services to scientific forestry and arboriculture.—The Director of the Arnold Arboretum, near Boston, Massachusetts, the most complete of its kind in North America, and planted under his own superintendence. The Pro-

certificated subjects. On these, Orchids, florists flowers, border flowers, hardy shrubs, hothouse, greenhouse plants, bulbous plants, hardy fruit, hothouse fruit, and vegetables might each be assigned a place, and not mixed up promiscuously. The tables should occupy a prominent position in the Hall, and be readily accessible by the visitors and those whose business it is to attend these meetings. We are sure that the new superintendant of Chiswick, who, at present, it may be hoped, is unfettered by red tape or long usage, could readily carry out this welcome change.

FRUIT FROM AUSTRALIA.—Mr. J. B. THOMAS, of Covent Garden Market, showed in the Floral Hall, Covent Garden, on Wednesday and Thursday, 10th and 11th inst., a quantity of choice Australian fruit sent over by the Government of Victoria for exhibition here. The fruit, which consisted principally of Apples, had an extremely fine appearance, high in colour and clear of skin. The varieties included London, New Rock, Sturmer, and Stone Pippins, Stewart, Gooseberry, and King of Tomkins County, which are names well known in gardens in this country; others less well known, or not at all, were the varieties Jonathan, Rokewood, Yate's, Callasaga and Nickajack. The few Pears included in the consignment were well-developed nice fruits, but their names did not transpire. Most, if not all, of the fruit came from the colony of Victoria, and some Pumpkins and Squashes were included. This lot of seventy-five cases, which are, we suppose, merely samples of what the colony can send us, should find ready sale at remunerative prices.

POTATO BACTERIA.—M. E. ROZE has recently published a paper on the Bacteria affecting the Potato. The researches which he chronicles were undertaken with a view to ascertaining how best to prevent or combat with the species of micrococcus known to produce the scab. The conclusions at which he arrives are the following:—That it is absolutely necessary to avoid planting such tubers of Potatos as have more or less corky defects upon them as it is probably through these spaces that the micrococcus, capable of infecting the parenchyma, are introduced. Again, it is essential most carefully to test tubers of RICHTER'S Imperator before planting them. And, as it is to be feared that these micrococcus exist in a latent state in the soil of the field whence tubers are harvested containing the germs of infection, it is advisable, after a time, to use the ground for some other crop than that of Potatos. It is by these preventive measures that those infinitely small creatures known as micrococcus can be most successfully fought against.

"BULLETIN DE L'ASSOCIATION POUR LA PROTECTION DES PLANTES."—The Association was founded in 1883, to check the extermination which threatened many of the rarities and interesting plants of Switzerland. By directing public attention to the subject, no doubt much good has been effected. It will be a misfortune if the increased attention given to these plants prove the cause of their destruction, as is happening with some Orchids. The necessity for botanic gardens and herbaria is emphasised by the fact that those institutions bid fair in some cases to be the only refuges left.

MALCOLM DUNN.
(Veitch Medallist. See p. 734.)

"THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE," the representative of botanical progress in the United States, has passed into the hands of the University of Chicago. No change is made in the editorship, and the journal is to be not merely the organ of the botanical department of the University, but is to be more freely open to the botanists of the world than it has been in the past.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ORCHIDS.—In the last number of *Knowledge* is a series of representations of Orchids, from the collection of the Right Hon. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

THE BROTHERS KING.—It will interest some of our readers to learn that Messrs. H. T., S. J., and L. G. KING, seed merchants, of Coggeshall, have retired from the football field, wherein they played so long and successful a part. The three brothers are well known in Essex and Suffolk, and their prowess won them many friends, many of whom will doubtless regret their retirement.

A NEW VEGETABLE.—In a recent number of the *Revue Horticole* M. André calls attention to the use of the roots of Aralia edulis, *alias* A. cordata. The plant is a native of Japan, and its roots have an aromatic taste which may not be agreeable to all palates. We hope the Royal Horticultural Society may see its way to try it at Chiswick. It may be had from M. Sallier of Neuilly, near Paris.

A GIFT TO ABERDEEN.—We learn that Mr. HARPER, the head gardener at the Duthie Park, Aberdeen, has received from Sir WILLIAM BROOKS, Bart., of Glen Tana, Aberdeenshire, a very fine collection of Orchids for cultivation in the park. The gift is much appreciated.

A ROSE FETE AND BAZAAR will be held at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 23, 24 and 25, in aid of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, Shoreditch. Chairman of the Rose Show Committee: J. B. Scott, Esq., Hillhead, Broxbourne. The Committee are organizing a great exhibition of Roses, and appeal to our readers to help them. Prizes (gold and silver medals) will be offered in the following classes:—

Amateurs.

A. Class I. 24 Cut Roses in Stands (distinct varieties named), 2 prizes; Class II. 12 ditto, 2 prizes; Class III. 6 ditto, 1 prize; Class IV. 12 ditto (of one variety), 2 prizes; Class V. 6 ditto, 1 prize; Class VI. 12 ditto, Teas and Noisettes (distinct varieties named), 2 prizes; Class VII. 6 ditto (in threes), 2 prizes; Class VIII. 12 Button-hole Roses, in bunches of three, 2 prizes; Class IX. 6 ditto, 1 prize; Class X. Basket of Roses, 2 prizes; Class XI. Table decoration of Roses (6 feet × 3 feet), 3 prizes; Class XII. Garden Roses in bunches of six, 1 prize; Class XIII. Lady's spray of Roses, 1 prize.

Professional Growers.

B. Class I. Group of Roses for a space not exceeding 50 square feet, 3 prizes.

C. The Committee also ask for quantities of cut Roses for decoration (in baskets or otherwise), and will be much obliged for any kindly forwarded for that purpose.

Donors of Roses for decorative purposes are requested to forward them to the Queen's Hall, between 9 and 11 a.m. on one of the three days. The prizes will be awarded by well-known Rose growers. Each exhibitor will receive a free admission to the bazaar. Further particulars may be obtained of T. GLENTON-KERR, Esq., Secretary, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—*Journal of the Kew Guild* (will be noticed shortly.)—F. BOYLE, *Über Orchideen*, translated by Professor KRÄNZLIN (Berlin: PAUL PAREY).—*Cottage Gardening*, edited by W. ROBINSON, F.L.S.; Vol. 7 (CASSELL & Co.)—*Lloyd's Natural History*: British Birds, Part 1, by W. BOWDLER SHARPE (E. LLOYD).—*Die Rüben Nematoden*, by JOHANN VANHA and JULIUS STOLASKA (Berlin: PAUL PAREY). *Natur und Haus, illustrirte Zeitschrift für alle naturfreunde*, fourth year of issue, No. 9, ROBERT OPPENHEIM (GUSTAV SCHMIDT), Berlin.—*English Mechanic and World of Science*, May 29 (Strand Newspaper Co., Limd., 332, Strand; also the International News Co., Canada and U.S.A.).—*Les Nepenthes et Leur Culture*, par JULES RUDOLPH (OCTAVE DOIN, 8, Place de l'Odéon, Paris). A useful illustrated handbook containing descriptions and cultural notes of various species of Nepenthes.—*27th Annual Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario*, 1895. This contains papers on Apple Culture, Fruit Exhibitions and how to make them educative, Top-grafting on the Tolman Sweet, Spraying and cultivation of Orchards, and other important subjects.—*The Farm Magazine*, May (W. M. GOODMAN, Editor and Manager, OGDEN BROS. & Co., Publishers, Knoxville, Tenn.). A very satisfactory number—*Le Jardin du Crest*, par MARC MICHELI.

formed a net-work of the healthiest roots in the leaf-mould of the country, sphagnum-moss being only employed as a top-dressing, and as a means of judging the condition of the whole mass in reference to moisture. A fine stock of Sweet Bays as pyramids and standards were noted in all stages of development, from the rooted cutting up to the perfect saleable specimen, and growing in the open ground and in tubs and pots.

As showing the manner in which every available space is turned to use in this remarkable nursery, beds for the germination of Palm-seeds occupy the spaces under the stages and lateral brick-pits in all the houses in which Palms are grown, as well as in many others.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL.

Scientific Committee.

Present: Dr. M. T. Masters (in the chair); Prof. Church, Mr. Sutton, Rev. W. Wilks, Rev. Prof. G. Henslow (hon. sec.).

Cattleya Malformed.—Dr. Masters exhibited a blossom having only one petal, one sepal, and a straight column. This reduction to a symmetry of "two" is not uncommon in Orchids.

Parasitic Fungi.—Some interesting communications, with specimens of Polyporus ulmarius, showing how it appears to cause the decay of the interior of the tree, and fructifies in the hollow, were sent by Dr. Plowright; also descriptions of parasitic fungi on Alders and Willows. Figures of these will appear in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* shortly. A vote of thanks was given to Dr. Plowright for his communication.

BRISTOL & DISTRICT GARDENERS'.

AT the annual meeting held recently at St. John's Parish Room, Redland, Mr. W. A. GARAWAY, who presided, stated that the Society, though started only a year ago, now numbers over 100 members. Meetings are held, and lectures given on subjects of interest to horticulturists, the average attendance being seventy. MR. H. CARY BATTEN was again elected President.

WARGRAVE AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'.

MAY 3.—On the above date, Professor GROVES, F.L.S., gave a lecture on "Mosses," tracing the similarities and differences between them and Ferns in a very clear manner.

The way in which the moss-plant produces spores for reproduction, and the quick growth of the plant, by which large patches of land are covered in a short time, were carefully explained. The reasons why moss is always found in damp places were pointed out; and the diagrams explanatory of the lecture were most useful.

Mr. T. Haskett, gr. to J. W. RHODES, Esq., Henwerton, exhibited some beautiful Rhododendrons, which were much admired.

NATIONAL AURICULA.

(Northern Section.)

MAY 5.—The annual exhibition was held on the above date in the Coal Exchange, Manchester. Notwithstanding the lament of our old friend Mr. D'Ombrain, that "the popularity of the Auricula is on the wane," there can be no doubt the Auricula has still many enthusiastic votaries in the North, who love the flower well enough to give it all the attention so essential to its well doing.

On this occasion the quality of the flowers was of a high order of merit, bearing in mind the very treacherous season that has been experienced. As old Ben Simonite remarked, "they had every reason to congratulate themselves, both on the quality and quantity of the exhibits." General regret was expressed at the absence, through indisposition, of the Rev. F. D. Horner, whose plants are always an interesting feature of the show. Over 600 plants were staged, and the principal prize-winners were Mr. T. LORD, Todmorden; Mr. B. SIMONITE, Sheffield; and Mr. A. R. BROWN, Birmingham.

New exhibition varieties were exhibited by Messrs. LORD and SIMONITE, Mr. SIMONITE showing a very fine, new, green-edged variety of great promise.

New alpines were shown by Messrs. R. GORTON, Eccles; and R. HOLDING, Birmingham.

The best six Auriculas, dissimilar, were from Mr. T. LORD, Todmorden, who showed Geo. Lightbody, Acme, F. D. Horner, R. Headley, Mrs. Potts, and Abram Barker—a fine lot; 2nd, Mr. BEN SIMONITE, Sheffield.

or four Auriculas, dissimilar, Mr. T. LORD was again 1st, and Miss WOODHEAD 2nd.

The best collection of six Alpines (six dissimilar), was that from Mr. A. R. BROWN, Birmingham; and for four Alpines (distinct), those of Mr. J. BESWICK.

The premier Auricula was Mr. T. LORD'S Abram Barker (First-class Certificate); and the premier Alpine, Mr. A. R. BROWN'S J. F. Kew.

Mr. FRANK LAW, of Sale, exhibited a fine collection of Narcissus.

Obituary.

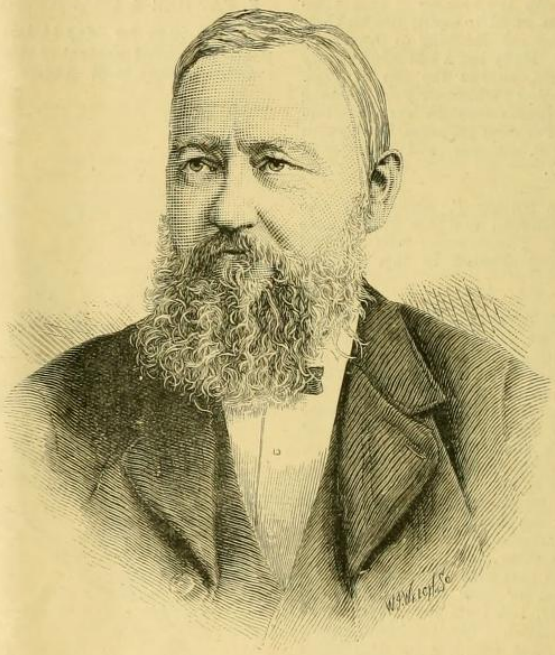
MALCOLM DUNN, V.M.H.—Just before going to press we are shocked by the news of the death after twenty-four hours acute illness, of our valued contributor, Mr. Dunn, head gardener to the Duke of Buccleuch, Dalkeith Palace, since 1871. We are unable, for the moment, to write more than an announcement of this sad event, but in our next issue we hope to give some particulars of the life and work of this excellent gardener, who for many years has been the best known of Scottish horticulturists. His extreme willingness to assist every deserving cause was most remarkable.

T. A. DICKSON.—It is with deep regret we learn of the decease of Mr. T. A. Dickson, head of the firm of T. A. Dickson & Co., florists, Centre Row, Covent Garden. Mr. Dickson was taken ill in August of last year, and subsequently had a paralytic stroke, which, together with general weakness and debility, prevented him from again resuming the active part he had taken in the management of the business, and he passed peacefully away on Tuesday, the 9th inst., in his sixty-fifth year.

The firm of Dickson has been associated with Covent Garden Market for almost a century, and fifty years ago deceased's father had a stand in the market, and a nursery at Brixton. The site of the nursery has long since been built upon, and changes almost as great have taken place in the firm's position in the market. From the "stand" that used to be erected opposite the church, which had to be cleared away every Saturday evening, Messrs. Dickson moved to a position in the Centre Row, and later to the shop nearest to the church, which they at present possess. The business is now purely that of a florist's, and a number of young persons are employed continually in the making up of bouquets and other floral devices. A considerable trade is done in moderate-sized plants of a decorative character, and a group of the flowering plants in season could always be seen outside of the shop. A brother of deceased was, at one time, superintendent of the market previously to Mr. Assbee.

Mr. T. A. Dickson had been employed in the market from his youth. His wife, who was also engaged in the business, pre-deceased him, and he leaves one son. The business, we are informed, will be carried on, as usual, and under the same name, by Mr. F. S. Lucy, a nephew of the deceased gentleman.

Deceased was greatly respected by all frequenters to the market, and his unobtrusive and kindly personality will be much missed. He at one time was a member of the Board of Works, and was also much interested in the Covent Garden Lodge of Freemasons, and in various horticultural charities. For ourselves, we have been indebted to him for valuable information respecting market prices from week to week. The funeral will take place at Norwood Cemetery on Saturday, at 12 noon.



THE LATE MALCOLM DUNN, V.M.H.

THE PANSY.

ITS NAMES AND ITS EVOLUTION.—Though the Pansy is deservedly admired at the present day, it is open to question if we now regard it with the same affection as did our forefathers. The names they have left us—some thirty in number—are, for the most part, indicative of a deep-rooted sentiment. To explain some of these names, much ingenuity has been exercised during the last hundred and fifty years. Dr. Johnson provides an instance of an extreme nature. In his *Dictionary*, Pansy is explained as a corruption of Panacey (Opopanax); while in his edition of *Shakespeare*, he declares the word "is for thoughts, because of its name Pensées." In this case we may perhaps question the great lexicographer's ingenuity, but not his learning. It is perhaps not so well known that Pansy was at one time a designation applied not to the whole plant, but to the flowers only. In a description of the plant, Dodoens says:—"The French call the flowers 'pensées.'" The Belgians and the people of Brabant employed the word in the same sense. Pansy as a name was not in common use until the present century was well advanced;

of Veronica repens placed on dry cork, some Cornflowers and even Polyanthus blooms stuck into pots of sand to be adorned by their own foliage, also similarly inserted, Isolepis, Abutilons and tender Marguerites being thrown in for "hardy." It is the worst thing of its kind we have ever seen at any exhibition in or near the metropolis. Messrs. Barr obtained the gold medal as well as the first prize for their Tulips, the prizes being offered by the Royal National Tulip Society.

THE NEW STYLE.

The following items are culled from the pages of a young and enterprising contemporary devoted to the ancient art of gardening:—

What has been the matter with gardeners lately, that we hear of so many suicides amongst them?

***

That big Violet grown by Signor Emilio Borgiotti is getting bigger as the notice of it hops from journal to journal. Another round or two and a bushel basket won't hold it.

***

The longevity of gardeners is so well known that a person has been heard to state that a defunct gardener is almost as rare as the proverbial dead donkey. Be that as it may, another veteran of the fraternity has gone over to the majority in the decease of Mr. ——.

***

One of the prettiest things I saw in Regent Street a day or two since was a bicycle covered with Violets and Lilies of the Valley. The handle-bar was smothered in Violets, and a huge bunch of Lilies of the Valley and Violets was suspended from it. The rims and spokes were clothed in Violets.

***

Miss Ellaline Terriss, the charming actress of the Gaiety Theatre, recently gave an interviewer her impressions of the Americans. She seemed particularly struck by the lavishness of our transatlantic cousins in regard to floral gifts. On one occasion she was presented with a colossal shoe made up entirely of choice flowers.

***

The sight of a young lady delightedly waggling a bunch of Neapolitan Violets at an individual of the other sex when the competing boats passed Hammersmith with the Light Blue well ahead was suggestive. *The* —— is not going to imitate the narrow pedantry which has prompted many professed horticulturists to speak contemptuously of the popular use of flowers. May it extend.

***

After the first night performance of Mr. Pinero's brilliant comedy, *The Gay Lord Quex*, the name of Miss Irene Vanbrugh was on every lip. The young actress had achieved a remarkable personal triumph. It may not be generally known that Juliette Frobel is a pronounced flower lover, but her tastes are so catholic that she found herself rather in a quandary when asked by a representative of *The* —— which she liked best of all.

***

Mr. G. Bernard Shaw on flowers is—well, he is Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, just as he is on the drama and things generally. As thus: "A well-balanced mind has no favourites. People who have a favourite flower generally cut off its head and stick it into a button-hole or a vase. I wonder they do not do the same to their favourite children. It is a crime to pluck a flower. I dislike formal gardens. At any given moment two-thirds of its blossoms are dead.

The weather in West Herts.—During the past week the day temperatures were on the whole about average, while the nights were nearly all warm. The ground is still of seasonable warmth both at 1 foot and 2 feet deep. Rain fell on four days of the week and to the aggregate depth of about half an inch, but no measurable quantity of rain-water has yet passed through either of the percolation gauges. The record of bright sunshine was poor, averaging only 4½ hours a day. A Lilac growing in my garden came into flower on the 12th, which is three days later than its mean date of first flowering in the previous thirteen years, and one day later than last year. —E. M., *Berkhamsted.*

Fritillaria recurva.—This is one of a very remarkable race, a race at once embracing a large array of greenish and dull purplish shades—more interesting, it may be, than beautiful—and from these through yellow and golden yellow, reds and tawny reds, with here and there a white more or less freckled with something else. All this diversity of colouring in one genus is certainly out of the ordinary, and when to this we add the sterling beauty of the above, we have not merely its colour, but in the beautifully recurving blossoms a feature almost unique. Most flowers of this group have bell shaped blooms, some perfectly so, as, *e.g.*, F. pudica, while others, like F. aurea and F. latifolia vars., have a partially globular outline in their drooping forms, while the Crown Imperials, the giants of the race, come intermediate between the two, though more generally favouring the pendent bell shape. Thus the finely recurved form here noted is as exceptional as it is beautiful.

Moltkia petræa.—As an interested reader of The Garden in matters relating to hardy plants, and on behalf of others equally interested, I would like to know how "E. J." comes to record this as a synonym of Erodium petræum (April 29, p. 293). I thought it might have been a slip, but as I have not yet seen a correction, one may reasonably suppose that what was written was intended. Erodium belongs to Geraniaceæ, and Moltkia to the widely and totally different order Boragineæ, and is also a synonym of Lithospermum petræum, consequently coming nowhere near an Erodium species. The error is all the more conspicuous from the fact that Moltkia petræa is one of the most attractive and desirable species for the rock garden.—J. Wood.

*** In my recent notes on this genus (p. 293) I have thoughtlessly bracketed Erodium petræum with Moltkia as being synonymous. This, of course, is an obvious error, and as such misleading.—E. J.

OBITUARY.

MR. MALCOLM DUNN.

The death of this well-known gardener took place on Thursday morning, the 11th inst., and caused a severe shock and surprise to a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Virtually he died in harness. Throughout Tuesday he was active and energetic as usual, and in the evening attended a meeting in Dalkeith. It was a wet night with a north-east wind, and it is thought he caught a chill on his way home. What is known with certainty is, that on Wednesday morning he complained of general illness and acute internal pains. His medical adviser was called in and made several visits in the course of the day, remaining with him till he passed away early on Thursday. Mr. Dunn was unmarried. He took a lively interest in the garden charities and in the rise and progress of the young men under his charge.

Born in, or near, the town of Crieff, Mr. Dunn, after receiving the ordinary education given in Scotch parish schools, served his apprenticeship in the gardens of Strathallan. Soon afterwards he turned his face southwards in search of knowledge. He, I believe, was at several places in the south, the most notable being Trentham, then in its glory under the late Mr. Fleming. The next move for Mr. Dunn was to the gardens of Powerscourt, County Wicklow, Ireland, and it was from the latter, in November, 1870, that he came to the Palace Gardens, Dalkeith, in succession to the late Mr. Wm. Thomson.

It will be sufficient praise of Mr. Dunn's management for nearly thirty years to say that he maintained the high level of his two immediate predecessors—Mr. Charles McIntosh and Mr. William Thomson. Heavy as must have been the labour and great the honour of Mr. Dunn's position as head gardener to the Duke of Buccleuch at Dalkeith, it only seems to have whetted his appetite and energy for more work in connection with the Press and public societies. He was the author of several treatises on fruit culture and a frequent contributor to the horticultural papers and learned societies' literature. He took a very lively interest in the conifer conference in connection with the Royal Horticultural Society in 1891, and did much for the Forestry Exhibition in Edinburgh in 1884. For many years he was a leading spirit in the excursions of the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society, of which he was a member of the council. He held similar and other offices in connection with the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and the Scottish Horticultural Association, of which he was one of the first presidents. In fact, Mr. Dunn died full of honours as well as work. He was a Victoria and Veitch medallist. He was buried at Dalkeith on Saturday, the 13th, most of the principal gardeners and nurserymen from Edinburgh and the vicinity being present. D. T. Fish.

PUBLIC GARDENS.

Dollis Hill to be purchased.—The Willesden District Council has decided to purchase Dollis Hill for £50,000 as a public park, the option expiring on Monday. Lords Hobhouse and Aberdeen had headed the deputation yesterday to the Parks Committee of the London County Council, and another deputation visited the Gladstone Memorial Committee, but received no definite promise. Private gifts, in addition to Willesden's £30,000, the Middlesex County Council's £12,500, Hampstead's £1000, and Hendon's £500, had left £5726 out of the £50,000 still to be collected, and, pending the decision of the L.C.C. and the Gladstone Committee, and having regard to the subscriptions in prospect, the purchase is to be made subject to the Local Government Board's approval.

Making weed-killer.—Will any reader kindly inform me of the proportions of arsenic and caustic soda and water, if any, for making weed-killer, together with any instructions that are needed as to making it?—J. E. P.

Holly dying.—One of an old avenue is dying without any apparent cause. Fresh soil and manuring have been tried. Can any reader suggest a remedy?—H. de S.

*** It may be a question of age, but in any case only one seeing the tree can give a useful opinion. —Ed.

Wireworm in a garden.—I have recently purchased a small property in Sussex. Two acres have been laid out, trenched, manured, and planted as a fruit and vegetable garden, which promised a splendid crop of vegetables at any rate. But the wireworm has made a clean sweep of the greater part of it—Carrots, Lettuces, Potatoes, and what not, and a quantity of very choice Carnations has also been ruined. Will some reader kindly help me?—Agriculturist.

Names of plants.—*R. G. Clayton.*—Dendrobium Bensoniæ.——*A. Kingsmill.*—1, probably Scilla italica; 2, specimen too poor to identify.——*S. Redstone.*—1, Buxus balearica; 2, Othonopsis cheirifolia. ——*W. M.*—Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum.

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GARDEN DESIGN.

INTERVIEW WITH

MISS L. A. DUNINGTON,

AT BELGRAVIA CHAMBERS, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER.

A GREAT compliment was paid by the Society of Architects to Miss Lorrie Dunington in February. They invited her to lecture before them on "Garden Planning in Relation to the House," which in any case would have been an honour, but in this instance it was accentuated by the fact that Miss Dunington is the first lady who has lectured to the society. Judging by the interest which her lecture provoked, she is not likely to be the last. When I had the pleasure, shortly afterwards, of a chat with Miss Dunington in her office in Belgravia Chambers, Westminster, she expressed herself in appreciative terms of the reception given to her at Staple Inn Buildings, and my first question was in reference to her own experience as a garden designer.

"My first start," she replied, "was made about sixteen years ago as a practical gardener. I went through the usual two years' course of training at Swanley College. Before I took up gardening, it was my intention to devote my life to art, but health reasons necessitated an outdoor life. My first garden work was in Ireland, managing a large estate. I gave this up, and, on my return to England, decided to take up garden design. But then I found that there was no institution in which I could be taught—I am speaking now of thirteen years ago. However, I studied for a considerable period in the office of Miss F. Wilkinson, now principal of Swanley College, who was then superintendent to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, and presently, after I had obtained a good knowledge of garden planning, the making of estimates, and other essential matters, I received a commission to lay out and plant a garden."

The First Commission.

"It would be interesting to know the locality of the first garden you designed."

"The late Miss Eleanor Grove, of Abbey Hall, Byng Place, gave me my first commission. The garden was quite small, but it gave me the chance of showing what I could do, and the result of my work was that I began to be asked to execute other commissions. Then, for two years, I acted as hybridist to the late Mr. Selfe Leonard, the well-known authority on Alpines, and I assisted him in designing and laying-out gardens. In one way or another, including attendance at technical classes for building construction and architectural design, I secured all the training I could. It was obtained in a piecemeal manner, but there was no other way possible. Now I have pupils of my own, who go through a regular course of training in garden design."

A Dutch Pupil.

"How many pupils do you take?"

"Not more than two at once. My first pupil, by the way, was a Dutch woman, who came to learn English methods, and then returned to Holland, where she has gained prizes and made a name in her profession. I was very proud of my first pupil."

"Have you had any other foreigners?"

"No, the other pupils have been English. I refuse a great many applications because I only care to have pupils who are in earnest, and desire to undergo the full period of training. Before a pupil comes to me, it is essential that she should have had at least two years' training in practical gardening; and I consider that two years' training in garden design is necessary to gain adequate knowledge."

The Importance of Training.

"Do you have any trained assistance?"

"In the work of planting, I sometimes employ a trained lady to help me. But I am very particular as to the training. Just now, a great many women are taking up jobbing work, both in the suburbs of London and in the provinces. They go out for 5s. or 7s. 6d. a day, using their own tools. I know of one at Hampstead who is making £150 a year, and several who are doing well at Sutton and Croydon. The method is to settle in a likely district, send out circulars with terms, and indicate the school of training at which they have derived their experience. But as I said a moment or two since, it is no use for a girl who has not a knowledge of horticulture coming to me. If she possesses that, she can acquire the higher training, learn office routine, how to draw up estimates, make plans, construct buildings, and all the branches of garden architecture."

Miss Dunington.

A Public Appointment.

"Did you commence on your own account in London?"

"No, at first I worked from the country, but I found that it was inconvenient in travelling, and that London was the best centre. Accordingly, about two years and a half ago, I came here."

"Of course, you still travel a great deal?"

"Yes, my work is very scattered, and I go all over the British Isles. I fill one permanent public appointment, that of garden adviser to the National Society for Epileptics, at Chalfont St. Peter. I have done all their estate planning for eight years."

"Then you laid out the beautiful grounds at the Colony?"

"I have designed everything there since I took up the work. I am now planting an avenue of trees and designing a garden in connection with new Children's Homes at Chalfont. I go down there periodically to see how the trees are getting on, and if they want thinning. All the rest of my work is private."

Private Work.

"Do you prefer private work?"

"Yes, because it gives one greater scope, and embraces all kinds of work, from designing an herbaceous border to colour, to the laying-out of a large estate. Sometimes I have to remodel an old estate, and then I try to design the grounds so that they shall harmonise with the house. In public work, as at Chalfont, for instance, the temperament of the patients has to be considered, and care exercised not to plant what they are likely to destroy; also the cost of the upkeep has to be borne in mind."

No Permanent Staff.

"I suppose you do not always carry out your own designs?"

"Some people merely require a design with full working instructions, but others like me to do the carrying-out also. In the latter case, I employ young men. I have no permanent staff, but I can always secure the help I want."

Lectures to Students.

"Some of my time," continued Miss Dunington, "is occupied in giving lectures. Formerly I lectured at St. George's School, Harpenden, where I had a large class of boys and girls, who learnt practical gardening. But I have given up lecturing on practical gardening. Now, most of my lectures are delivered, at drawing-room meetings, on 'Gardening as a Profession for Women'; and to scientific societies on 'The History of Gardening.' The latter are lantern lectures. I also lecture to the students of the Architectural Association on 'Garden Design.'"

"How long have you been lecturer to the students of the Architectural Association?"

"For more than two years. The students are all men, and I was the first woman who ever lectured to them."

"Perhaps, before I ask you for details in respect to garden designs, you would kindly say something as to general opinions?"

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"In the latter part of the 17th century, and the early part of the 18th, the beauty of the gardens depended chiefly upon design. But in modern days, with the introduction of a greater variety of trees and shrubs, and an increased interest in their culture, we shall improve upon this Nowadays, planting for colour and effect, and to get the greatest possible number of blooms, is aimed at. Our forefathers' gardens were graveyards for half the year, but we want something bright all the year."

Garden Lovers and Garden Furniture.

"But do you not find that some people still only care to have their gardens bright for a short period?"

"Oh, yes, there are some who like the whole garden to be designed for August and September; others for hunting in November; and others again for early spring. But the number of what I may call all-the-year-round people is steadily increasing. They are the true garden lovers; the rest merely like their gardens to be furnished."

The Planning of Gardens.

"The design depends upon whether the true garden-lover or the purchaser of garden furniture is the client?"

"Very much, indeed—much more than upon the money expended on construction, for a cottage garden is frequently more beautiful than the pleasaunce with its park gates. On the other hand, the successful designer must be practical as well as artistic, and in preparing plans must bear in mind the depth of the client's purse. There is an impression that a simple design must be inexpensive, whereas in reality it may prove to be the most costly. With regard to the planning of grounds, hard-and-fast rules cannot possibly be laid down. The architecture of the garden is in its way as important as that of the house; it must be subservient, but it requires just as much attention. I do not believe in putting an old-fashioned garden round a modern villa. A modern villa must have a modern garden; and there is nothing artistic in ready-made antiquity."

The Clean-Slate Method.

"But you take into account existing features?"

"I never sweep away, and I have a strong objection to the clean-slate method. A good designer makes the most of existing features, and has often to give up cherished ideas in order to preserve a fine piece of timber, or a handsome shrub. In my own experience in the city of Lincoln, I found an exquisite Silver Birch in the wrong place. But I so planned the garden as to fit in the tree, and never thought of abolishing it. Any departure from convention is good if there are obvious reasons for it. But I have strong leanings to the formal school of gardening, though I would not carry it to excess. Thus, the lines close to the house should be controlled by the building. I always try to study the style of architecture, and sometimes design a feature in the garden so as to link it with the house. If the garden is far away from the house, you can do as you like."

A Passing Fashion.

"Do you consider garden planning as important as architecture?"

"In its way, I certainly do, because a house may be designed for to-day, and is complete when the last workman has left it. But gardens are made for a future generation, and when we think we have finished, the laying-out is only begun."

"Have you anything to say about pergolas?"

"I know that scarcely any garden is considered complete without one, while it is often a sad and useless object leading from nowhere to nowhere. But it is probably only a passing fashion, and, like the sundial as a centrepiece in the suburban garden, will only have its day."

"You are much opposed, Miss Dunington, to incongruities in gardens?"

"Strongly, and for that reason I attach great importance to the use of particular materials. If possible, architectural introductions into the garden should be of similar materials to those used in the construction of a house. For instance, if a house be built of London yellow brick, any other structure should also be formed of yellow brick. The use of stone or other materials of greater refinement outside the building only emphasises its mediocrity. In some quarters there is almost a mania for collecting dilapidated wrought-iron work in the shape of gates, railings and screens. But because a gate or a screen was wrought a couple of centuries ago, it is not necessarily worth looking at. No design, however beautiful on paper, is of any value unless it is suited to the successful growing of flowers and trees"

"Will you elaborate that point a little?"

"There are, first, the trees and shrubs which are used architecturally in garden making when they supplant more permanent materials, but are made to fulfil the same duties. These include the clipped Yew or Beech hedge, the thin Box edging and the topiary tree. They are not intended to replace trees of natural growth, but to act as foils to them. I believe that most people allow that a wall of sombre green is the most effective background for a herbaceous border, and that the judicious use of trees of formal outline adds to the attraction of the terrace Then there are trees, shrubs and flowers which are used entirely for decorative purposes, and these are usually allowed to grow naturally. Attention should, however, be paid to the artistic grouping of colour, the value of light and shade, and the planting for bold effect."

Colour Grouping.

"I should like you, please, to say more about colour grouping."

"One portion of the garden should be devoted to trees and shrubs which colour in the autumn, and another to trees and shrubs which flower in the spring. I mean that they should not be mixed up, but kept quite separately."

"Then there is the herbaceous border?"

"Personally, I prefer a border including all the colours, but separated so as not to clash. This, however, is not always practicable. Some clients will not have any yellow flowers in the border, and others insist upon dispensing with pink or red. With respect to the separation of colours, after the flowers are separated, they should be grouped to their own advantage. The space between the scarlets and crimsons should be great. This may be accomplished by beginning at the end of the border with the scarlets, and allowing them to merge into the oranges and yellows, and so on to the blues and purples, arriving eventually at the crimsons and pinks. White can be introduced throughout whenever the grouping invites its presence; and to tone and subdue the whole, grey foliage plants should be brought in and used freely in connection with pink and yellow. I need scarcely say that in following a general scheme of arrangement, there should be no hard lines of demarcation visible between the colours, and no slavish adherence to colour rules."

Chance Colour-Combinations.

"Do you advocate the liberal use of annuals and biennials in the herbaceous border?"

"I do not see how the succession of the various colours throughout the summer can be uninterrupted without them. Without these short-lived helpers, the garden tends towards overmuch blue and scarlet in the early part of the season, whilst in the autumn the yellows have the monopoly. Every garden lover should aways be on the look-out for chance colour-combinations. Frequently these prove more successful than the most elaborate design. For example, what is more effective than such a grouping of crimsons and pinks as may be formed by the feathery sprays of the rosy-scarlet Larkspur, rising behind unstinted clumps of deep crimson Sweet Williams and carmine Eschscholtzias?"

A Design for a Border.

"Are you at the present time engaged upon any herbaceous borders, Miss Dunington?"

"Yes, I happen to have a design in hand, over a hundred feet long, and ten feet wide. It begins with scarlets and oranges, and deeper yellows, and passes on into lighter chromes, pale blues, deeper blues, purples and lavenders, ending with crimsons and pinks, all the colours being kept together. In this border, all the seasons are represented, so that there will be continuous blooming from early spring till late summer With regard to arrangement, the tall varieties are at the back, sloping down to the shorter at the front, though sometimes I prefer a few tall varieties in the front, just to break the line To supplement my design of a border, you may like to have the idea of one of my clients. Here are his plans. You see, from the drawings, that they set out the contents of the whole garden, so that if anything dies either in the herbaceous border, the Rose beds, or the shrub borders, it can be replaced, and a record made on the diagram. There is no doubt that these plans will be found very useful, because they enable the owner of a garden to see its contents at a glance."

ALFRED WILCOX.

NEXT week's interview is with Mr. T. W. Herbert, at the gardens, Nutfield Court, Redhill, Surrey.

A Neglected Race of Plants.

THE CROWEAS.

THESE form a very distinct and valuable class of cool greenhouse plants, deserving much more extended cultivation. They possess evergreen foliage, and are of a remarkably neat and compact habit of growth, with pretty flowers of a rich pink hue, which are chiefly produced during the autumn and early part of the winter, when most flowering plants are over, and this, of course adds considerably to their value. They come from New South Wales, but only require cool greenhouse treatment, and are of a very vigorous and accommodating nature. If started into growth in a gentle warmth early in the year—in February or March—they will bloom as early as August, while other plants, allowed to come on naturally, will maintain the succession until Christmas, or later.

The plants will grow and bloom well in either loam of a fibrous or turfy nature, with a little leaf-mould and sand added, or in peat, but as in the latter they seem to make better progress, and, on the whole, to thrive rather more, this (peat) should be preferred, but that of the best quality only, with some sand, should be used. It must be made quite firm in the pots, and these, as usual with all plants of this class, should be well but not excessively drained. Although they are strong-rooting subjects, as compared with many others, they do not need very large pots, and seem to thrive better in comparatively small ones.

Propagation.

This is effected, as usual, by means of cuttings, which will generally be found in good condition in April or May. Take them off, thin them, and insert them firmly in 5-in. or 6-in. pots, placing several in each, the pots being, of course, freely drained, and partly filled with a mixture of peat and sand in equal portions, with a good surfacing of pure sand. If placed in a close case in a warm house, they will soon form roots, and should then be potted off singly in small sizes, keeping them moderately warm and close until rooted out again. Pinch out the point of each as soon as they begin to grow, and winter them, if possible, in a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees at night. By about

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W.H. Durose

Annuals and Roses at Westwood Gardens, Tilehurst.

THE two great features in the gardens of the Countess of Eldon, at Westwood, Tilehurst, are annuals and Roses. Westwood itself, which was purchased for a summer residence eight years ago by Lady Eldon, comprises a comfortable modern residence on high ground, and about ten acres of pleasure grounds and kitchen gardens. It is just outside the village of Tilehurst, and within a drive of three miles from Reading. In the short carriage drive, which forms the approach to the house, there is an excellent collection of flowering shrubs, especially Lilacs, Flowering Cherries, Laburnums, Hawthorns, Weigelas, and Berberis. Conifers are also represented on a considerable scale. But on the occasion of my visit in the middle of March the special features almost immediately claimed my attention. Mr. W. H. Durose, who is in charge of the gardens, is a recognised authority on colour effects with annuals, and I asked him first of all to tell me about his arrangement and treatment of them.

"With regard to arrangement, it might be mentioned at the outset that in the carriage drive itself is a broad belt of Antirrhinums, in number about five thousand. This is the second year, and they are being used here as perennials, though grown in the first instance as annuals. I do not advise that they should be grown for bedding purposes after the first year; the flowers are not so good."

"When do you sow them?"

"Towards the end of January, in brisk heat, preparing them gradually for removal into a cool house. During the third week in March, I prick them off into frames, then keep them closed for a few days until they are well started. Afterwards, I harden them off, admitting as much air as possible, in order to prevent them from getting drawn or leggy. The time of planting out depends upon space; but it is wise to plant them out as early as possible, say, the middle of April. I prefer not to pinch, and they do not require pinching if they are planted out with a space of eighteen inches between them.

WESTWOOD, TILEHURST, THE RESIDENCE OF THE COUNTESS OF ELDON.

"The tall varieties," continued Mr. Durose, "are Bright Pink, Carmine Pink, Crimson and Gold, and Yellow. The Intermediates consist of Rose Queen, Orange King (which is better than Fire King), Apricot, Cloth of Gold, White Yellow, and Coral Red. The only two Tom Thumb varieties used are Crimson King and Yellow Prince."

BRILLIANT SUCCESS OF NEMESIAS.

"But last year, which was the first I was able to show results of the policy I decided to adopt with the sanction of Lady Eldon, the most brilliant success was obtained with Nemesias in the pleasure grounds which slope down from the front."

"Did you make use of the ordinary soil?"

"Yes; the soil fresh turned up was practically used. The only manure I put in was a sprinkling of Clay's Fertilizer. I am opposed to farmyard, peat moss, or any other strong manures in the culture of annuals in the time of planting. The best plan when it is possible is to incorporate strong manures with the soils in the autumn, and in the spring to give the beds a sprinkling of soluble manure of some description. There is then something always working which does not have the disadvantage of inducing rank growth of any description.

"With regard to the particular Nemesias, I prefer Sutton's hybrids to Suttonii mixed. The blossoms are of distinctive colours, the two most effective being a very brilliant gold and a very charming scarlet. The flowers are very large for the hybrid type, and the average height of the plant is from twelve to fifteen inches. I may say that I plant Nemesias and other dwarf varieties of annuals about twelve inches apart. Last year the long border contained two rows in the front eighteen inches apart, and between each of the hybrids I planted the Suttonii. It is a large-flowering variety, rather taller than the hybrids, though not so compact, but the colours are very brilliant and varied."

"How long did your flowering season of Nemesias last?"

"From May until October there was a continuous display in front of the long border. Nemesias are useful also for cutting, and for pot plants—of which we make a feature. They are very decorative in the water, and if it is changed will last for eight or ten days. I sow the seed the third week in March in a cool house or a cool frame. They will not bear heat, and must be kept cool until they are ready to handle. They are pricked out three inches apart into boxes, and planted when the ground is prepared for them. This year I sowed on March 13th. The plants will be ready to prick off the third week in April, and if the ground is at liberty they can be planted straight out in the borders the first week in May. It is worth remembering that Nemesias do not make much progress until the blooms begin to show. They require no more than ordinary care and attention, but in dry weather it is essential to water them. If they are not watered, the plants fall and often do not recover."

PENTSTEMONS AS ANNUALS.

"Next to Nemesias, I find Godetias, Larkspurs, Clarkias, Eschscholtzias, Nigellas, and Jacobeas among the most satisfactory of annuals. These are all grown in masses, and I am raising them outside at the present time. The only Nigella used is Miss Jekyll; the Eschscholtzias are Ruby Queen, and Dainty Queen—pink; the Godetias, Satin Rose, Double Rose (which is preferable), Scarlet Queen, and Lady Bird; and the Clarkias, Fire Fly, Salmon King, and Delicate Pink.

"I prefer to treat the Pentstemon as an annual. One of the reasons is because of the length of its flowering season. Sown in January, and pricked out the second week in March, it is ready to plant out the first week in May at the latest. You will readily understand that I have to choose annuals that flower at the same time as much as possible. Otherwise the principle of massing cannot be carried out effectually."

LARKSPURS AND SCHIZANTHUS.

"How do you treat Larkspurs?"

"I prefer to sow them in the open ground, the second week in March; lay a light over for a short time, held up by a hard brick; and then I plant out at the same time as the other varieties. Nigellas respond to the same treatment as Larkspurs. We also treat the retusa variety of Schizanthus as an annual. It is sown at the end of February, potted when large enough into small sixties, and planted out as space permits. We use Veitch's grandiflora hybrids for the same purpose. They do well outside, but require attention in the way of staking. A few Asters are very effective, and require practically the same treatment as Nemesias, but should be sown three weeks earlier. Stocks, too, are pressed into service. I sow about the end of February, and deal with them afterwards much the same way as Antirrhinums.

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"The large-flowering varieties of Phlox are Delicate Pink, Bright Crimson, Maroon, and White; the dwarfs Delicate Pink, Salmon Rose, and White. I sow in February in heat, or in a gentle hotbed, prick off in the same manner as other annuals, either into boxes or into another gentle hotbed. The plants are hardened off about the end of March, and in planting, care must be taken not to let them get drawn, which means spoiling the effect.

"A new variety of Sunflower is very useful for the back of borders. I refer to Sutton's New Red, which is worth its place in every garden. The best of the other varieties are Stella, Miniature, and Dwarf Miniature. I sow one in a small "sixty" pot the first week in March, planting out as soon as it becomes pot-bound.

THE ECONOMY OF ANNUALS.

"These are the principal annuals used, but I generally grow a batch specially for cutting, including Shirley Poppies, the Giant Poppies, and Papaver orientalis; also the mixed strain of Clarkias, Godetia Double Rose, several varieties of Sunflower, Schizanthus, and Antirrhinums. As a matter of fact almost any kind of annual can be used for cut flowers, and they have the advantage of coming when there is a scarcity of greenhouse flowers. They are not expensive, and you can get, in my opinion, a better result more cheaply from them; you can plant them out at any period, and need not be afraid of a few degrees of frost. It is very necessary, however, in all cases to water regularly, and to be careful not to use the hose-pipe with too much force, because annuals are delicate.

"As to the bedding this season, Nemesias, Intermediate Antirrhinums, Asters, and Phlox Drummondii will be planted separately. The borders will consist of various subjects, such as Sweet Peas, tall Antirrhinums, Eschscholtzias, Godetias, Clarkias, Larkspurs, and Pentstemons. A bed will no doubt be found again for the dwarf Single Dahlia, and the majority of the varieties already named will be used for borders in different parts of the garden."

"Have you anything to say about the treatment of Sweet Peas?"

"They are sown in January in 'sixty' pots, five seeds in a pot, transferred into 'thirty-two's' or 'forty-eights,' and planted out about the first week in May in the borders. I do not coddle them, but just keep the stakes in the pots, and in the borders I dig a hole about eighteen inches deep. In this I put a shovelful of manure, cover with six to eight inches of soil, and then plant the ball, covering the top of the ball with an inch of soil. I grow about five plants in a clump in separate colours, and stake them as soon as they are planted. Last year we had Sweet Peas from the second week in June until the third week in October—five months."

"I see that you go in for spring bedding considerably."

"Wallflowers in variety are the principal feature. They are planted in separate rows, and we use only four dwarf bedders, Sutton's Fire King, Blood Red, Purple Queen, and Yellow. Fire King is useful in a bed by itself. Polyanthus is used in quantity, and so is Myosotis Royal Blue. Two beds are filled with Tulips Kaiserskroon, Prince of Austria, and Chrysolorum. We also use a quantity of Narcissi, Scillas, Crocuses, Aubrietias, Arabis, Alyssums, and other subjects, under the trees on the slopes; while under the hedges the bulbs make a show.

"There are thousands of bulbs down in the wild garden," continued Mr. Durose, "and here, as you will observe, we have just made a water garden. The water is planted with Lilies, and we intend to clothe the banks with bog plants, Bamboos, and Pampas Grass, while all around shrubs and trees will be made the most of. As soon as possible, a representative rockery will be included."

ROSES ON THE SLOPES.

"Now I think it is time to refer to the Roses."

"First of all, there are the Roses on poles, the standards and dwarfs in the front. The varieties on poles are Climbing Captain Christy, American Pillar, and Conrad Meyer; standards, chiefly Hugh Dickson, Frau Karl Druschki, Mrs. John Laing, and Lady Hillingdon; dwarfs, Madame Abel Chatenay, Richmond, Liberty, and Madame Cochet. We choose the best, and keep rather to large quantities of a few, than to a few of many.

"Then in the Rose garden with the two tennis courts recently made, is a long border on the high level. This contains not fewer than one hundred and fifty Roses, with standards of Frau Karl Druschki and Hugh Dickson, dwarfs of Frau Karl Druschki being planted in between. The rest of the border is planted alternately with Caroline Testout and La France. In the beds below the slope are more Roses, two or three of several of the best and newest varieties being used. These include Queen Mary, Irish Fireflame, British Queen, Sunburst, and Willomere. The fine Rose hedge consists entirely of Dorothy Perkins, and a border of French Roses mixed almost completes the contents of the Rose garden. Yet I ought to add that even here we reserve space for annuals, and that under the hedge facing south is a small herbaceous border, with varieties chosen to suit the position and aspect."

MR. W. H. DUROSE, HEAD GARDENER AT WESTWOOD.

THE PLANT AND FRUIT HOUSES.

"We must not entirely omit to notice the kitchen garden and houses, which appear to be admirably arranged, and quite up-to-date."

"Of the houses, which are few in number, one is at all times kept for flowering subjects, according to the season. A second house consists of Beans, Tomatoes, and Strawberries now in flower, with seedlings of various kinds. Peaches and Nectarines in pots fill another house, and a fourth is occupied with bedding plants, including Malmaisons; and a fifth with Ferns in variety. Various pits are used for bringing on Potatoes, Lettuce, Cauliflowers, and Violets. Of the last we grow about twelve lights in the winter, and keep up a supply from September until April. We then divide and plant out, using the natural soil, which is generally black sand or gravel, and getting a very fine show of flowers. The two varieties are Princess of Wales and Marie Louise.

"Great attention is paid to early and forced vegetables, such as Seakale, Asparagus, Peas, Potatoes, and Beans.

"With regard to hardy fruit, Pears, Apples, Plums, Peaches, Nectarines, and Gooseberries are grown in quantity. The south wall is devoted to Peaches, and we have just finished a glass coping, which I think will be a considerable protection. The east wall is devoted to Plums, and the west to Pears. All the fruit trees are fresh since I came here two and a half years ago, and you will notice that the cordon Pears are now in bloom. Pears are also grown on espaliers. Apples are chiefly bush trained, but a number of these will be found in the orchard outside, which is quite as large as the kitchen garden within walls. The Peaches grown outside include Stirling Castle, Belgrade, and Waterloo; the Nectarines, Violette Hative, Royal George, and Cardinal. Royal Sovereign is the Strawberry used for forcing, and we also grow Givon's Late Prolific and Waterloo."

"Have you done any showing since you have been here?"

"I began last year, and was successful at the local show in the open class. In spite of strong competition, I took two firsts and two thirds. The firsts were for twelve vases of Sweet Peas, and for a group of plants, and the thirds for collections of vegetables in each class. I started my gardening experiences at Norbury Hall, Derbyshire, and was afterwards in succession in the gardens at Wootton Hall, Staffordshire, Westfield, Lancashire, Avon Castle, Ringwood, Leigh Park, Havant, and finally before coming to Westwood, I was foreman for two years and a half at Caversham Park." ALFRED WILCOX.

Green-fly is already in evidence on Rose trees on walls and trellises, and spraying should not be delayed, or the plants will suffer.

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A. Dyer

A Successful Amateur Exhibitor of Chrysanthemums.

MR. EDWIN WOOD, OF THE TYROL, UPPER NORWOOD.

AT the National Chrysanthemum Show last month high honours were carried off in the amateur classes by Mr. Edwin Wood. The number of exhibits staged by Mr. Wood was seven, and he was awarded seven prizes. Four of these were firsts. He was first for the large vase of decorative varieties; first for a vase of Singles; first in the Pompon class; and first for six incurved blooms of one variety. In the competition for six incurved blooms distinct, he was second; he obtained third prize for twelve Incurveds, distinct; and third for five Japanese blooms in one vase.

Mr. Wood is "a prophet with honour in his own country." His residence, The Tyrol, the oldest house in Church Road, Upper Norwood, is a very short distance from the Crystal Palace, the scene of his successes. Proximity to a great show is an advantage, but it does not secure prizes in strenuous competitions, and when I visited The Tyrol a few days after the show I had to ascertain other reasons for such a remarkable record. Mr. Wood, with whom I had a brief chat, takes a keen interest in his garden, but the credit for growing prize Chrysanthemums largely belongs to his excellent gardener, Mr. A. Dyer, who readily answered my questions and gave me all the information in his power.

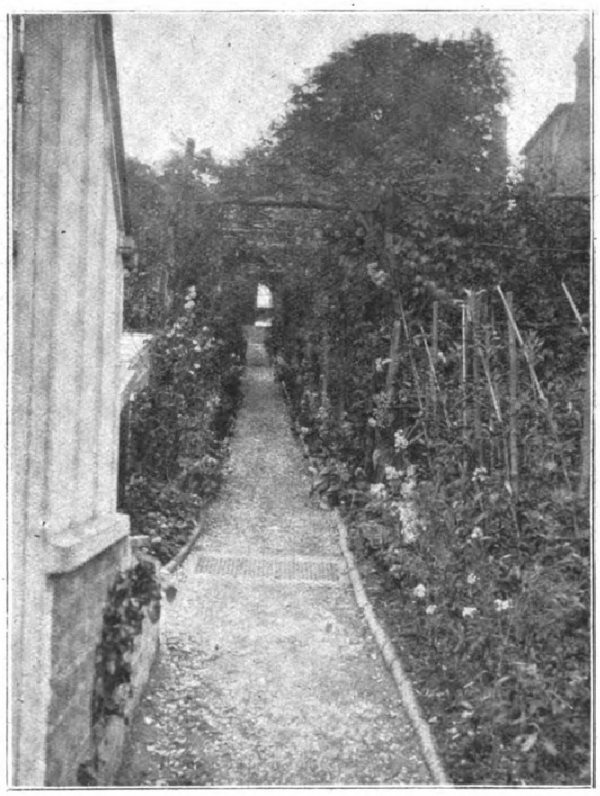
"You have come to the front with a rush," I said, as we proceeded down the slope, a quarter of a mile in length, to the end of the garden, where the Chrysanthemums are planted out.

"Yes, this is the best year we have had, but Mr. Wood has shown for five years at the Crystal Palace.

"We usually make a start at Croydon. One year we had nine exhibits, and were awarded nine prizes. Prizes have also been gained at Bromley, and on more than one occasion at Thornton Heath. In the five years we have shown, about fifty prizes have been won. But this year the results at the Crystal Palace were most gratifying, and naturally more than we expected to achieve."

"But how did you manage to score such a succession of triumphs?"

"I suppose that careful cultivation all round is the chief cause. There are no special features so far as I know, but my methods are entirely at your disposal.



THE PERGOLA IN THE GARDENS AT THE TYROL, UPPER NORWOOD.

HOW THE PLANTS ARE GROWN.

"With regard to treatment, after the Chrysanthemums have done flowering, I put them in a cold frame, and subsequently start them there in the spring. About the beginning of December I strike the cuttings. In June they are placed out on the ground, close to where we are now standing. In due time the Japanese and Incurved varieties are tied up to wires in straight rows, and the sun ripens the wood. This garden backs on to the pleasure grounds of the Normal College for the Blind, and we get the benefit of protection from trees, and of plenty of open space.

"As the plants become larger I transfer them from this space to ground a little higher up the slopes, previously occupied by vegetables. I should have mentioned that I start them in small pots, transfer them to forty-eight's, and finally into their flowering pots. They stay outside generally until the second week in September, and then I move them to the single house, which represents all the glass in the place. Before doing this I take the stages out, wash the frames, and do not allow any other plants except the Chrysanthemums inside the house."

"Do you transfer them to the flowering house in any special order?"

"I take the Japanese first; the Incurved next; and the Singles and the Pompons I take at the same time. They are usually all in flower together, but I arrange things so that if a Pompon is in flower a little earlier than one of the other varieties, I leave it out rather longer. The idea is to make as good a collection as possible for the shows. When the shows are over the flowers are used to decorate the rooms of The Tyrol.

EARLY-FLOWERING VARIETIES.

"Facing the show Chrysanthemums are early-flowering varieties. This year we had about thirty, but for next season we shall have fifty, including two dozen of the newest varieties. It is intended to exhibit next year at the Crystal Palace early show."

"Have you gone in for any particular shades of colour in choosing the new varieties?"

"They are principally pinks and whites. We already have plenty of bronzes and yellows. Hitherto, the early-flowering varieties have been used to decorate the house. They commence to bloom in August, and keep on until the end of October, coming in when everything else has finished.

"We do not go in for a large number of varieties of Incurves. For example, we grow Miss Cora Stoop, Fanny Lemon, Matthew Russell, Mrs. P. Wiseman, Frank Tristram, Clara Wells, and Eva Smith. The Japanese varieties are Mrs. A. T. Miller, F. S. Vallis, C. H. Bromhead, Mrs. C. H. Totty, Lady Letchworth, White Queen, and Mrs. Gilbert Drabble.

"With regard to Singles, I have discarded several this year, and have a number of new ones coming to take their places in March. The seven varieties grown this year were J. B. Lowe, Florrie King, Sylvia Slade, Roupell Beauty, Celia, Mrs. John Peed, and Mrs. W. Garner. Pompons are very nice, but we do not go in for many varieties. The four I find most satisfactory are Prince of Orange, Rubra Perfecta, Madame Martha, and Mademoiselle Elsie Dourdan."

BUYING NEW VARIETIES.

"Do you buy the new varieties as they come out?"

"No; as a rule they are too expensive, and we wait a year or two and see if they become popular. But it is, of course, very important to keep up-to-date sorts if you want to show, because the old varieties very often disqualify. On the other hand, the difference in the cost of buying a variety the first year and the second is very considerable. If you pay 10s. 6d. for a plant and don't get a flower fit to show, it is very disheartening, and that is another reason why I so often wait for a year to see whether a new flower is a striking success or a comparative failure."

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"Which do you consider the best colours for showing, Mr. Dyer?"

"Whites are the best, I think, then golden varieties, and next to golden, crimson."

THE ROSE PERGOLA.

"Chrysanthemums are evidently by no means the only feature of the garden at The Tyrol. What is the extent of the very fine pergola which runs down the slope almost as far as the summer-house?"

"Three hundred feet. The Roses on the pergola are chiefly Dorothy Perkins, Hiawatha, Crimson Rambler, Duchess of Portland, and Margaret Dickson, which has an enormous stem, and is one of the finest Roses for a pergola. There are several singles, but they were here before I came. On the left hand of the pergola is a fine collection of Dahlias from the nurseries of Messrs. Cheal, of Crawley. There are thirty-eight varieties, one plant of each, all belonging to the Cactus section. I have had them for two years, and they do exceedingly well.

"In front of the Chrysanthemums is a collection of Phlox decussata, also from Messrs. Cheal. They represent all colours from white and copper to crimson. The flowering season begins in July, and keeps on until the end of October. As to treatment, I simply put each plant in a good compost, and it comes up year after year, the only artificial assistance given being a single dressing of manure. On the same side as the pergola is a row of dwarf Roses, mixed, such varieties as Betty, Frau Karl Druschki, and John Hopper, pink, white, and crimson."

"I see that you have Roses still in flower."

"Yes, I cut eight blooms this morning, thinking it was going to freeze. The varieties are Betty and Caroline Testout. Like many other people, I find that Caroline Testout does extremely well under every possible condition, and supplies a great quantity of blooms. There is no difficulty whatever in growing Roses here, and when they are once planted we let them alone.

HARDY FRUIT.

"On the right hand side of the pergola all the space up the slope is devoted to fruit trees, which were planted fifteen years ago, when Mr. Wood's father came to reside at Norwood. There are about two hundred trees, comprising Apples, Pears, and Plums, standards and pyramids. The best of the Apples, whether as pyramids or standards, are Blenheim Orange, Wellington, Bismarck, New Hawthornden, Cox's Orange Pippin, Ribston Pippin, King of the Pippins, Frogmore Prolific (which justifies its title by giving us more cooking Apples than any other variety), and Lord Suffield, from which a splendid crop of fruit was obtained this year.

"Pears are not so successful as Apples, but almost invariably we get a good crop of both Apples and Pears on cordons. The varieties of Pears include Charles Ernest, Doyenne du Comice, Glou Morceau, Triomphe de Vienne, Beurre d'Amanlis, Beurre Superfin, Princess—a lovely Pear—and Pitmaston Duchess. As to Plums, Monarch, Victoria, and Princess of Wales give excellent crops, and The Farleigh is a very fine Damson. The Apple crop this year was very fair; the Plum crop pretty good; but the Pear crop distinctly thin.

"Just outside the house in which the Chrysanthemums are flowered, Sweet Peas are grown in separate colours. They are so arranged that anyone can walk in between the rows, and they make a very pretty nook. The flowering season starts in June, and continues far into September.

"Speaking of the house, it may be added that it is thirty feet long and fourteen wide. Though it is the only house, there are two rows of pits the same height heated, and one row of cool pits. All the bedding stuff is grown here, and we never buy anything save seeds and new varieties. In the summer the house is full of Begonias, of which nearly a thousand are grown, some in the frames and others outside. I have shown summer-flowering Begonias at Croydon, and taken two firsts and one second prize.

"The lawn on this side of the house is purposely kept quite plain, and has seats all round. The trees are very old, and include good specimens of the Silver Beech, the Silver Birch, and the common Oak."

SPRING AND SUMMER BEDDING.

"At this time of year," continued Mr. Dyer, when we proceeded to the front of the house, "there is nothing to be seen in the shape of flowers; but all through the summer—in fact, from June till nearly the end of November—a blaze of scarlet was supplied by Salvias Pride of Zurich, with which the borders were planted. Their places are now taken by Wallflowers, two rows of Blood Red and one row of King of the Yellows, with an edging of Myosotis. Of the four raised beds two are filled with Wallflowers Primrose Dame, a primrose variety; and the other two with King of the Yellows. The small bed adjoining is filled with Myosotis.

"There are two fountains, which play during the summer, and, as you see, we are not without a certain amount of colour on the wall at the present time. The red of the Pyracantha berries gives a pleasing dash of brightness to the otherwise monotonous green."

MR. DYER'S EXPERIENCES.

"How long have you been in charge of the garden, and how many years have you been growing Chrysanthemums?"

"I have been at The Tyrol five years, and previously I was gardener to Mr. Peacock, of Croydon, for ten years, during which we showed a great deal, and won upwards of a hundred prizes, chiefly firsts. For five years, groups of Chrysanthemums, which I have been growing almost as long as I can remember, and of Gloxinias, were put up at Croydon Show. The seventeen previous years of my life were spent in the gardens of Haling Park, Croydon. I have been engaged in gardening since childhood. It may interest you to know that in the "Annual" of the transactions of the National Chrysanthemum Society a page picture is assigned to a large vase of Chrysanthemums exhibited by me in 1911. I won the same prize for the same variety this year. I consider it a great honour to have been mentioned in the publication."

"What assistance do you have in this garden?"

"None at all. The garden is an acre in extent, and except the small lawn it is all under cultivation. I have had the pleasure of hearing the front portion described as the prettiest garden in the district. A good deal, it will be admitted, can be done by one man and one house."

ALFRED WILCOX.

Next week's interview will describe a Glorious Sea-side Garden in the Isle of Wight.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

Some Attractive Varieties at the National Chrysanthemum Society's December Show.

The season of flowering in the Chrysanthemum world now extends from the end of July till the New Year is well advanced; but perhaps the blooms are best appreciated at Christmas, when nothing but forced flowers are obtainable for indoor decoration. In some seasons the mid-November varieties are still flowering up till Christmas, but this year the weather has been so mild that there are few indeed left, and the December varieties, therefore, hold entire sway.

A WISE DECISION.

The National Chrysanthemum Society have wisely held a show this year in December, with the object of ascertaining the varieties which make the best display in winter. The exhibition was a revelation to many visitors as to the possibilities in this direction. There were some truly wonderful specimens shown, especially by the trade growers—not large, massive blooms, such as are seen in November, but medium in size, shapely in form, and of the most delightful hues imaginable.

The following were particularly attractive: Heston Pink—which took pride of place as the best novelty submitted to the Floral Committee on the day of the show—Manor House Gem, Princess Victoria Bronze, Mrs. Hygate and Yellow Mrs. Hygate, Russet, December Gold, December Pink, Godfrey's Crimson, Black Prince, Mrs. F. Judson, and Mons. T. Pancoucke.

The single-flowering varieties were well displayed for so late in the year in such an advanced season. The honours went to Hubert Williams, Brightness, Caledonia, Kathleen May, Sandown Radiance, Crimson Queen, Cannell's White, and a new one named Commodore.

Perhaps the variety which attracted most attention was Kathleen May, the deepest velvety crimson, with an anemone centre. The petals are stiff and well disposed, and, generally speaking, it is all a Single Chrysanthemum should be.

EXPERT.

Amelanchier canadensis, also known as Mespilus, is a tree that deserves to be planted extensively. It is of the same family as the Medlar, and flowers early in the summer, and fruits in the autumn. But its great attraction is its foliage, which in the autumn assumes a beautifully rich tint. It does well in any ordinary soil.

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certainly does not look very promising. The highest score was eleven, obtained by Charles Fidler and Lim Gray, both from Essex. The two samples of Dalmeny Hero both got high figures—from Scotland nine, and from Essex ten. Almost invariably the Potatoes grown in Essex proved better, when cooked, than those grown elsewhere.

April 8th —A few plants with variegated leaves are worth growing, but certainly all that are put on the market are not. One well-known writer on gardening goes so far as to say that none is; he declares that variegation is merely the result of disease. An India-rubber plant with yellow-edged leaves has long been in existence, but is still rather rare. Another variety is shown in the illustration. Whether it is likely to become more popular is doubtful. H. C. Davidson.

Famous Gardeners at Home.

No. 184.—Mr. Herbert Dyson, at the Gardens, Rickmansworth Park.

The gardens at Rickmansworth Park, the attractive residence of Mrs. J. W. Birch, have many interesting features, and have been admirably kept up for a number of years. The present head gardener is Mr. Herbert Dyson, and on the occasion of my visit, during the last week in February, he suggested on my arrival that we should begin our round at the main entrance to the house on the west side of the park. Here, nicely sheltered from the wind, was some spring bedding consisting of Carter's London pink Polyanthus and Kaiser's Kroon Tulips. The trees on this side include a fine pair of Thuja Lobbii, and a striking specimen of Taxodium sinense. Nearer the entrance to the mansion were Crocuses and Daffodils in various spots, planted in the grass, with the idea of making the place look as natural as possible. Directly facing the door is a fine tree of Pavia machostachya, which in August is a mass of flower.

"Rhododendrons," I remarked, "appear to be a considerable feature," and Mr. Dyson rejoined,

"Yes, some of the Rhododendrons were originally used to decorate the Bank of England. They include named varieties of the best kinds, and they do exceedingly well here."

"How long have you had Japanese Pæonies?"

"The bed was planted just three years ago, when we received the Pæonies with the Japanese labels attached to them from Messrs. William Bull and Co., of Chelsea. There are about a dozen varieties. As you may have noticel, the bed of Pæonies, like the bed with Roses and Daffodils, can just be seen through the trees from the windows of the house. I work on that principle wherever I can.'

"Did you plant the Roses?"

"Yes, some were in other beds, and new varieties were bought to make up. The Daffodils include Golden Spur, Orange Phœnix, Grandee, Ornatus, Empress, Incomparable, and Princeps. I had them all up in July, and replanted them. Although there are so many stones in the bed, the Roses, which are standards and dwarfs, flower remarkably well."

"You have standard Roses dotted about the lawn."

"Yes, and Lilacs. A number of the Roses are planted with Tulips."

"What is the nature of the soil?"

"Gravel on chalk. It suits a number of trees and Conifers. The Silver Fir, a hundred and twenty feet high, is a landmark for miles, and the Aucuba flourishes here. Hollies are rather a feature. The first Lord Iddesleigh used to come to Rickmansworth Park, and he greatly admired some of the fine specimens of Ilex."

At this point Mr. Dyson indicated a bed containing a tree of Gloire de Dijon, on which, he mentioned, there were seven hundred flowers open at once last summer.

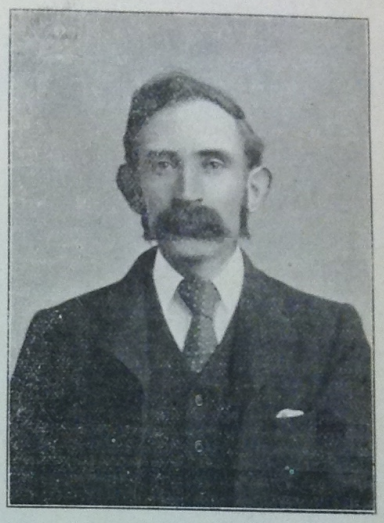
"And how do you manage it?" I inquired.

"I train the growth. The tree itself is about forty years old. It used to be closely pruned, and under that treatment flowered badly. I had a loop made, and brought the shoots down in umbrella fashion, and the result was surprising. In the bed, where there are now Polyanthus and Hyacinths, I had Begonias last summer two feet high, one mass of flower."

"Do you treat them in a special manner?"

"I put them in an ordinary frame on a slight hotbed, and sift leaf-mould over them. As soon as they start, I give them all the air I can, but do not let them get too forward. By this treatment, the roots take hold of the leaf-mould, and the plants do not feel the shift. In my judgment this system is much better than using either pots or boxes."

Then we strolled past the front of the house—which was altered and improved in 1825, when the estate was purchased by the father of Mrs. Birch—and had a peep at the charming park, with the beautiful herd of deer. In the park also there are many striking specimens of trees, including a Lime with a spread of branches a hundred and twenty yards in circumference. There is an avenue of Limes half a mile long, and a short avenue of splendid Chestnut trees. Close to the windows of the drawing-room, which extends along the whole front of the house, are two beds, one on each side, with Harbinger Wallflowers and Kaiser's Kroon Tulips. The vases are similarly filled."



Mr. H. Dyson.

Rickmansworth Park House.

"But in summer," said Mr. Dyson, "the beds are planted with Echeveria and Henry Jacoby Geraniums, and in the vases we use Cordyline australis for the centre, and fill in with scarlet Geraniums (Ivy-leaves) and Nierembergias, the object always being to get as much colour as we can against the white stone of the house."

"I imagine that your large lawn requires a good deal of attention?"

"Yes; by the way, a portion of it has been taken, in recent years, from the park. On the south-east side the colours of a clump of Wellingtonia, a Copper Beech, and a Cedar of Lebanon blend well together, and further east are several Beeches. When the gardens were laid out by the man responsible for the original Rosherville Gardens, he designed it so as to entirely avoid straight lines, so that everything is on the curve."

"The result being a complete absence of formality, and the preservation of a natural appearance?"

"We do not think that there is any beauty in straight lines. On the east side a croquet lawn was recently added, and views, including one of the lake and river, have been opened out. Here are specimens of Cedrus atlantica, Pinus strobus and other varieties."

"Speaking of straight lines," continued Mr. Dyson, "the only place where we can show them is in the flower garden, where the style of design precludes their absence."

"How long have the Ivy archways been in the flower garden?"

"I can only tell you that they were there be-

fore 1825. The exits to the garden, you see, are so arranged as to be invisible from it."

"That is a very ingenious device. I conclude that the style of the garden is Italian?"

"Entirely. It contains fifty-nine beds (which we do not fill in the spring), as well as vases. There are standard Roses in the main beds, and the garden is well planted by trees and shrubs, which form many nooks for garden seats."

"With what plants do you fill the fifty-nine beds in summer?"

"The centre round bed is filled with sub-tropical plants. In the centre long beds are Geraniums, Henry Jacoby, Madame Crousse, Paul Crampel, Edward the Seventh, Mrs. Turner and Flower of Spring, carpeted with dwarf Ageratums. The latter were raised here some years ago."

"What colour is the flower?"

"A light French-grey. The variety is very floriferous. In the other beds we have Heliotropes, Fuchsias, and Begonias. Quite a feature is made of Carter's Monarch Ten-week Stock, which, being white, and growing nearly three feet high, is used as a dot plant amongst several of the larger beds."

"The two beds in front of the Orangery consist of Roses?"

The Orangery at Rickmansworth Park.

"Entirely. The sheltered position just suits Tea Roses. The principal varieties grown are: Marie Guillott, Prince de Hohenzollern, Caroline Testout, Madame Eugene Rezel, Souvenir de Paul Neyron, Rubens, Kaiserine Frederick, Laurette Messimy, Madame Pernet Ducher, Mrs. J. G. Warren, Comte de Paris, Madame Camille de Rohan, Souvenir de S. A. Prince, Madame J. Schwartz, and Alphonse Kan."

"How long have you had the Orange trees in the Orangery?"

"They were presented to the late Mr. Birch by the Marquis of Garirera, from his own gardens at Los Morados, in 1860. The Marquis sent them over from Spain in tons of earth, and they were planted in this house."

"Some of them are almost getting too high for it?"

"Yes, they are eighteen feet high. They flower freely, and the bloom is very pretty. The varieties are Tangerine, St. Michael's, and Seville, and all fruit freely. The trees require a lot of cleaning."

"You have a number of Arums in the Orangery?"

"We grow about a hundred and fifty, in batches. They are very useful for house decorations. Two varieties of Eupatorium are also grown. There are three dozen. The cultivation is not difficult. We strike them in April, and plant out in the summer, lift them in during the autumn, keep them cut, and they flower in the winter. Each side of the Orangery is a Fernery, containing Ferns and Palms."

Leaving the Orangery, and passing under an archway of great age, which later on is adorned with Clematis, we arrived at a small kitchen garden forming a half-circle, the wall of which is covered with Vinery and Peach houses. Here there is a long herbaceous border, which includes, among other varieties, Stenactis speciosus, Lilium candidum, Pyrethrums, Asphodelus, Oriental Poppies, Achilleas, Gypsophila paniculata, and, in the season, a large quantity of Michaelmas Daisies of the best kinds."

"And your bush fruit?" I inquired.

"Carter's Black Champion yields an abundant crop of Black Currants, and the Gooseberries are Whinham's Industry, Keepsake, and Warrington. In order to keep the birds off, we have to put cotton over the Gooseberry trees. The Pears on the espalier system, and all round the garden on the walls, include Durondeau, Williams's Bon Chrétien, Beurré Hardy, Marie Louise, Pitmaston Duchess, and Duchess d'Angouleme."

"They all seem well set with buds."

"We hope to have a good crop this year. There are more Daffodils here. All our Daffodils come from Tresco, in the Scilly Isles. The varieties in the kitchen garden are Sulphur, Kaiser's Kroon, Poeticus, Obvallaris, Sir Watkin, Rugilobus, and Emperor. Under the shadow of the Orangery we grow all the varieties of Sweet Pea which scorch with the sun, such as Miss Willmott and Scarlet Gem."

"Sweet Peas are rather a feature, I gather?"

"We have about two hundred clumps. The ground is well trenched, and a great quantity of manure is used. I think that the best varieties are Rando Piazzani, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, Jeannie Gordon, Mrs. Fitzgerald, King Edward the Seventh, David R. Williamson, Lady Grisel Hamilton, Black Michael, Mrs. Walter Wright, Miss Willmott, Mrs. Knights Smith, Duchess of Westminster, Countess Spencer, Gladys Unwin, Lord Rosebery, Prince of Wales, Scarlet Gem, Dorothy Eckford, Hon. Mrs. Kenyon, and Lady M. Ormesby-Gore."

Entering the cool Peach house, I observed some fine plants of Agapanthus umbellatus in tubs, and Mr. Dyson said,

"I am working in young Peach trees, and doing away with the old ones which were on the walls before the house was built twenty-four years ago. The varieties of Peaches are Falcon, Late Admirable, Crimson Galande and Nectarine Peach; and Nectarines, Rivers' Orange, Lord Napier, Humboldt and Downton."

"I notice that your Potatoes are all put out, and well sprouted."

"They are all the early varieties; the late ones are grown on the home farm. The early kinds are Duke of York and Harbinger; and the others Sir John Llewellyn, Ninetyfold, Royalty, and Advancer. I disbud them to about two or three shoots, and do not plant them before the first week in April. Then they are not cut off by the frost."

"How long have you had the Malmaison Carnations?"

"This is only the second year. There are about two hundred plants, but only a few varieties, principally Trumpeter, Churchwarden, Lord Rosebery, Sir Charles Fremantle, Mrs. Eric Hambro, and Baldwin. I do not believe in growing a large number of varieties."

"I see that you have in this house some Sweet Peas in pots."

"I grow all the new varieties in pots. With regard to cultivation, I find three good seeds to a clump sufficient. I plant the clumps a yard apart each way, stake them with ordinary Pea-sticks, and tie them together at the top, six feet high. When they are ready to cut, I mulch them with rough straw from the stable, which serves the double purpose of retaining moisture during dry times, and also keeps the feet clean during damp weather. Nothing provides so much cut flower and for such a long season as Sweet Peas. I begin to cut the second week in June, and go on for four months."

"What Grapes do you grow in the late Vinery?"

"Golden Queen, Mrs. Pince, Lady Downe's Seedling, Gros Colman, Alicante, and Muscat of Alexandria. I am making a speciality of herbaceous Calceolarias, and have about twelve dozen of Sutton's strain in this Vinery."

"Do you force many Strawberries?"

"About five hundred Royal Sovereign. We plant Strawberries (Royal Sovereign) in a bed outside after early Potatoes, a foot apart in the row, the rows being a yard apart. The other varieties are Fillbasket, Latest of All, and the Laxton. Also we plant a long bed outside with Peas and Dahlias. The Peas are so planted that Dahlias can be put in between. We bring rafters from the high wall. These enable us to cover the Dahlias and ward off the early frosts in the autumn, which often extends the flowering season quite a month."

"How many Cyclamens are there in the plant-house?"

"About two hundred. They are Carter's strain. We have also about five hundred Freesias (refracta alba), and about a hundred Deutzias (two varieties). In the stove are about two hundred Caladiums, and we get a fine show of Cypripediums insigne and Maleyii. Some of the plants had two dozen flowers."

"Amaryllis appears to be a favourite?"

"There are sixteen varieties, including Clio, Sybil, Rowland, Baron, Mentor, etc. Close to the Amaryllis is a batch of Pancratium fragrans, a beautifully-scented variety. In the winter we fill this house with Begonia Gloire de Lorraine, and Poinsettias, growing as many as fifteen dozen of each. In the Camellia house we have half a dozen varieties, and they are in flower from October to May. The early Tomato house is now filled with Decorative and Regal Pelargoniums, of which we have about three hundred."

"How many varieties?"

"There are Persimmon, Edward Perkins, Duke of Fife, Mrs. Innes Rogers, N. C. Boyes, Pearl, Princess Maud, Madame Thibaut, Venus, Prince Charlie, Triomphe de St. Mande, and Kingston Beauty, making a dozen kinds altogether. In this house we get a splendid crop of Tomatoes, both sides being equally good. We picked by the end of May last year fifty pounds of fruit, and over a thousand pounds altogether. The variety was Duke of York. We grow about two hundred plants of Primula sinensis flore plena, which I am just preparing for propagating."

"Your early Vineries look almost new."

"They were rebuilt last year. We used to have a steel roof, but after seven years' wear it failed, and we replaced it with a wooden one. The varieties are Black Hamburgh and Foster's Seedling. The system of wiring used is my own. The wires run parallel with the rafters, and are twenty inches from the glass."

"Here you have more bedding plants?"

"I suppose that altogether we have twenty thousand bedding plants. They include a thousand Ivy-leaved Geraniums, a thousand Heliotropes, and varieties of Coleus, Iresine, Ageratum, and Perilla."

"How many Chrysanthemums?"

"About six hundred, Japanese, Incurved, and a few singles. Of the bush section, I grow a

Hybrid Isoloma.

few varieties in quantity. Of the hundred and thirty varieties of Chrysanthemums, the following are some of the Japanese:—Alfriston, Brockhampton, Colonel Weatherall, Ernest Penford, Exmouth Crimson, General Hutton, Godfrey's Triumph, Henry Perkins, Hon. Mrs. Ackland, Madame Paolo Radælli, Miss Elsie Fulton, Miss Mildred Ware, Mr. F. S. Vallis, Mrs. F. W. Vallis, Queen Alexandra, Terra-Cotta, W. Duckham, W. R. Church, The Princess, Loveliness, Guy Hamilton, and Mrs. G. Mileham."

At this stage, when I thought that we had finished our inspection, Mr. Dyson said that there was still the Fishery Garden to see, and we made our way thither.

"How large are the whole gardens, then?" I inquired as we proceeded down the side of the hill to this pretty spot.

"They are about fourteen acres, with fifteen houses, pits, and frames. Violets are largely grown in the last."

"What is the extent of the Fishery Garden?"

"Four acres. The river Ches passes through it, and there are, as you perceive, two islands, one forming pleasure grounds, while the other is used as a kitchen garden."

"The kitchen garden has fruit and vegetables."

"Yes, there is on the north side a young plantation of the best varieties of Apples grown on the bush system. I am grubbing up all the old kinds. Apples are the only fruit we can keep. Raspberries are also grown. The vegetables include a fine lot of Celery, Peas in quantity, and seven beds of Asparagus. In the rough pleasure grounds are beds of Delphinium, mixed with the Acer negundo. There are also some beds of Gueldre Roses. This is quite a retreat, and is a quarter of a mile from the house. Formerly it was the garden of a private house, and was laid out as it now is by the man who laid out Rickmansworth, eighty years ago."

"Finally, as to your experience, Mr. Dyson?"

"That is a short story. It was at first intended to make me a schoolmaster, but after a few months the love of gardening asserted itself, and I started under my father, at Belvidere, near Maidstone, where hardy fruits and herbaceous plants were well grown. My next move was to Clare Park, Maidstone, and then to Barnes House, Malling. I was then foreman at Kelsey Manor, Beckenham, and from there I came here as foreman thirteen years ago. It is eight years since I became head gardener."

"Do you show at all?"

"No, I have not done any showing, for there is plenty to do here without. There is a nice bothy for three of the gardening staff. Mrs. Birch is very kind to everyone, and takes a great interest in the gardens. I am a strong advocate of the better training of young gardeners, and during winter evenings I pursue, with some of my young men, studies in elementary chemistry, geometry, arithmetic, and composition, etc—in fact, we have quite a mutual improvement class. I should like to see the standard of education raised, as well as the wages, and I think that head gardeners should realise their responsibilities with regard to those subordinate to them."

Alfred Wilcox.

Letters from a Lady Gardener.

No. 140.—THE LAWN, AND GESNERACEÆ.

DEAR KATE,—What is your lawn looking like? Is it free from moss, or weeds? because, if not, you should take it in hand at once, as there is no time to be lost. There are various remedies for a mossy lawn, such as a slight mulch of newly-slaked lime, which kills the moss, but in bad cases requires to be followed by a sprinkling of rich soil, or possibly by sowing seed in bare places. We have used waste salt for the same purpose as the lime during the winter; this is useful, too, to kill the weeds, even Plantains, as well as Daisies, Hawkweeds, and my special enemy, the Blue Bugle (Ajuga repens), all succumbing to it; but there is a danger of overdoing it, and killing the grass, too, if the salt is distributed too thickly, or lumps of it are left about.

Dandelions are the only weeds which cannot be killed by a pinch of salt, unless you cut off their heads first, and push a small lump of salt down the hole thus made, which, resting on the cut root, will destroy it surely. Lawn-sand can be used in the same way, if you prefer it, but it will not kill a tough old Dandelion unless you decapitate it first. Daisies disappear without difficulty under it, but the underground stems of Hieraceum pilosella (the Mouse-ear Hawkweed) and the insidious Blue Bugle appear ever so far from the parent plant, having taken a dive through the matted grass, or the soil, which makes them extremely mischievous, and harder to kill. Still, repeated sprinklings of salt on their tufts of foliage will do it; in fact, one application is enough for each tuft, but, still, you must look out a few weeks later for fresh shoots appearing at a distance from the original plant, and destroy them before they have time to propagate themselves.

My lawn is now very free from weeds of all kinds, but, then, I have been at it for several years, spending many a summer evening at the work of destroying them, and many an hour on fine days, even in the depth of winter, in walking over the lawn in search of a stray enemy. In fact, lawn-weeding becomes a sort of craze, if you indulge in it enough; and you will never have a dull hour if you once make up your mind to have a lawn without a weed, for there is always something to do if you intend to be even with the enemy.

Birds bring fresh seeds of Plantain, no doubt, and the Dandelion is able to fly about in its own little parachute, so that your work will never be absolutely finished; but the pleasure of walking on a green carpet of grass, unspoiled by flat leaves of Plantain, etc., may be had by anyone who chooses to take a little pains to secure it—trouble which soon becomes a pleasure, and repays one in many ways (such as good health and good temper), for the long, quiet hours with Nature in the open air and sunshine—two admirable doctors which send in no bills, but are ever ready to attend us in the garden—refresh and invigorate both mind and body.

Soot (of which we all should have plenty just now, after the spring-cleaning) is an admirable chemical manure for a lawn, but you should mix it with about six times its bulk in finely-sifted, rich soil, and as much burnt vegetable ash as you can obtain; or, failing that, some fine coal ashes, for these help to make a firm sward, although they contain but little nourishment. Superphosphate, too, and various other chemical manures, are useful, but of these I shall be able to tell you more later on, as we are trying some experiments with them on grass. If the grass is weak, do not put on the hood of the machine in cutting it, but let the cut grass lie as a slight mulch on the sward—it will quickly disappear, but still will help the roots of the grass. Seed may still be sown in bare places, covering it with a little fine soil, and making this quite flat and firm.

In the warm Vinery the scent of the Vine-bloom is delicious, and there are many Gesneraceous plants coming on there. Achimenes in baskets lined with moss are charming. They are put in with their heads peeping through the wires when quite small, and in layers, with the compost which suits all Gesneraceous plants (*i.e.*, equal parts of loam, leaf-mould and peat in small lumps, with charcoal, sand and soot in small quantities), keeping the whole very moist by dipping the basket daily in a tank of tepid water. When the first flower opens we add a little rich top-dressing of dried cow-manure and soot on the surface, and then cover it with moss,

Achimenes—Mauve Perfection.

wired down with fine, black wire, to prevent it from coming off; a few days later the basket is a beautiful sight, being covered with hanging blossoms, and we hang it up in a shady corner of the conservatory, for half-shade and plenty of moisture are necessary for all this family of plants. The prettiest of all the Achimenes is, I think, Mauve Queen, with flowers three inches across, in a lovely tint, but there is great variety of colour amongst them, and you can have them